



The Spirit of St. Paul's

APRIL 2026

COME FOR BREAKFAST



St. Paul's FAMILY NEWS

Welcome!

We are glad to welcome two new members to St. Paul's. Jake Lehnert became a member by Profession of Faith and Jesse Salen became a member through Holy Baptism. Both have been attending St. Paul's and the Christianity 101 classes over the last few months. Please take some time to introduce yourselves to Jake and Jesse when you see them.

Please join us for Easter Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on Easter morning, April 5. The Board of Parish Fellowship will provide breakfast, all you need to bring is yourselves!

Please add your name to the sign up sheet on the bulletin board if you are planning to attend so we are able to plan for numbers. Thanks!

PASTOR'S CORNER

ALLELUIA!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Beginning on Easter Sunday we will again hear these words of hope and joy being shared among God's people. After the solemn season of Lent it is invigorating to transition into the joyful season of Easter and to praise God again with our alleluias.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! These words are more than just a joyful Easter greeting. They are a confession. They confess the truth that Jesus did not stay dead and buried in His borrowed tomb, but walked out alive and well. Without Jesus' resurrection we have no real hope. In his letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul teaches that everything depends on Christ's resurrection. In fact, he says that if Jesus has not been raised, then all of his effort as an apostle and missionary was just a big waste of time. He said, "...if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:14).

continued next page

Reminders

- Please remember that, because we have a number of members with allergies to nuts, any foods brought to church events should be nut-free.
- Also, several have allergies to fragrances. Please consider them when choosing toiletries and whether or not to wear perfumes.
- LWMLC mites and society offerings may be put in the offering plate in an envelope separate from your church offering, mailed to the church or given to society treasurer, Marion Hollinger. Please make any cheques payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church but mark them clearly as being for LWMLC. Indicate the amount for mites and the amount for society funds.

Classifieds

Something to sell or give away? Need something? Services to offer to fellow members? Try The Spirit Classifieds first. No cost. Send your ads to the editor.

Pastor: Rev. Murray Keith
 Office Secretary: Sandy Harper
 phone: 306-343-9535
 e-mail: stpaulslcc@sasktel.net
 web: www.stpaulslutheran.ca
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaulslutheran
 Instagram: www.instagram.com/stpaulslcc
 Spirit Editor: Marion Hollinger
hollinger@sasktel.net
Next deadline: Apr. 27, 2026
Publication: May 3, 2026

Pastor's Corner, continued

Our faith in Jesus involves more than just admiring His wisdom and teachings and being inspired by His example of a holy life lived in love for others—as incredible as those blessings are in our lives. Our faith in Jesus rests on the truth that through His life, death on the cross, and resurrection, our sins are forgiven. The resurrection shows that Christ has atoned for our sin and there is now no condemnation and we are promised eternal life.

St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to

Cephas, then to the twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me” (1 Corinthians 15:3-8).

With St. Paul we confess, proclaim with joy, and deliver to the world what is of first importance: “He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”
*Go spread the news: He's not in the grave;
 He has arisen this world to save.
 Jesus' redeeming labors are done;
 Even the battle with sin is won.*

LSB #466, v. 4

*God's blessings,
 Pastor Keith*



Lenten Worship for 2026

These Wednesday evening services (7:00 p.m.) move from congregation to congregation with a joint service on Maundy Thursday at St. Paul's.

Date	Service	Location
Sun., March 29, 2026	Palm/Passion Sunday	Home Church
Thurs., April 2, 2026	Maundy Thursday	St. Paul's, Saskatoon
Fri., April 3, 2026	Good Friday	Home Church
Sun., April 5, 2026	Easter Sunday	Home Church

Faith, Government, and the Challenge of Bill C-9

When you are checking out St. Paul's re-designed website (stpaulslutheran.ca), you may also want to see what Lutheran Church–Canada has to offer. The title above is an article written by Rev. Michael Schutz about a bill about to go through its third reading in the House of Commons.

