

EASTER GRACE GARDEN

instructions

*When You Need a Garden Getaway in the Middle of Holy Week
So the thing is, back there in the beginning, we all had this shattering fall in a garden.
And we mark it on the calendar, Christ, falling in the garden of Gethsemane.
Christ, righting our messy fall.
So we put our hands into dirt, and we remember our garden fall and His garden grace,
and we make a Grace Garden for Easter.*

THIS IS WHAT WE DID:

We gathered

- 1.** a basket, some dirt,
- 2.** some plants at the nursery, a beginning too,
- 3.** tramped to the woods for just the perfect moss
- 4.** found a wee glass dish for a pond, a few shells too {optional}
- 5.** and drilled a hole in a stone. {or use a small planting pot or peat pot, laying on its side}
- 6.** We planted a garden, {filled a pond with water}, laid the flattest, the smallest stones from our lane, as a winding path to the tomb and our great freedom coming.
- 7.** We found a stone that read GRACE and put it at the entrance of the Garden Tomb. That seemed perfect. (write Grace or Resurrection or Joy on a flat stone?)
- 8.** And come Palm Sunday, we'll plant some seeds, resurrection hope in the dark of the earth, and line the little stone path with small candles, one for each night of Holy Week, miniature garden torches, for the Light is coming. And each night, all week we'll light another wick... until Good Friday, when all went dark.





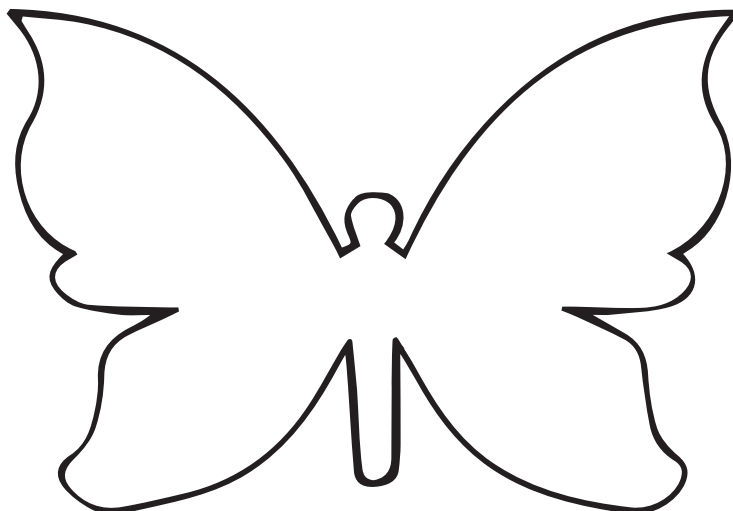
9. And in the evening of Good Friday, the children will shape a caterpillar out of modeling wax, swath it in a small square of silk, tuck it in the moss outside the stone over the entrance of the tomb....

10. On Saturday, we'll remember and we'll wait.

11. And come Sunday, Easter morn early, in first light dawning, we'll roll back the tomb, see only the husk of silk left behind, a butterfly a light in the branches of tree over the Tomb.
(cut out the butterfly below to use if you'd like)

12. And we'll ask it, incredulous at grace all over again, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" (Lk. 24:5) He is alive!

*So this is the path we'll walk the last week of Easter,
right across the Grace Garden.
From dark to Light.
From cocoon confinement to conquering in Christ.
From sin grit to saving Grace.
And an Easter Grace Garden will unfold, a parable,
a living visual of the metamorphosis of all the cosmos..
And we'll walk with Him again,
in the garden in the cool of the evening,
reunited by the truth of His grace alone.*



cut out the butterfly and gently fold in half to add to your garden on Easter morning