

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Children Celebrate!



SPRING 2020 (YEAR A)

MARCH 1, 2020 First Sunday of Lent
through

MAY 24, 2020 Ascension/Seventh Sunday of Easter



The Readings

The readings cited are the readings contained in the *Lectionary for Masses with Children*. These readings may differ at times from those heard by the adults. They may be shorter, or there may be only a First Reading, followed by the Psalm and the Gospel. The First Reading may be altogether different from the one the adults hear, whereas the Gospel is almost always the same, but may be the shorter form. The *Directory for Masses with Children* allows for these differences to accommodate the children's level of comprehension.



Activites

Bonus Activities: The last three pages of this book offer bonus activities intended for use by children who are pre-readers. Here are some suggestions, but all three activities could be used at any time. The first bonus activity brings to mind the Transfiguration of the Lord, which is the Gospel for March 8, 2020, the Second Sunday of Lent. The second bonus activity is based on the Gospel of the Good Shepherd from May 3, 2020, the Fourth Sunday of Easter. And the third bonus activity celebrates the Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020 (this appears last to allow for the cut out portion of the activity).

Typesetting by Cassandra Waung
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All Gospel summaries are based on the *Contemporary English Version, Bible for Today's Family: New Testament* (© 1991, American Bible Society). This is the translation used in the *Lectionary for Masses with Children* (© 1992, United States Catholic Conference), which is approved for use in all dioceses of the United States.



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March 1, 2020

First Sunday of Lent

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

Genesis 2:7–9; 3:1–7

Psalms 51:1, 10, 12, 15

Matthew 4:1–11



We Pray

Jesus, help us to turn away from sin and always follow you. Amen.

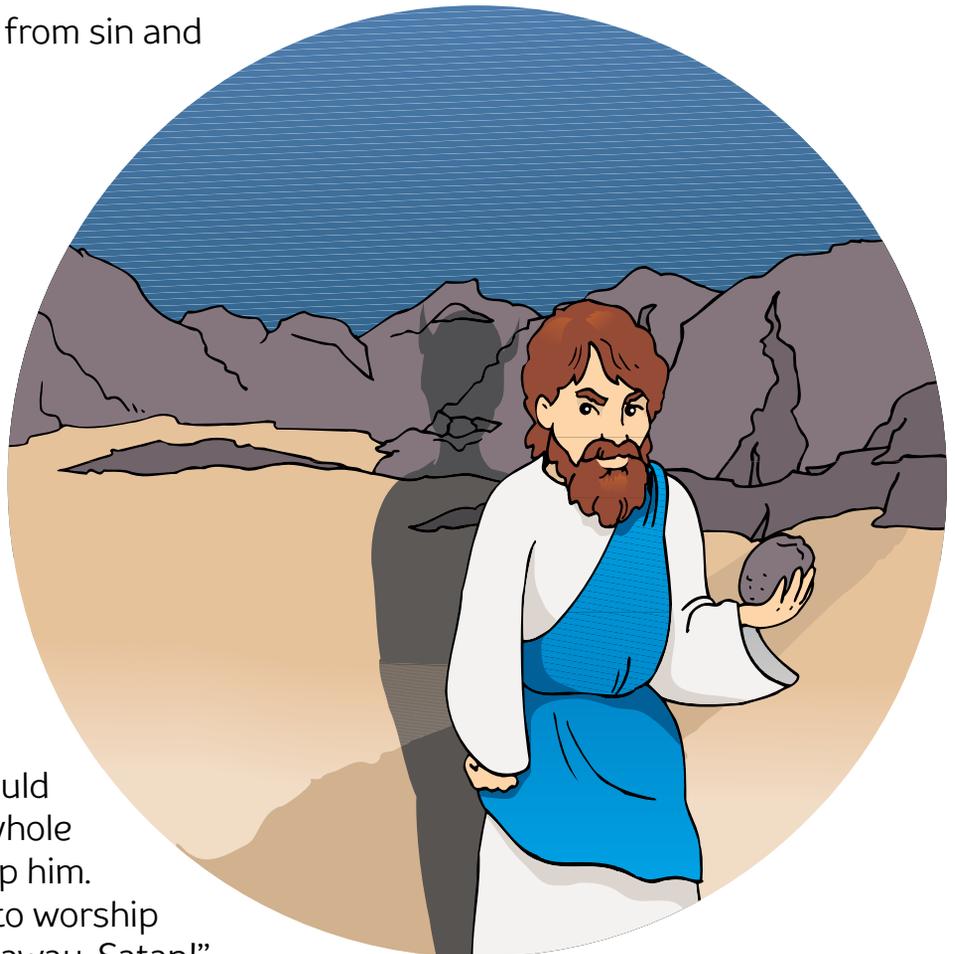


The Word of God This Week

We Worship God

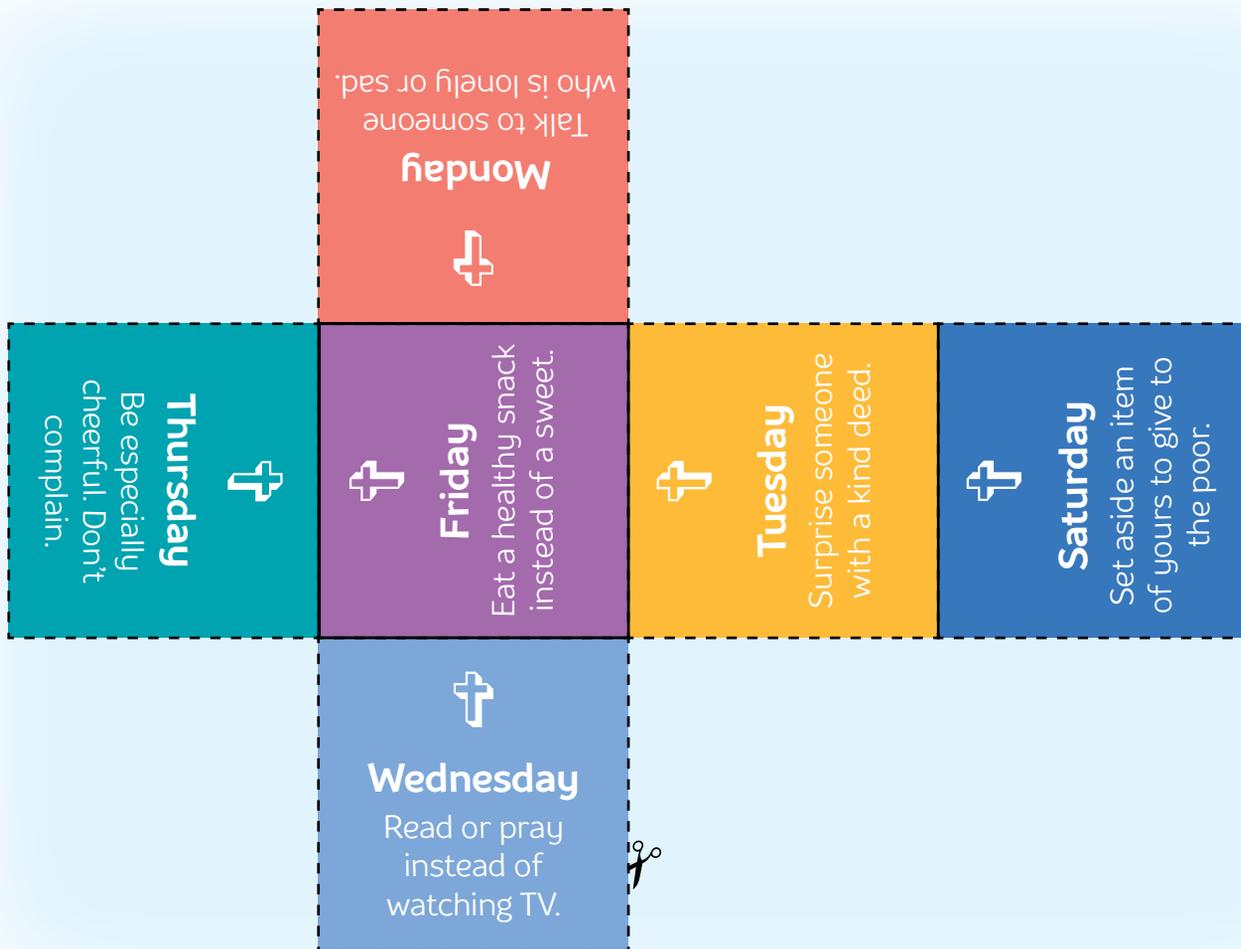
Jesus was praying and fasting in the desert for forty days and nights. The devil came to tempt Jesus. The devil said, "Prove you are God by turning stones into bread and jumping off a temple without getting hurt." Jesus refused.

The devil then said he would give Jesus power over the whole earth if Jesus would worship him. Jesus said, "Scriptures say to worship only the Lord your God. Go away, Satan!"



Activity

To help make the next six weeks a time of spiritual growth for you and your family, make this Lent Cube. Cut on the dotted lines, fold on the solid lines, and tape the sides to form the cube. Follow the daily suggestion throughout Lent.



Family Corner

Faith Focus

As Christians, our priorities should be God first, our families second, and our work third. Many of us, however, have these in reverse order. Lent is a good time to do a serious “state of the union” of our lives. It is said that if we do something for six weeks it becomes a habit. Lent is just long enough for us to make a change that will become deep-rooted in us by Easter.