Schutz writes, "This bill seeks to articulate a legal definition of hatred and more clearly protect people from hatred. How well it accomplishes that is a matter of great debate and concern. There has been much criticism as the bill continues to be developed, centred primarily around the proposed removal of a long-standing legal defense in section 319 of the Criminal Code known as the 'good faith religious defense', which explicitly protects people from being charged with a crime simply for making a statement from a religious text or expressing an opinion based on it."

The bill illustrates the tension between faith and civil law. For his reflection on the topic visit lutheranchurch.ca and read this "recent news" item.

Something else worth checking on the LCC website is the information on missions.

M. Hollinger, Editor

EVANGELISM and PUBLIC RELATIONS

REDEEEMED!

All Scripture quoted is from the English Standard Version.

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree'—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith" (Galatians 3:13-14).

My 1990 edition of the Miriam-Webster New World Dictionary includes the following definitions of the verb *redeem*: *to buy back, to ransom, to deliver from sin, to fulfill a promise, to make amends or atone for, to restore to favour*. Since Christ has accomplished this for us by the shedding of His blood on the *tree* [cross], we are free to consider ourselves *bought back, ransomed, delivered from sin, atoned for, and restored to favour* with God our Heavenly Father.

In response, I invite you to pray or sing the following words that our dear Lord recently guided me to write. They follow the melody of "Jesus Loves Me" (LSB #588 - Music: public domain).

¹Jesus loves us, this I know
for the Bible tells me so
Young and old to Him belong;
We are weak but He is strong.

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves us!
Yes, Jesus loves us!
Yes, Jesus loves us!
The Bible tells me so!

²Jesus' blood has paid the price, and His wounds the sacrifice
That has washed away our sin and restored God's peace again!
Refrain

³When our Time on earth is done and Eternity has come
Jesus leads to Life and Light, far from Satan, hell and plight!
Refrain

Verla Schmirler - March 2026 (Text: To God be all Honour, Glory, and Praise!)



As we move through this earthly life toward that Glorious Day when we shall see our Lord and Saviour face to face, we are blessed to join the psalmist David in declaring, *"Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God"* (Psalm 31:5).

*Verla Schmirler
Board of Evangelism and Public Relations*

STEWARDSHIP

HEALTH MINISTRY, STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS, FINANCIAL UPDATE

LCC HEALTH MINISTRY

The English word, “Easter,” is the term we use in referring to Christ’s Resurrection Day. “Easter” comes from the same word as “east,” the direction from which the sun rises every morning. East is the direction of dawn. In Christ’s Resurrection—in His Easter—we, His people, are given a new morning; the light and eternal life of Christ now dawns in us also. As the prophet Malachi foretold, indeed the Sun of Righteousness has risen with healing in His wings (Mal. 4:2). In Baptism, this healing has been applied to us and is renewed in us as we daily rise in Christ, the Dayspring (Dawn) of Life (Luke 1:78 NKJV). Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He has come to bring health and healing to all!

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn’t necessary because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians

give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won’t be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one’s income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism’s Table of Duties to

explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of

continued next page

Stewardship, continued

both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

ST. PAUL'S UPDATE

Financially here at St. Paul's we have now received our financial statements for the first two months of 2026. We are starting out this year pretty much the same as we did in 2025. To the end of February this year we are showing a deficit of \$11,776 compared to a deficit last year of \$10,867. Our revenue for the first two months both this year and last year were \$38,000 however our expenses this year were up \$2,000 leaving us with a higher deficit this year than last year. While we know that we can make up significant revenue shortfalls by the end of the year we do need more balanced revenue to protect our cash flow throughout the year. We pray that God would bless your gifts of time, talents and your treasures to support our mission and ministry.

God's Blessings this Easter season. Christ has risen!

Board of Stewardship

EDUCATION**KIDS CORNER****GROWING HEARTS OF FAITH**

One Lord, One faith, One baptism (Ephesians 4:5)



Hi Kids!

Holy Week is a very special and meaningful time for Christians everywhere. This week tells the story of Jesus' love and sacrifice for us. I told you about it last month but it's so important we should look at day in detail a second time: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter.

Palm Sunday (March 29)

Palm Sunday is the start of Holy Week. On this day, we remember when Jesus entered Jerusalem, riding on a humble donkey. The people were so happy to see Him that they laid down palm branches and their cloaks on the road, waving the branches and shouting "Hosanna!" which means "Save us, Lord!" They believed Jesus was the promised Saviour. Sometimes, children carry palm branches during the service, just like the people did long ago, to celebrate Jesus as our King.

Maundy Thursday (April 2)

Maundy Thursday comes four days after Palm Sunday. The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin "mandatum," meaning "command." On this day, Jesus gave His disciples a new command: to love one another as He loves us. Maundy Thursday is when we remember the Last Supper, the meal Jesus shared with His disciples before He was arrested. At this supper, Jesus gave us the gift of Holy Communion — He shared bread and wine and said they were His body and blood, given for the forgiveness of our sins. This is a special Communion service

continued next page

Kids Corner, continued

where the altar is stripped bare at the end, reminding us that Jesus would soon be taken away.

Good Friday (April 3)

Good Friday is the most solemn day of Holy Week. On this day, we remember that Jesus was put on trial, suffered, and died on the cross for the sins of the whole world. Even though we call it "Good" Friday, it was a very sad day because Jesus died, but it is good for us because His death means we are forgiven and loved by God. This is a quiet and serious service, where the lights are dimmed, and people pray and listen to the story of Jesus' suffering and death. The congregation leaves in silence, remembering the great sacrifice Jesus made for us.

Easter — Resurrection Sunday (April 5)

Easter is the most joyful and happy day for Christians! On the third day after Jesus' death, He rose from the grave — He is alive! This is called the Resurrection. Easter shows us that Jesus defeated death and that we, too, will have eternal life because of Him. We decorate the front of the sanctuary with white and gold and white Easter lilies and sing

joyful hymns. Sometimes, some churches have sunrise services to remember that the women found Jesus' tomb empty early in the morning. Easter means hope, joy, and new life for everyone who believes in Jesus.

During Holy Week, we gather for special church services, sing hymns, read from the Bible, and remember how much Jesus loves us. Each day teaches us about God's love, forgiveness, and the new life we have because of Jesus' death and resurrection. It's a time to thank God and celebrate with our church family!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The next Sunday school classes will be on April 12 and May 24 (last class before a summer break). Join Natalie after church these days for an interesting and crafty time!

ACTIVITY SHEETS

Activity sheets are included at the end of the newsletter or online at Ill.ca for the most current ones. Let your creativity loose as you learn about Jesus and His amazing LOVE for us!

In Jesus' Love,
Denise Timm
For the Board of
Christian Education and Youth

Would Jesus be Scrolling or Strolling?

Is this you? Sitting with friends and scrolling on your phone? Ignoring those around you to find the latest titillating news? Guilty? Isn't it tempting? You're in control.

What about Jesus? Would His cell phone be out scrolling for the latest weather on the Sea of Galilee? Searching for the location of the scribes and Pharisees? Or would He be scrolling for sinners to save?

To read the rest of this blog, visit <https://lutheranwomen.ca/would-jesus-be-scrolling-or-strolling/>