Family Activity

Begin this Lenten season with a family project. Make the Lent Cube that is this week's activity. Talk about what each of you can do to follow the suggestions. At a daily family meal, take turns reading the day's intention aloud. Then pray together, “Day by day, Lord, help us do your will. We offer our good works to you, and ask your blessing on our family. Amen.”

March 8, 2020

Second Sunday of Lent

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

Genesis 12:1–4a

Psalms 33:4–5, 20, 22

Matthew 17:1–9



We Pray

Jesus, help us to always listen to you.
Amen.

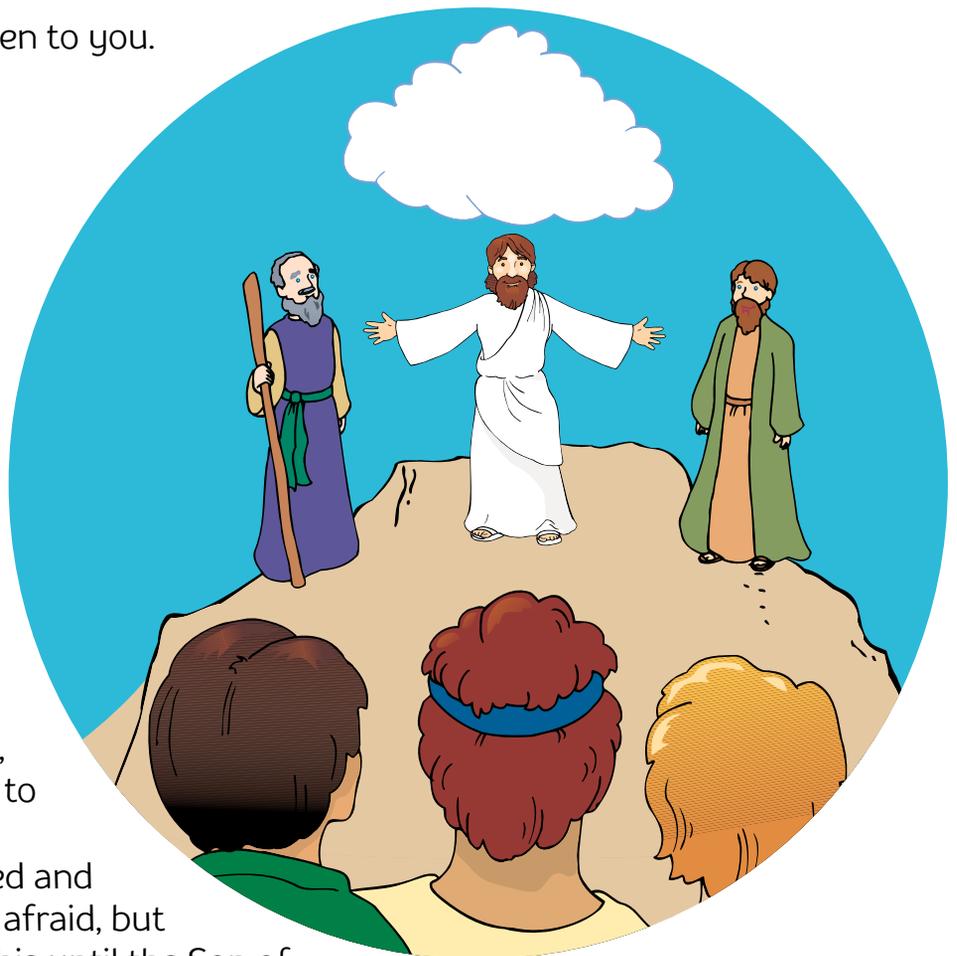


The Word of God This Week

Jesus Is the Son of God

Jesus took Peter and James and John to the top of a mountain. Jesus completely changed in appearance. His face shone and his clothes became bright white. Moses and Elijah appeared, and a voice came from a cloud and said, "This is my dear son. Listen to him."

The disciples were amazed and afraid. Jesus said, "Don't be afraid, but don't tell anyone you saw this until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."



Activity

Use the words in the word bank to complete the sentences. Some letters are already done for you. Then use the letters in the squares to complete the sentence below.

SHARE OTHERS GOD LENT FORGIVE OF
HELP BE US OVER LOVING

Jesus wants us to love **E R** and to **L** them.

We should always try to kind and **A R** our belongings.

We should try to think what we can do to be better, especially during **L** .

Jesus will never stop us.

He is always ready to **R** **V** us.

He watches **V** us and reminds us that we are children of .

Now complete this sentence.

In today's Gospel, Jesus revealed to Peter, James, and John that he was

S **G** .

Do you know what this means?

Family Corner

Faith Focus

We may know someone very well and then suddenly see something entirely new come alive in them. It surprises us and causes us to wonder. This, in a much grander way, is what happened to the Apostles when Jesus was transformed on the mountaintop. Through prayer, we, too, come to know Jesus more and more. Lent is a time for us all to journey to the mountaintop with Jesus.

Family Activity

Legend says the pretzel represents someone with arms folded in prayer. Here's an easy way to make treats of Lent Pretzels. Using refrigerated sugar cookie dough, cut and roll it into logs about 6-7 inches long and 1/2 inch in diameter. Shape the logs into pretzels, pressing the ends down to secure them. Bake as directed. Before eating, pray together: "As we eat these cookies, let us grow closer to you, Lord, during this season of Lent. Amen."

March 15, 2020

Third Sunday of Lent

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

Exodus 17:3–7

Psalms 95:1–2, 7e–9c

John 4:5–15, 19b–26,
39a, 40–42



We Pray

Jesus, help us to know that you are the Messiah and to believe in you.
Amen.

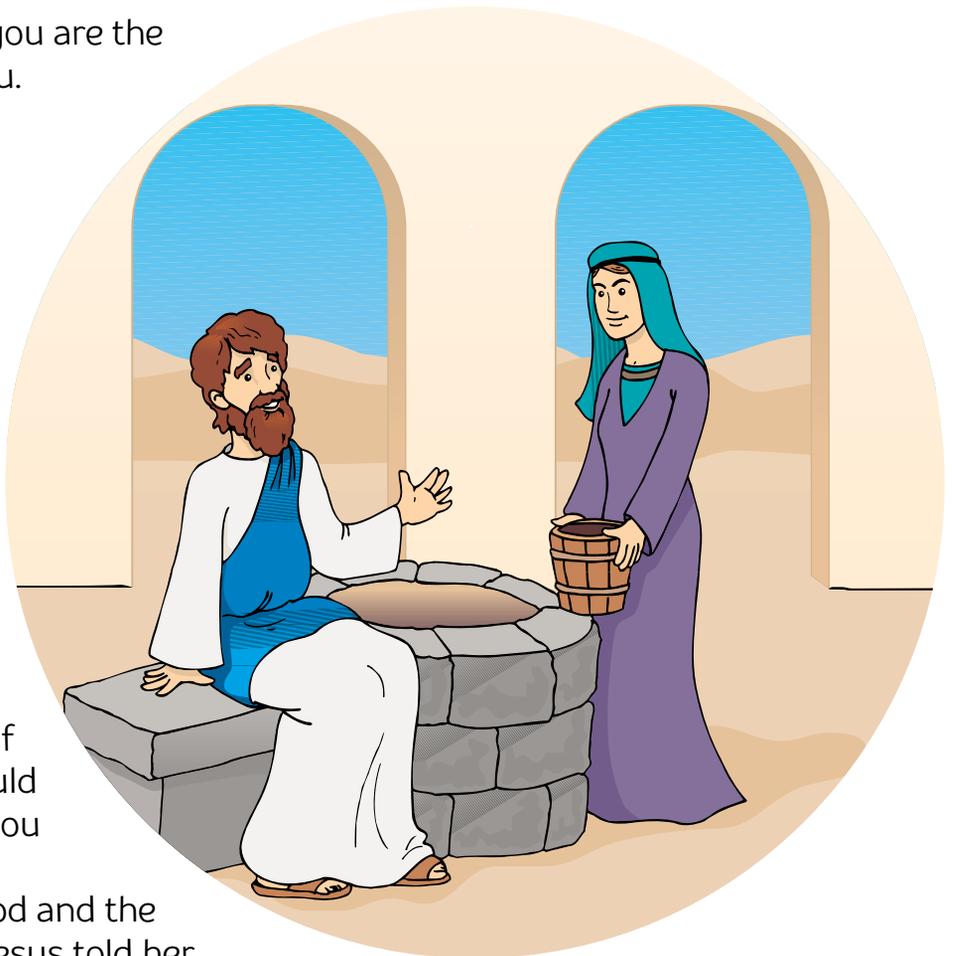


The Word of God This Week

Jesus Is the Messiah

Jesus was resting by a well when a Samaritan woman came to get water. He asked her for a drink. Since Samaritans and Jewish people didn't get along, she asked him why he wanted water from her. Jesus said, "If you knew who I am, you would ask me for living water and you would never thirst again."

Then they talked about God and the Messiah who was to come. Jesus told her, "I am that Messiah."



Activity

Who are the people in today's Gospel? Where did the events take place? To find out, cross out every other letter in each word. Then write the remaining letters on the line.