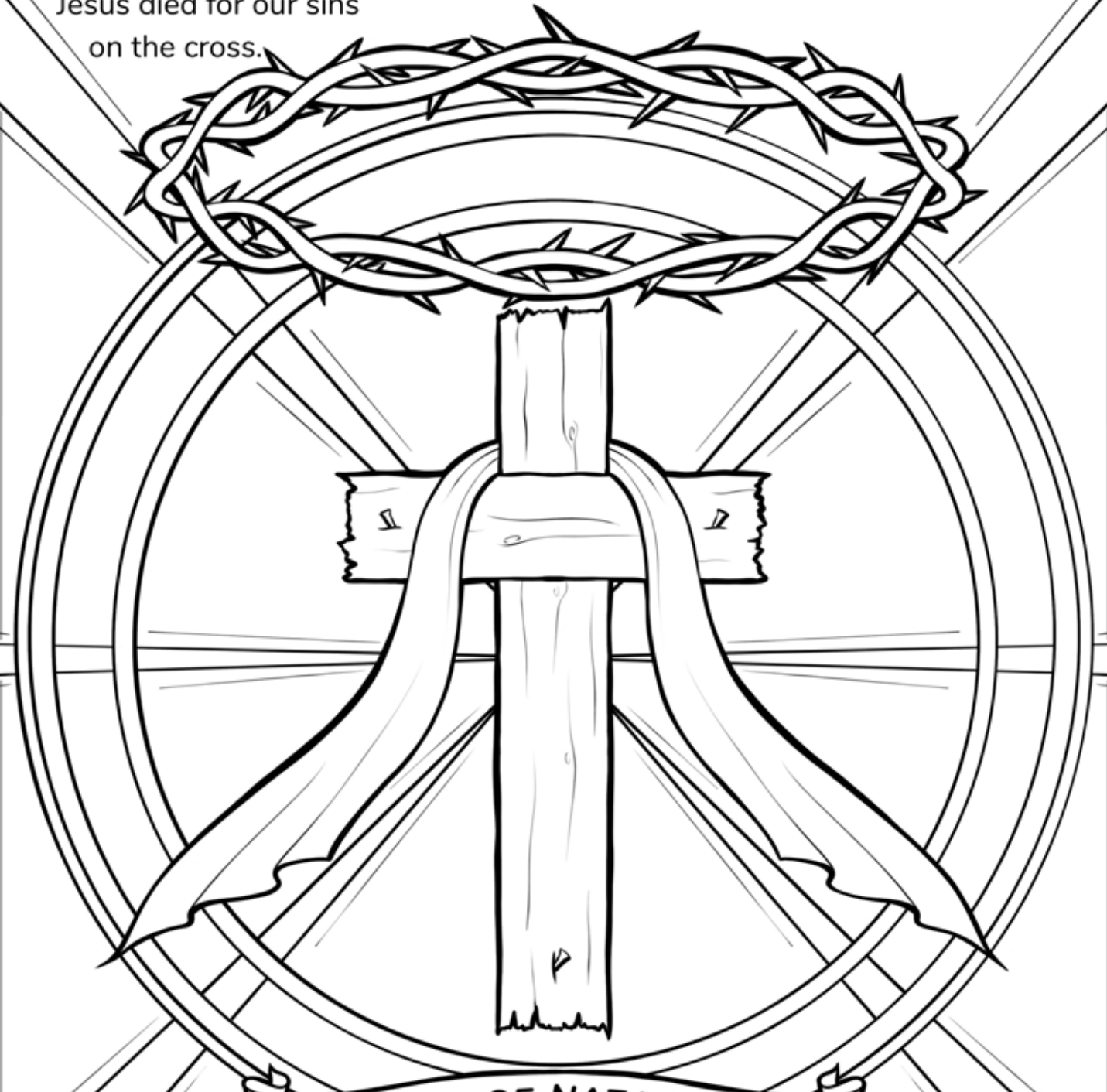


KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING

GOOD FRIDAY

BIBLE LESSON: JOHN 18:1-19:42

Today is Good Friday, the day
Jesus died for our sins
on the cross.