The people in today's Gospel are

~~A~~JFECSDURS ~~L~~STANMBAXRLIQTDAKN

~~F~~WYOEMBARN

The events took place at the

~~V~~WNEOLFL

Family Corner

Faith Focus

- When Jesus met the woman at the well and engaged her in conversation, he ultimately revealed to her that he was the Messiah. This was a magnificent announcement, yet it was made at a simple village well to a woman who did not even expect Jesus to speak to her, a Samaritan. The woman had a deep conversion experience and spread the good news to her fellow townspeople. All of this began with a simple drink of water.

Family Activity

At a family meal this week, try serving cool, refreshing water as the only beverage. Let the family be reminded that there are many thirsts that we experience and that our spiritual thirst can be quenched only by God. At the end of your meal, pray a simple prayer of thanksgiving. "Lord Jesus, we thank you for the gift of water that refreshes our bodies. May the gift of your love refresh our souls. Amen."

March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Laetare Sunday

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a

Psalms 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5b–6c

Ephesians 5:1–2, 8–10

John 9:1, 6–12, 35–38



We Pray

Lord Jesus, may we put our faith in you every day. Amen.



The Word of God This Week

Jesus Cures the Man Who Was Blind

Jesus cured a man who had been blind from birth. People were amazed! The Pharisees tried to make the man take back his story about how Jesus cured him, but he wouldn't.

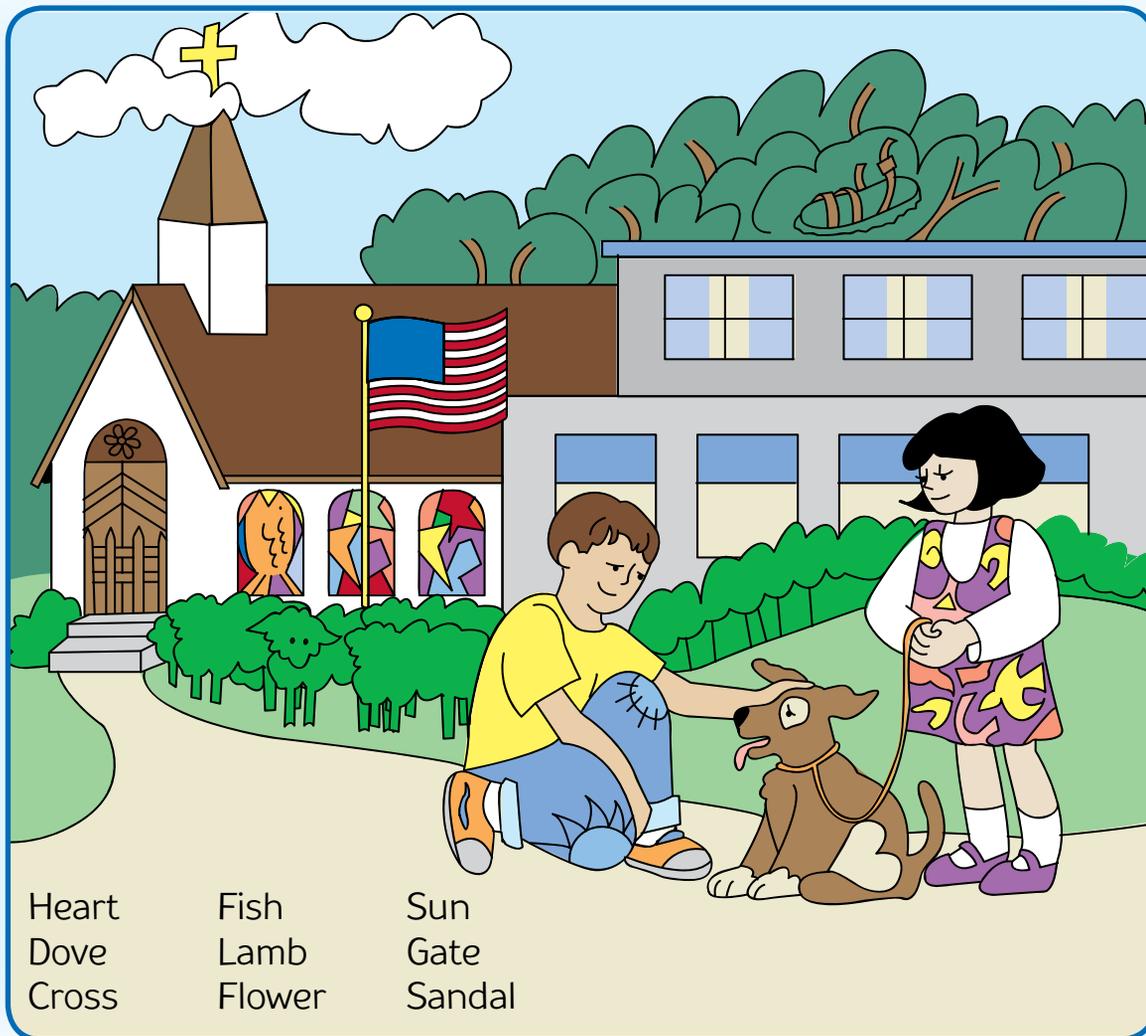
Jesus asked the man if he believed in the Son of Man. The man said he would if he knew who he was. Jesus said, "You are talking to him."

The man said, "Lord, I put my faith in you."



Activity

We are asked to look closely at others just as God does. How closely do you look for what's not easy to see? See if you can find and circle the following objects hidden in this picture.



Heart	Fish	Sun
Dove	Lamb	Gate
Cross	Flower	Sandal

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Family Corner

Faith Focus

God sees things differently than we do. Sometimes we think we have the right perspective on a situation, and then God shows us a whole different way of seeing it. We may be blind and not even know it.

This week, talk about this within your family. Role play some events and then discuss each person's point of view. Practice looking at people and events from all sides of a situation this week.

Family Activity

Arrange a family scavenger hunt this week. Each person should make a list of five items that can be found around the house. Put the lists in separate envelopes and mix them up. Then have each person choose an envelope and try to find the five items in the least amount of time.

Relate this game to how we see one another, sometimes finding things quite easily and sometimes needing more time.

March 29, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

Ezekiel 37:12–14

Psalms 130:1–2, 5, 7bcd

John 11:3–7, 17, 20–27, 31–45



We Pray

Jesus, we believe in you. We pray that we will one day live with you forever in Heaven. Amen.



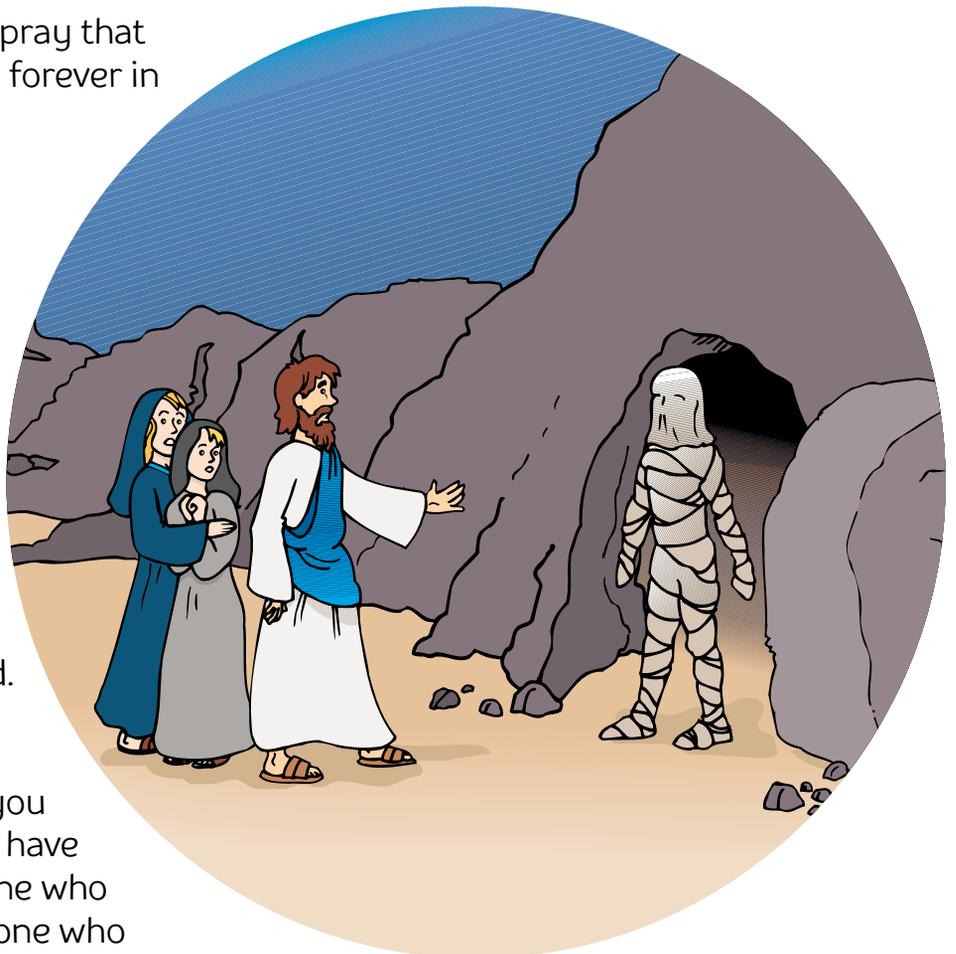
The Word of God This Week

Jesus Gives Lazarus New Life

When Lazarus was sick, Mary and Martha sent for Jesus. By the time he arrived, however, their brother was dead and buried. Everyone was crying. Jesus cried too.