JESUS OF NAZARETH,
THE KING OF THE JEWS



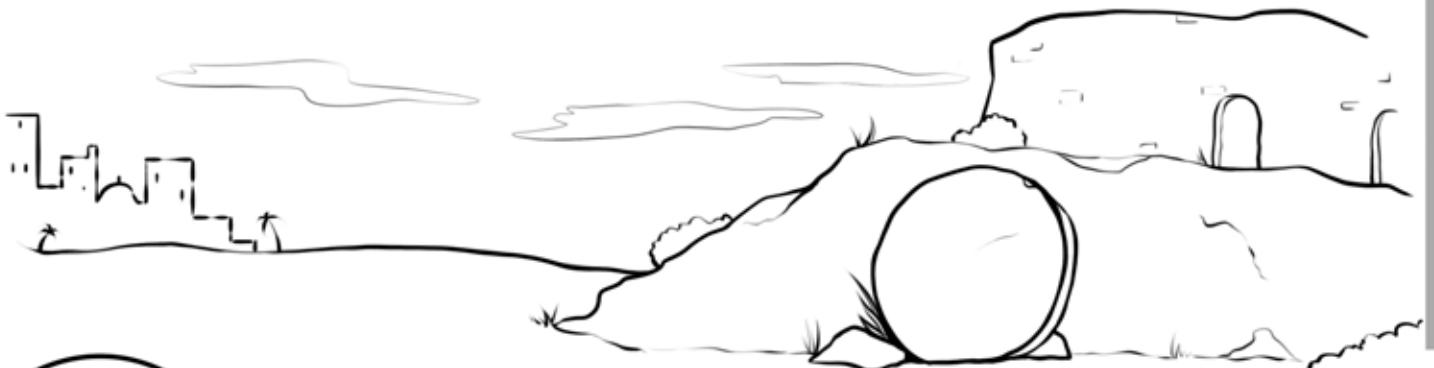
WORD SEARCH

Can you find the following words related to Good Friday?



- CROSS
- CROWN
- CRUCIFIED
- FRIDAY
- GARMENTS
- GOOD
- JESUS
- KING
- NAILS
- PILATE
- SAVIOUR
- SINS
- THORNS
- TOMB

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



Prayer

Dear Lord, let Your cross bring comfort and peace to me and my family. Amen.

(The Lutheran Study Bible, 2009)



KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING

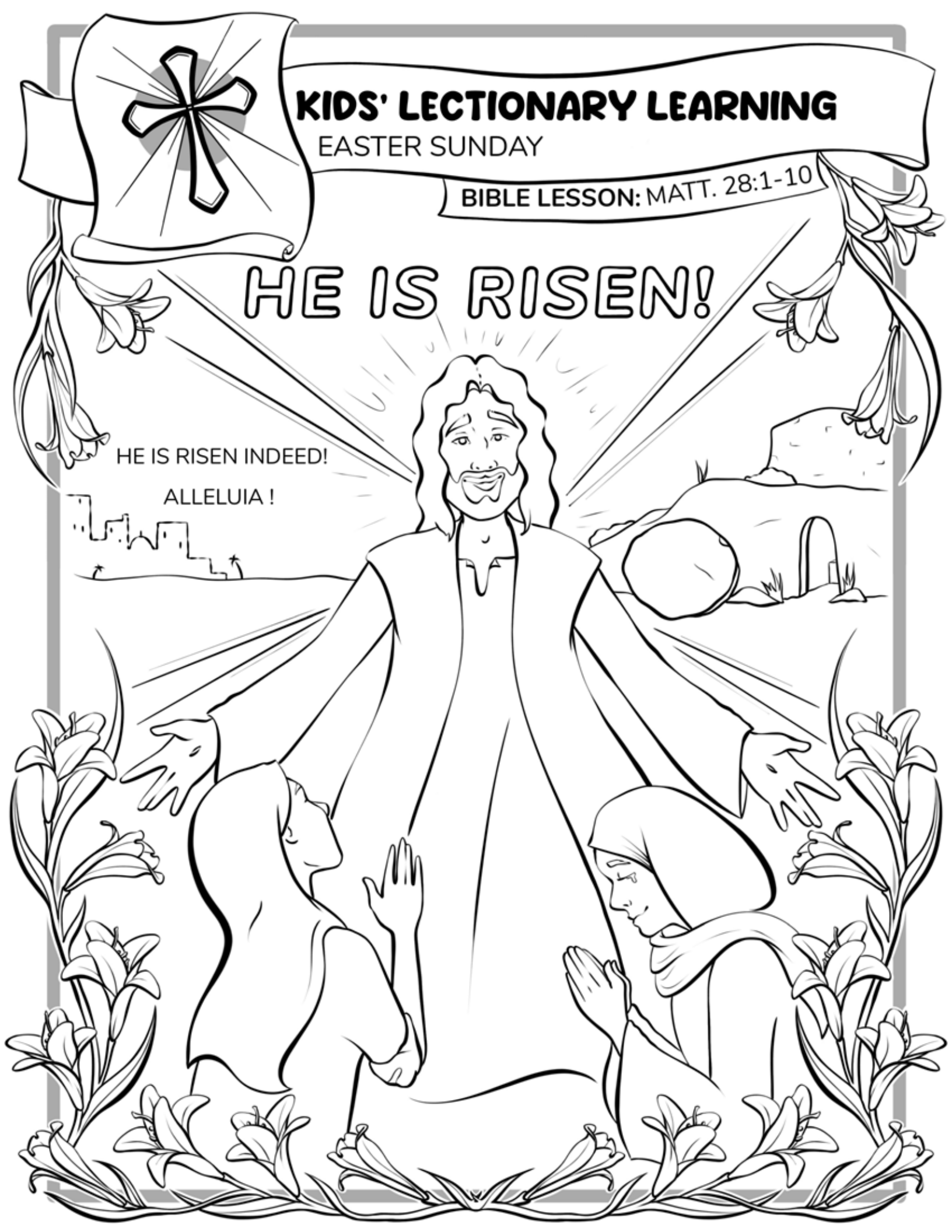
EASTER SUNDAY

BIBLE LESSON: MATT. 28:1-10

HE IS RISEN!

HE IS RISEN INDEED!

ALLELUIA!





Can you follow along in our bible story today and fill in the blanks?



1. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the _____ (v. 1b)

- a. Cross b. Tomb c. Temple

2. An angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and _____ on it. (v. 2b)

- a. Sat b. Danced c. Slept

3. "He is not here, for He has _____, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay." (v. 6)