Martha said to Jesus, “If you had been here, he would not have died.” Jesus said, “I am the one who raises the dead to life. Everyone who believes in me will live forever.”

Then Jesus called Lazarus out of his grave and returned him to life.



April 5, 2020

Palm/Passion Sunday

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

The Procession With Palms

Matthew 21:1–11

Mass

Isaiah 50:6–7

Psalm 22:7–8, 16c-17a, 18, 19, 22

Matthew 27:11-54



We Pray

Jesus, we welcome you into our lives and our hearts. We shout, “Hosanna” to welcome you! Amen.



The Word of God This Week

The People Welcome Jesus

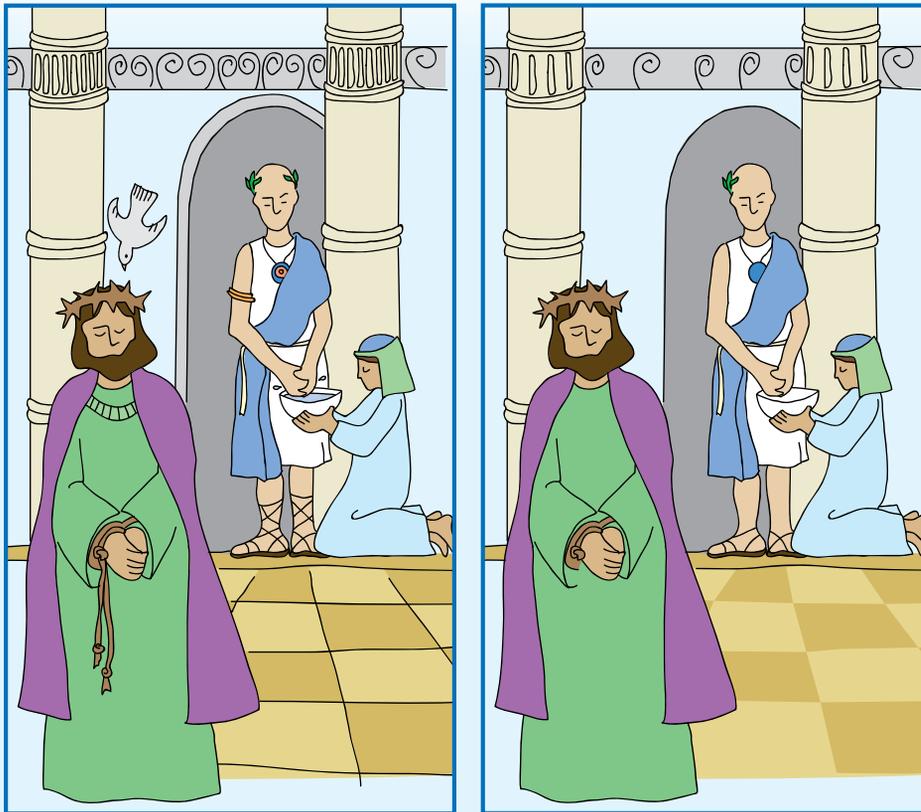
Jesus and his disciples were close to Jerusalem when Jesus said, “Go into the next village. You will find a donkey and her colt. Bring them to me.”

When they got back, Jesus sat on the donkey and rode toward the city. People all along the way greeted him with joyful shouts of “Hosanna!” and made a path for him out of palm branches. Everyone was excited because the prophet from Nazareth had come.



Activity

Look at these two pictures. The one on the right is incomplete. Add the missing elements from the picture on the left so that both pictures are the same.



Jesus was sent to Pilate to decide what should be done with him. Pilate did not want to get involved. He “washed his hands” of Jesus, meaning he was not responsible for what happened to him. Think about this: Do you ever avoid taking responsibility when you really should accept it?

Family Corner

Faith Focus

Family life is full of opportunities for caring and loving one another. We are called to make sacrifices for one another. Sometimes we take the people with whom we live for granted. Sometimes children automatically feel everything will work out in their favor. Sometimes parents fail to see the uniqueness of their children. Jesus calls us to accept his great gift of love as shown in his life, Death, and Resurrection.

Family Activity

Try to make this Holy Week truly holy by spending quality time together. Create an atmosphere of harmony, peace, and solidarity with your own family and with your Church family as you participate in this week’s services—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

Make sure that the family gathers to decorate Easter eggs, make Easter place mats, or to participate in other family traditions.

April 12, 2020

Easter Sunday

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

Acts 10:34a, 37–43
Psalm 118:1–2, 15c–16ab,
17, 22–23
Colossians 3:1–4
John 20:1–9



We Pray

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Jesus, we adore you and we praise you. Amen.



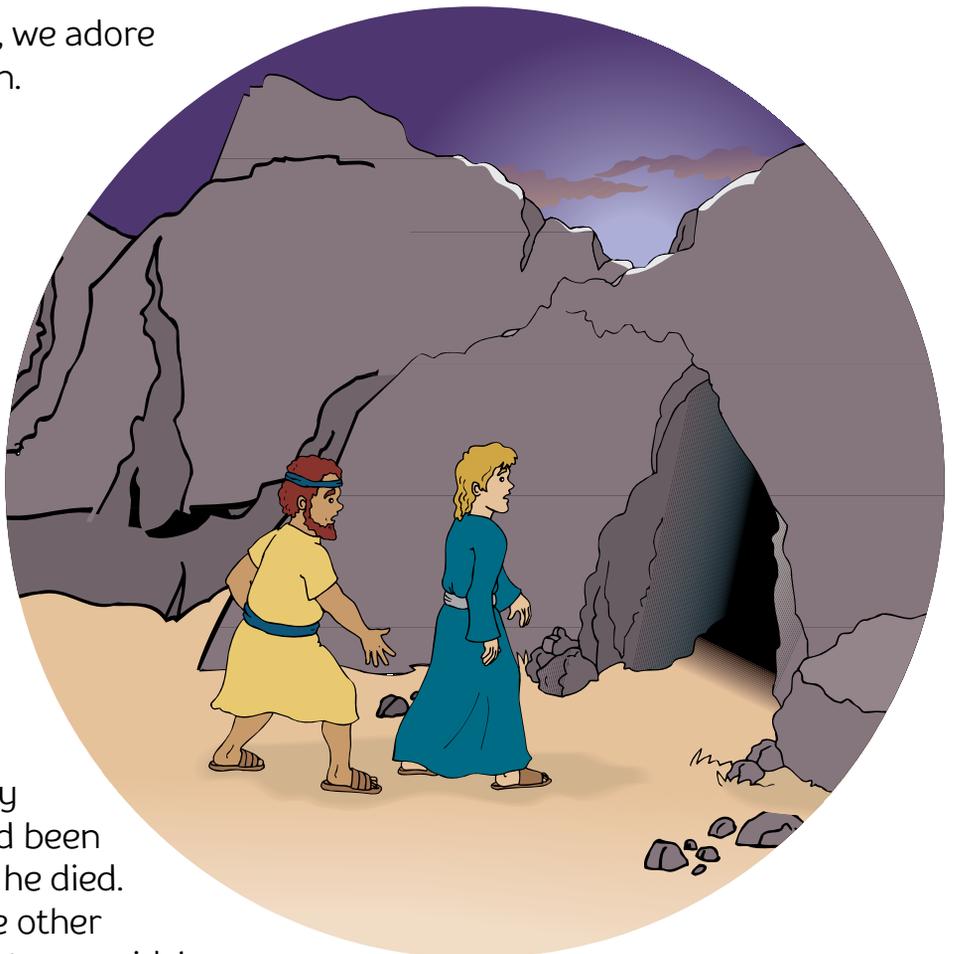
The Word of God This Week

Jesus Is Risen!

On the Sunday after Jesus died, Mary Magdalene went to his tomb. She saw that the tomb was open, so she ran to tell Peter. She was afraid someone had taken Jesus.

When Peter and another disciple went inside they saw that the tomb was empty except for the cloths that had been wrapped around Jesus after he died.

At that time, Peter and the other disciple didn't know the Scriptures said Jesus would rise from the dead.



Activity

Read the Gospel again or ask someone to read it to you. Draw a picture to show what the Gospel tells us. Write the following word below your picture: REJOICE!



Family Corner

Faith Focus

How will your family celebrate this day of new life? Perhaps you'll have the traditional egg hunt, marshmallow chicks, and lamb cakes.

Certainly, celebrating the Eucharist is an excellent start to the day. Sharing a special dinner with relatives and friends is often the focus of Easter gatherings. Going to a care facility to visit a loved one who cannot join you at your table is another wonderful way for the family to celebrate together.

Family Activity

If possible, take a family walk together, either in your own neighborhood or in a favorite park. Have one member of the family carry a small notebook and pen. Record the signs of new life you see as you walk. Identify the trees and flowers that are just starting to bloom (depending on your climate). When you get home, offer a prayer of thanks to God for this greatest day of all.

April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter
Sunday of Divine Mercy

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

Acts 2:42–47

Psalm 118:2–4, 22–24

1 Peter 1:3–4

John 20:19–29



We Pray

Jesus, help us to always have faith in you and to follow you. Amen.



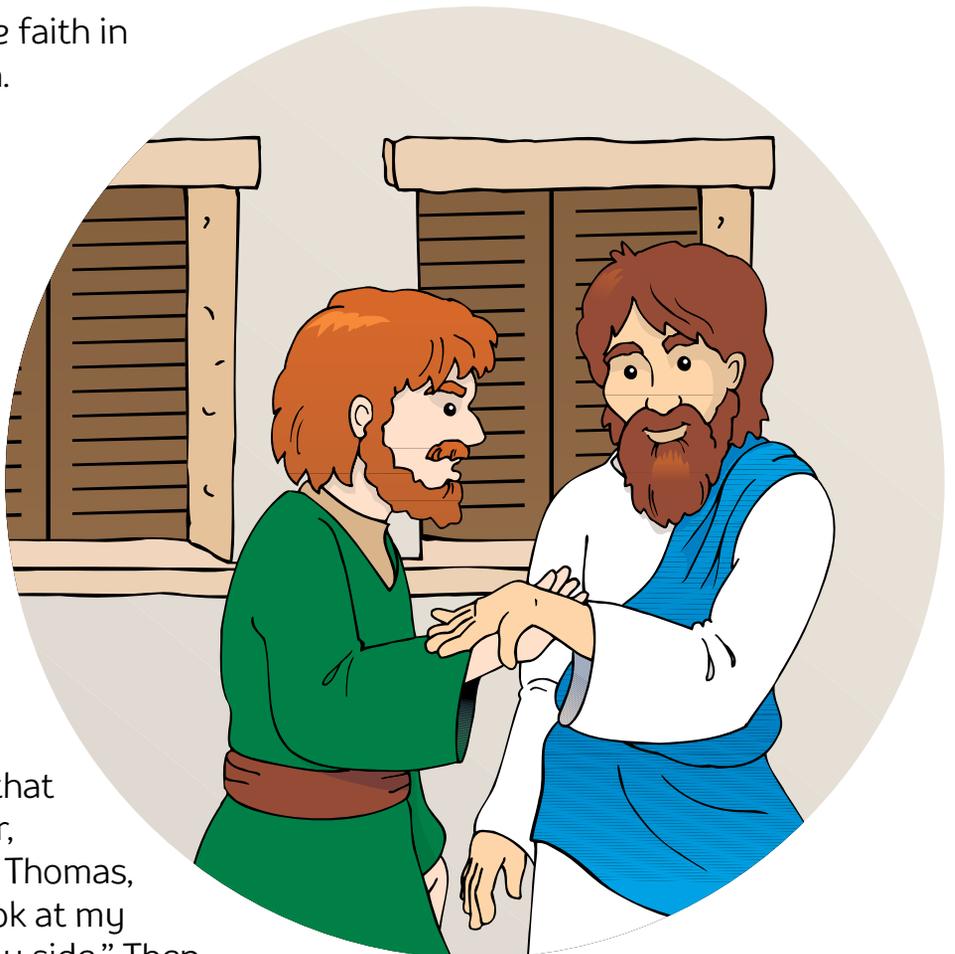
The Word of God This Week

Thomas Sees Jesus and Believes

After Jesus died, the disciples hid, afraid for their own lives. Suddenly Jesus was there. He filled them with the Holy Spirit and gave them the power to forgive sins.

The Apostle Thomas was not there and didn't believe that Jesus had come. A week later, Jesus came again. He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands! Put your hand into my side." Then Thomas believed.

Jesus said, "Because Thomas saw, he believed. Blessed are those who have not seen but still believe."



Activity

Jesus accepts Thomas and all of us just as we are. Decode the message using the following symbols.

A = ★	E = +	I = *	N = ×	S = ✓	V = ☀
B = ❁	G = ✦	L = ▼	O = ♥	T = ○	W = ☆
D = ●	H = ■	M = ☽	R = ⊕	U = ❖	Y = ▲

When Jesus appeared to the Apostles after his Resurrection, Thomas was absent. He doubted what he heard about Jesus being risen. When Jesus appeared a second time, Thomas saw Jesus and said:

“ _____ .”

☽ ▲ ▼ ♥ ⊕ ● ★ × ● ☽ ▲ ✦ ♥ ●

Then Jesus said to Thomas:

“ _____ .”

❁ ▼ + ✓ ✓ + ● ★ ⊕ + ○ ■ ♥ ✓ +

☆ ■ ♥ ■ ★ ☀ + × ♥ ○ ✓ + + ×

☽ ❖ ○ ❁ + ▼ * + ☀ + * × ☽ +

Family Corner

Faith Focus

Today’s Gospel tells of the different feelings that were experienced by Jesus’ followers after his Death and Resurrection. Some were sad, others confused, still others afraid and skeptical. Yet, Jesus accepted them all.

Parents can apply this same acceptance to their own families. Parents, like God, hope that their children meet their full potential in life. It is important, however, that children feel unconditional acceptance from their parents.

Family Activity

This week, have each family member create a large star with his or her name on it. Attach the stars to a bulletin board or poster. During the week, everyone should pay particular attention to the others, and if one is being especially kind or caring, add a note of “well done” on that person’s star. If a family member is having a hard day, write a few words of encouragement on his or her star.

April 26, 2020

Third Sunday of Easter

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

Acts 2:14, 22–24
Psalm 18:1–2, 46, 50ab
Luke 24:13–35



We Pray

Jesus, help us to always know that you are with us in the Eucharist. Amen.



The Word of God This Week

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

Two disciples were walking along when a man joined them. The two disciples were sad and gloomy because Jesus, their Messiah, had died.

The man, using the Scriptures, explained many things to them about Jesus.

When they stopped to eat, the man blessed and broke the bread. That was when the two disciples knew that the man was Jesus.

The disciples returned to Jerusalem to tell others, and they learned that others had also seen Jesus alive.



Activity

When the disciples were traveling to Emmaus, some things seemed hidden from them until Jesus came along. He helped them see the truth about who he was. See if you can find the hidden letters in this picture. Use them to complete the sentence.



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Family Corner

Faith Focus

Creating good memories for our children is part of the responsibility of being a good parent. It is up to us to find ways and opportunities for our children to discover the joys of life. This might require going an extra step outside of the daily routine—pack the picnic lunch, plan the family game night, or go camping. Just like Jesus made his disciples' journey memorable in today's Gospel, we can help make our children's memories good ones.

Family Activity

Make a trip with your family this week. It doesn't have to be a long distance. It can be to a neighborhood park, for instance. Do some fun things like blowing bubbles, flying kites, and roasting hot dogs. Take pictures to record the precious moments. Whatever it is you do, see it as a time of making memories as you deepen the relationship among family members.

May 3, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

Acts 2:14a, 36–41
Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 6
John 10:1–10



We Pray

Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd.
Guide us every day. Amen.



The Word of God This Week

Jesus Is the Savior

Jesus said, "Only thieves and robbers climb over the fence. The gatekeeper always opens the gate for the shepherd. The shepherd calls each sheep by name. The sheep know the shepherd's voice and will follow him. They will not follow a stranger's voice."

The people didn't understand what he was saying, so he said, "I am the gate through which everyone must come to be saved. Anyone who has come before me was false."



Activity

Beginning at the arrow, write down every other letter to find out what Jesus said in this week's Gospel.



Family Corner

Faith Focus

So often we tell our children not to follow the crowd. We want them to become independent thinkers. So how do we get across the concept of following Christ? Perhaps the best way is to make the mention of Jesus' name and goodness part of our everyday vocabulary. If we give examples of doing things or handling situations as Jesus would, the more meaningful the concept of the Good Shepherd will become.

Family Activity

Cut an outline of a sheep out of construction paper. Keep a supply of cotton balls and a bottle of glue near the sheep. During this coming week, invite each family member to place a cotton ball in the sheep's body every time he or she has done something helpful for others. At a meal or another gathering time toward the end of the week, share some of the good things each family member has done.

May 10, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

Acts 6:1–7a
Psalm 145:10–11, 15–16,
17–18
John 14:1–12



We Pray

Jesus, you are the way, the truth, and the life. Help us to do great things. Amen.



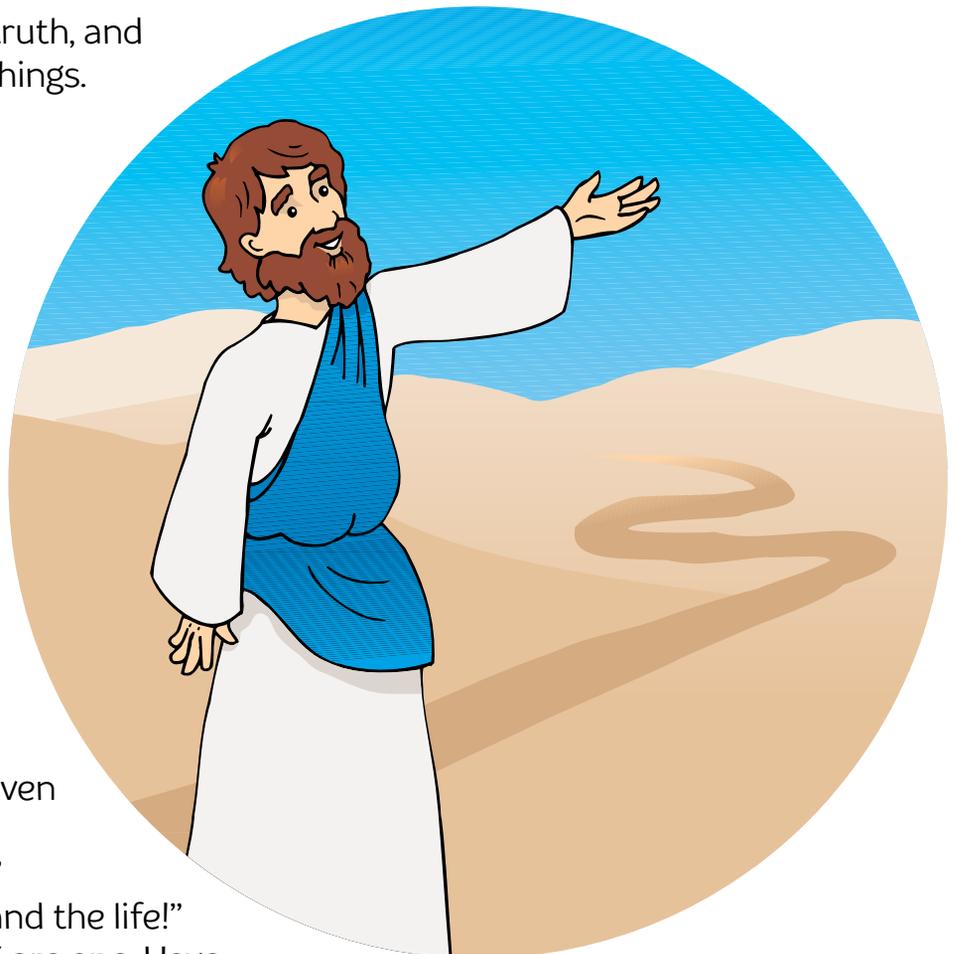
The Word of God This Week

Jesus Leads and Guides Us

When Jesus was leaving his disciples, he said, “Don’t worry. I am going to my Father’s house to prepare a place for each of you. You know the way to where I’m going.”

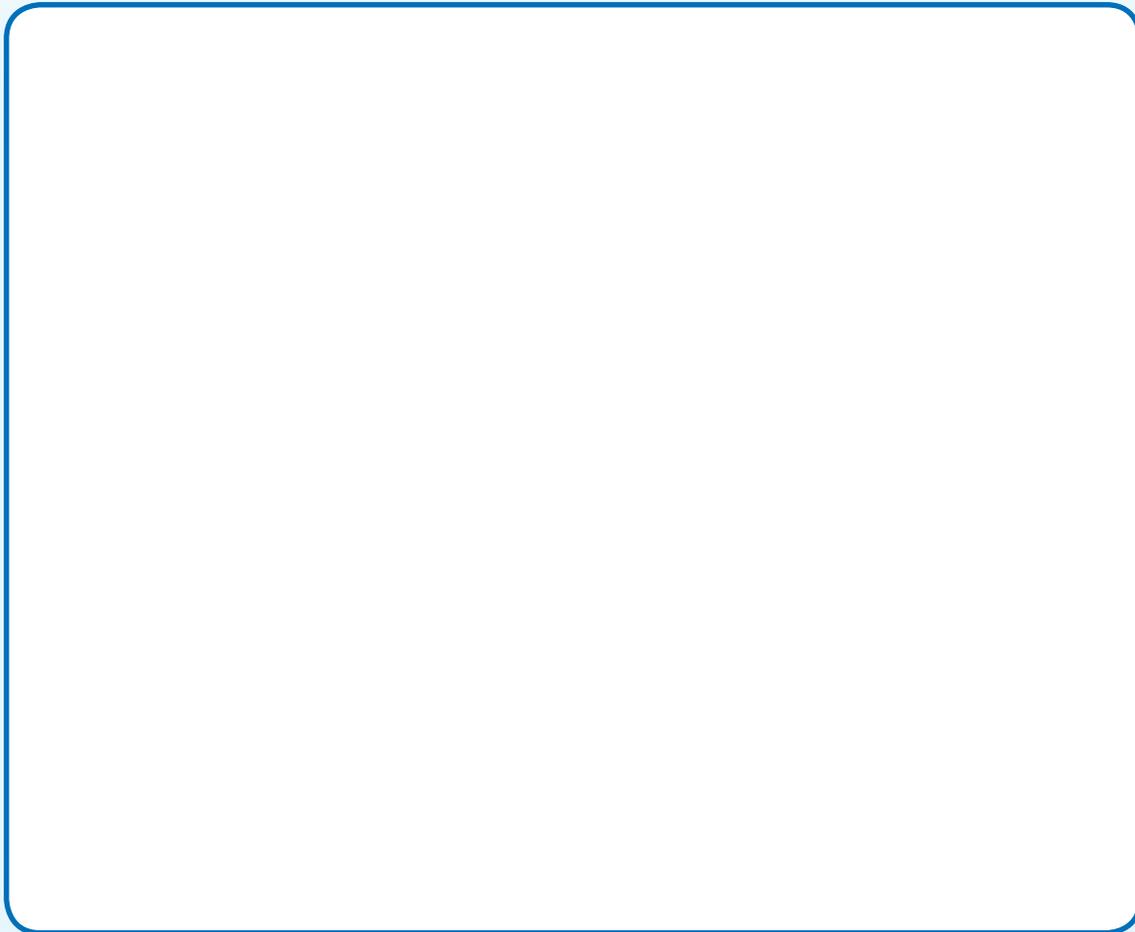
But they said, “We don’t even know where you are going! How can we know the way?”

“I am the way, the truth, and the life!” Jesus said. “The Father and I are one. Have faith in me and you will do even greater things than I did.”



Activity

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” Draw a picture to show what this means to you.



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Family Corner

Faith Focus

There are so many things going on around us that we often fail to give another person the chance to speak. When we do this to children we may be stifling their growth. We may even be deterring them from wanting to share because they sense that no one cares. Slow down and really listen when your child speaks. Sharing precious time with our kids is the greatest gift that we can give to them.

Family Activity

Put together a small family newspaper. “Report” on family happenings—a special grade on a school project, a super supper, or a difficult piece of music mastered. Gather your family information, type or handwrite it, and make copies.

At a meal time together, read the paper aloud and pray a prayer of thanksgiving for all the “good news.” Send copies to relatives and friends if you like.

May 17, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

Acts 8:5–8, 14–17
Psalm 66:1–3ab, 4–5, 16, 20
John 14:15–21



We Pray

Jesus, we love you. We will do our best to do what you ask. Amen.



The Word of God This Week

Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit to Help Us

Jesus told his disciples, “If you love me, do as I command. Then I’ll ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you.

“I won’t leave you like orphans. I will come back. People won’t be able to see me, but you will see me.

“If you love me, you will do what I’ve said, and my Father will love you because he and I are one.”



Activity

Spreading the Word of God makes miracles happen in the hearts of people. Find the words from today's readings.

S	F	K	D	E	Z	I	T	P	A	B	Z	G	O	U
E	O	N	N	Q	Q	T	P	T	A	R	V	N	H	A
F	V	R	W	S	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	S	H
C	Q	I	P	C	Y	X	J	A	B	D	K	A	V	O
V	R	Y	F	H	D	C	L	G	B	Y	M	M	Y	L
Z	H	M	D	Z	A	R	K	D	O	A	J	E	I	Y
B	K	V	I	F	E	N	S	R	R	M	E	L	F	S
B	F	K	P	R	S	N	S	I	Q	O	S	A	W	P
M	A	G	R	I	A	H	A	Z	J	L	U	S	U	I
L	T	L	J	Z	L	C	D	J	L	N	S	U	E	R
Q	H	O	C	G	X	I	L	Z	L	L	G	R	W	I
P	E	A	M	C	Z	K	H	E	A	A	P	E	S	T
K	R	K	Y	L	X	O	B	P	J	A	B	J	D	L

BAPTIZED
DISCIPLES
ORPHANS
SAMARIA
MIRACLE
FATHER
PHILIP
JERUSALEM
HOLY SPIRIT
JESUS

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Family Corner

Faith Focus

How is the Spirit of God present in your home? Is it obvious to anyone who visits your home that God has a place? Do you have Christian art displayed anywhere? Is there a crucifix on your wall that acts as a reminder that your household is dedicated to Jesus?

Visual expressions of the importance of the Spirit of God can help remind your family that God is always with them.

Family Activity

How is the Spirit of God present in your home? Is it obvious to anyone who visits your home that God has a place? Do you have Christian art displayed anywhere? Is there a crucifix on your wall that acts as a reminder that your household is dedicated to Jesus?

Visual expressions of the importance of the Spirit of God can help remind your family that God is always with them.

May 24, 2020

Ascension / Seventh Sunday of Easter

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:8–11 • Psalm 47:1–2, 5–6, 7–8
Ephesians 1:17–21 • Matthew 28:16–20

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:12–14 • Psalm 27:1,
4abc, 7–8 • 1 Peter 4:13–16
John 17:6–9



We Pray

Jesus, help us to go out to the world to spread your Good News. Amen.



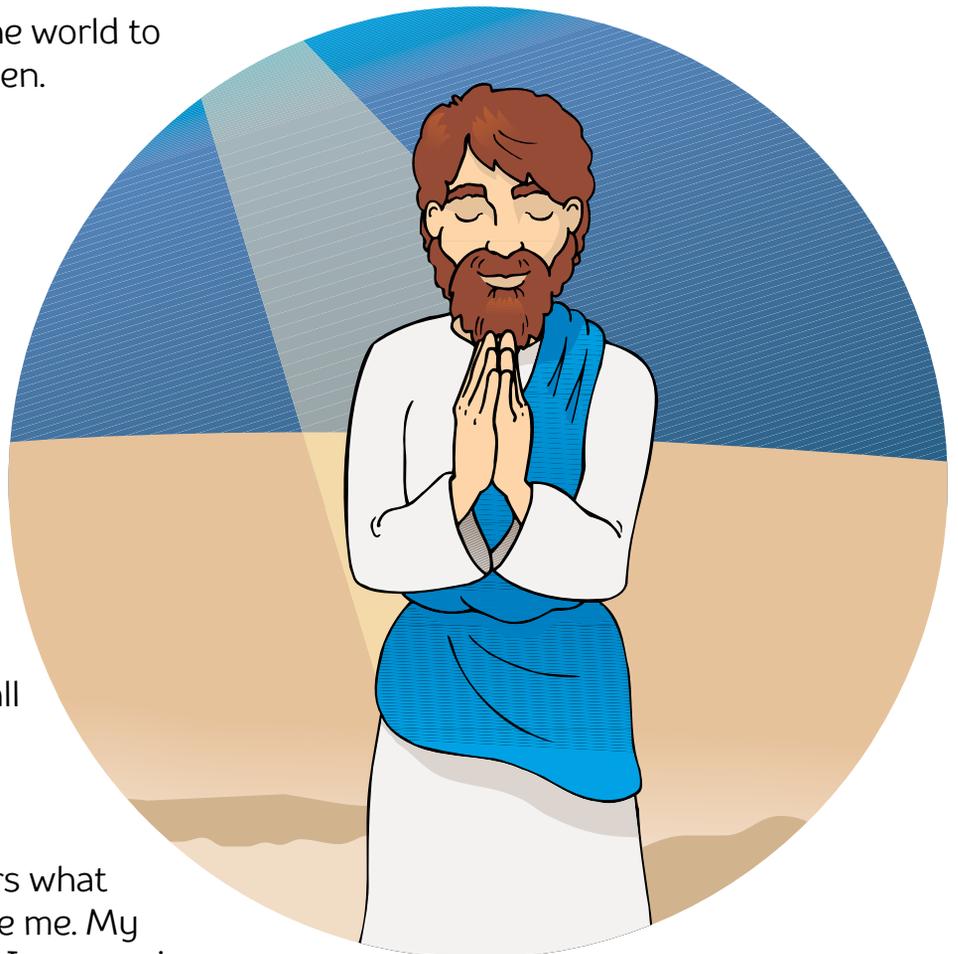
The Word of God This Week

Jesus Is Always with Us Ascension of the Lord

Jesus said to his Apostles, “Go, tell everyone in the world about me so they will follow me as you have. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them all I’ve taught you.”

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Jesus prayed to God for his followers: “I told my followers what you told me, and they believe me. My followers belong to you, and I am praying for them.”



Activity

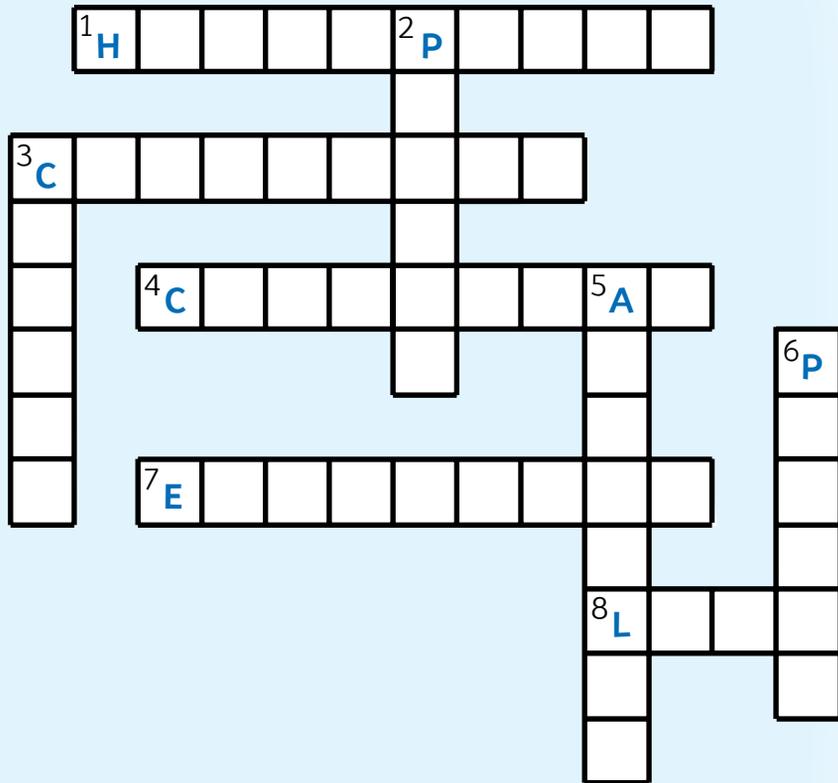
Are you a follower of Jesus? The answers for this crossword puzzle all have something to do with being a follower of Jesus. See how many you get right! The first letter of each word is filled in for you.

Across

1. Third person of the Trinity
3. Group of people who share
4. A follower of Jesus
7. Another name for the Mass (also this is one of the sacraments)
8. He wrote one of the Gospels.

Down

2. Leader of the people in prayer at Mass
3. Where we gather for Mass
5. The first twelve who followed Jesus
6. A talk with God



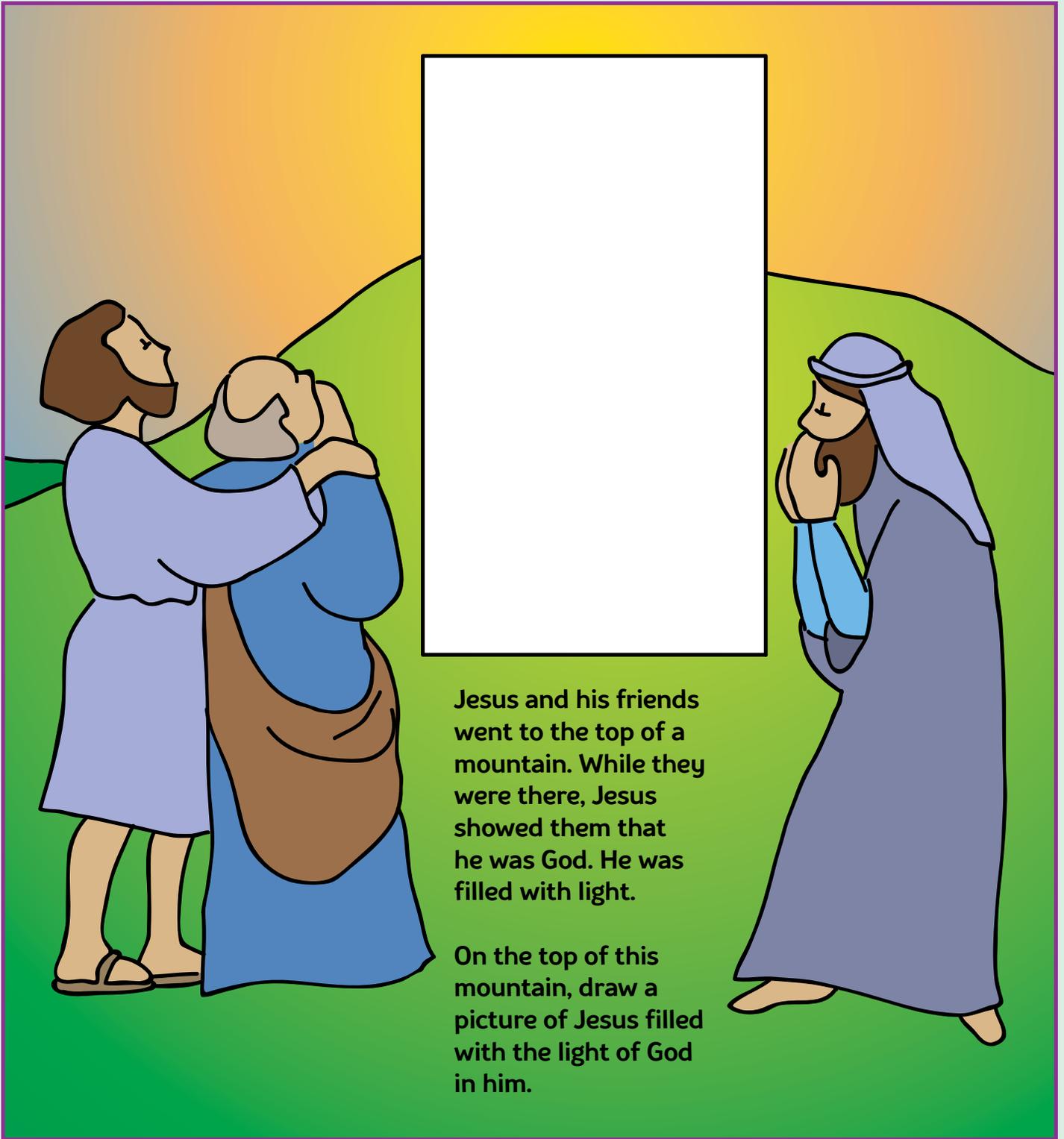
Family Corner

Faith Focus

What does it take for us to follow Jesus, to be real disciples? A disciple is one who watches and listens and takes to heart what the Master is saying and doing. The key is to remember that we do not journey alone. Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will help us. Realizing that we disciples are all one family will help us to see Christ not only in those we know but in each human face we encounter.

Family Activity

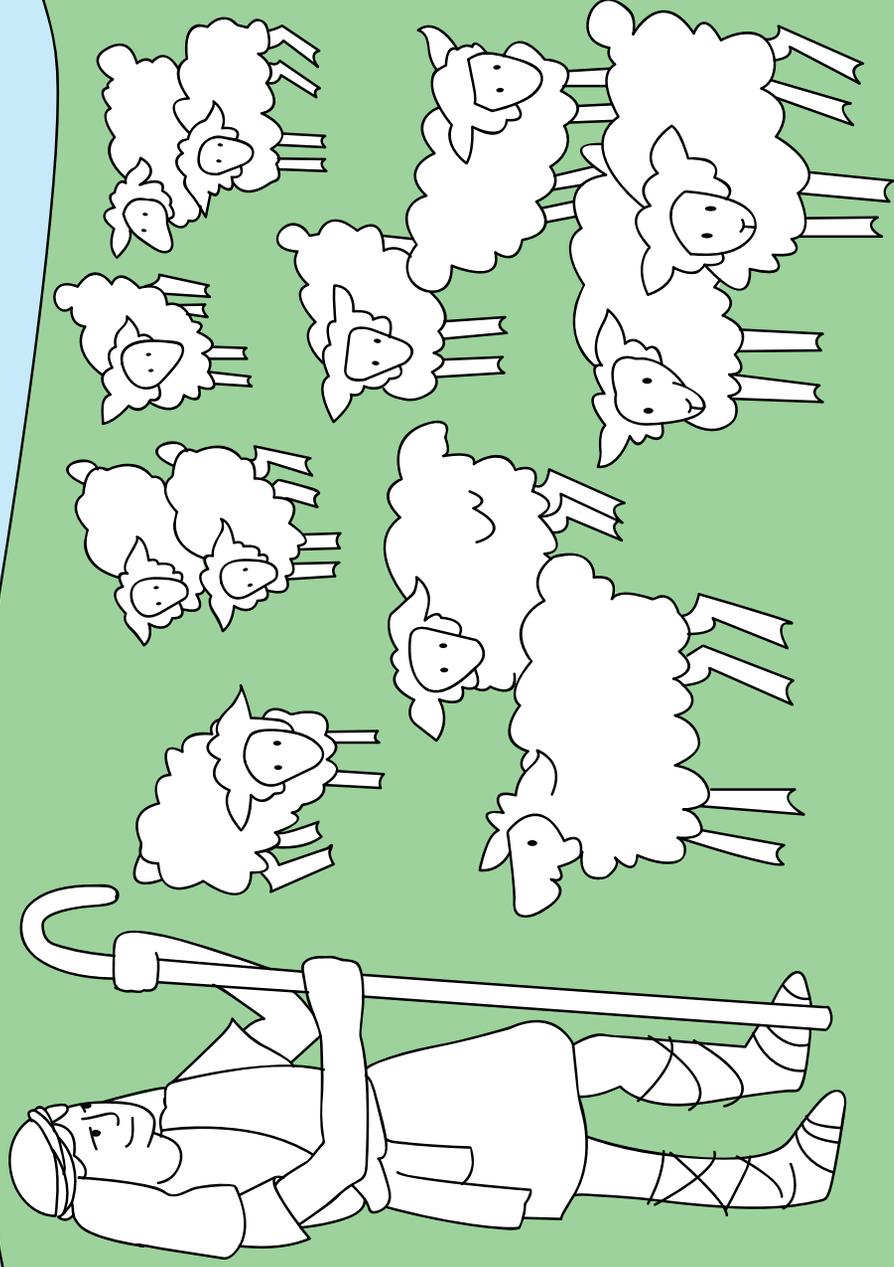
Create a poster with an outline of a person's head. Invite each family member to write down the names of people they experience as reflecting the face of Jesus. It does not even have to be someone you know personally. At the end of the week, discuss some of the events where you discovered the face of Christ. Then say a thank-you prayer for all those on your poster.



Jesus and his friends went to the top of a mountain. While they were there, Jesus showed them that he was God. He was filled with light.

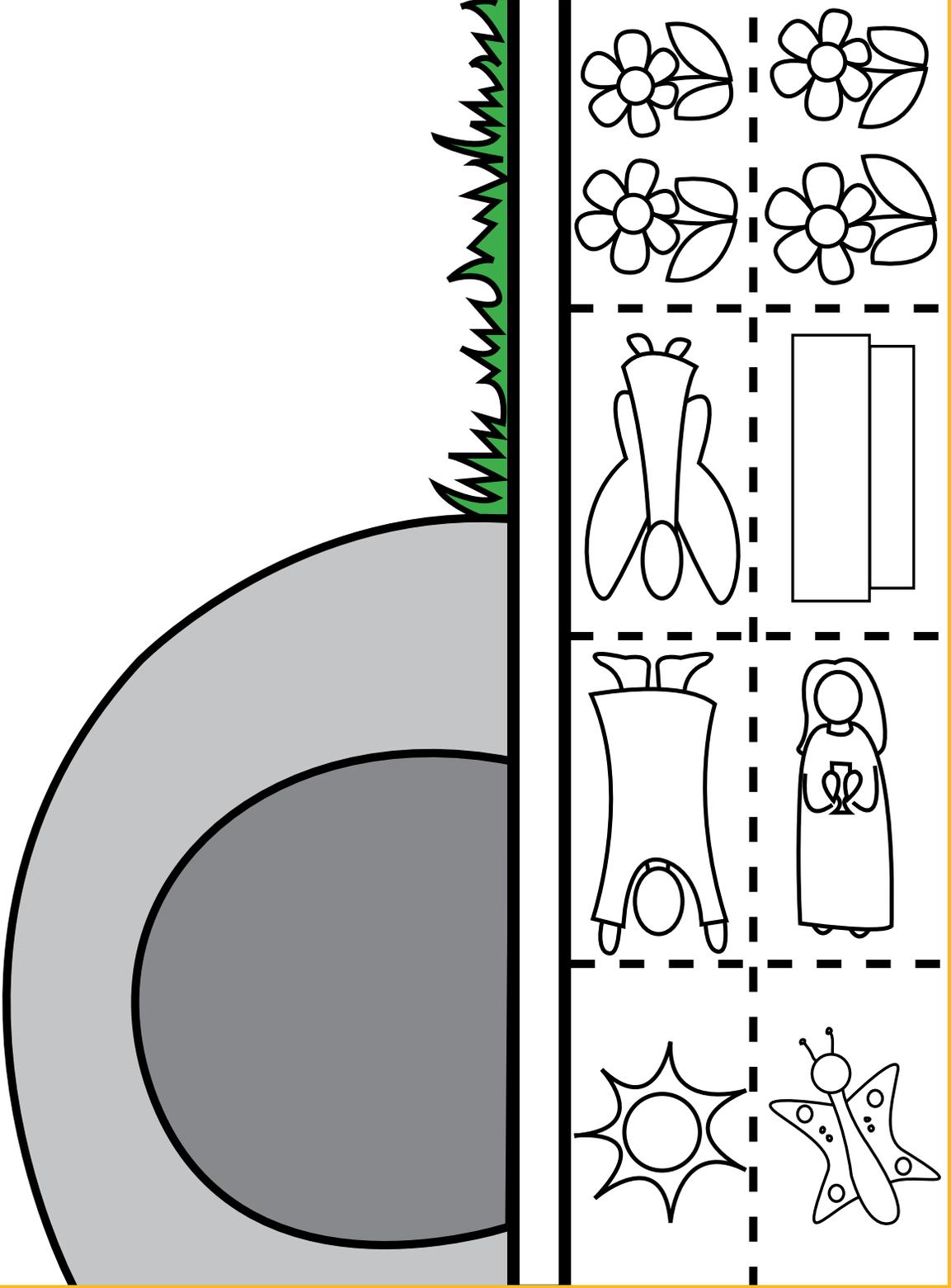
On the top of this mountain, draw a picture of Jesus filled with the light of God in him.

David was a shepherd before God chose him to be king. God saw in David what others could not. Count David's sheep, and write the number here _____. Color the picture to finish it.



Jesus Is Risen!

Make a scene of the Easter story by cutting out the figures and pasting them in position on the picture.



Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

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