- a. Left b. Eaten c. Risen

4. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be _____; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me." (v. 10)

- a. Afraid b. Angry c. Happy

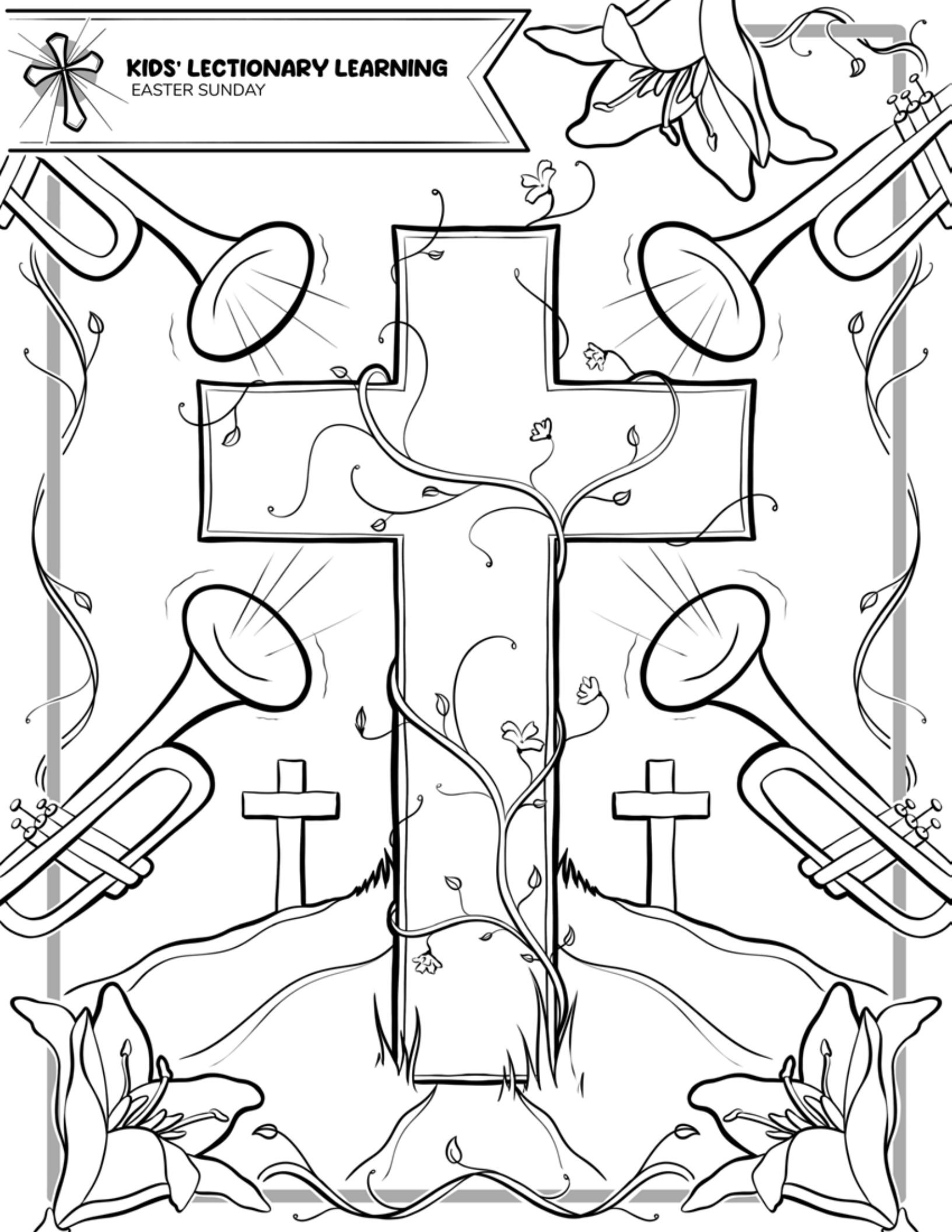
Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You for the gift of Your death and resurrection. Please comfort us in our sorrow, just like You did when You found Mary crying at Your empty tomb. Remind us that You rose again, so that we might live with You forever. In Your precious name we pray. Amen.





KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING
EASTER SUNDAY





KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

BIBLE LESSON: JOHN 20:19-31

TODAY WE LEARN ABOUT
JESUS APPEARING TO HIS
DISCIPLES AFTER EASTER!

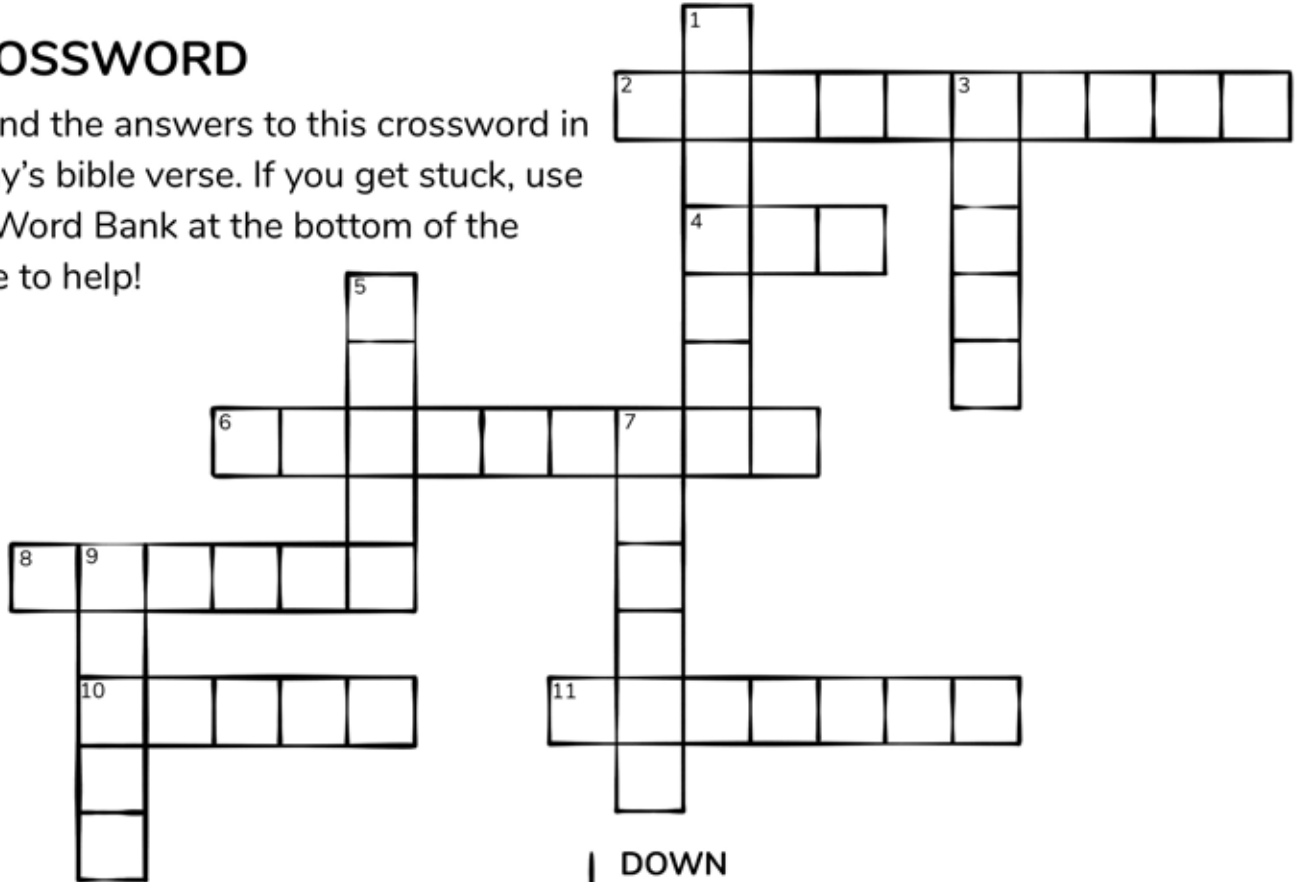


How did the disciples feel when they saw Jesus for
the first time after He had risen?
Draw their faces to show their joy!



CROSSWORD

Find the answers to this crossword in today's bible verse. If you get stuck, use the Word Bank at the bottom of the page to help!



ACROSS

2. He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the _____." (v. 22b)
4. Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my _____!" (v. 28)
6. Then the _____ were glad when they saw the Lord." (v. 20b)
8. Now _____, one of the twelve, called the twin . . . (v. 24a)
10. ". . . Unless I see in His hands the mark of the _____ . . ." (v. 25)
11. "Do not disbelieve, but _____." (v. 27b)

DOWN

1. "If you _____ the sins of any, they are forgiven them;" (v. 23a)
3. Jesus . . . said, "_____ be with you." (v. 26b)
5. _____ came and stood among them. (v. 19)
7. Although the doors were _____, Jesus came and stood among them. (v. 26)
9. When He had said this, He showed them His _____ and His side. (v. 20)

WORD BANK

- Believe
- Disciples
- Forgive
- God
- Hands
- Holy Spirit
- Jesus
- Locked
- Nails
- Peace
- Thomas



Prayer

Let us pray: Dear Jesus, thank You for becoming a man, understanding our human thoughts, feelings, and pain. Thank You for dying for us, and taking our sin so that we can live with You forever. Amen.



KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

BIBLE LESSON: 1 PETER 1:17-25

IN TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE, WE SEE
HOW PETER USES IMAGERY TO
HELP US UNDERSTAND GOD'S
WORD!





FILL IN THE BLANKS

Use the words in the word bank to complete the bible verse!



For "All flesh is like _____
and all its glory like the _____ of grass.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,
but the _____ of the Lord remains forever."

1 Peter 1:24-25a



WORD BANK

WORD GRASS FLOWER

WORD SEARCH

Can you find the following words related to our verse today?

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| BELIEVERS | LAMB |
| BROTHERS | LORD |
| DEEDS | LOVE |
| FLOWER | SEED |
| GOLD | SILVER |
| GRASS | WORD |

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



Prayer

Let us pray together: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your son, and the treasure of the Gospel. Help us to use the gift of being Your children to share the good news of Jesus with others. In His name we pray. Amen.

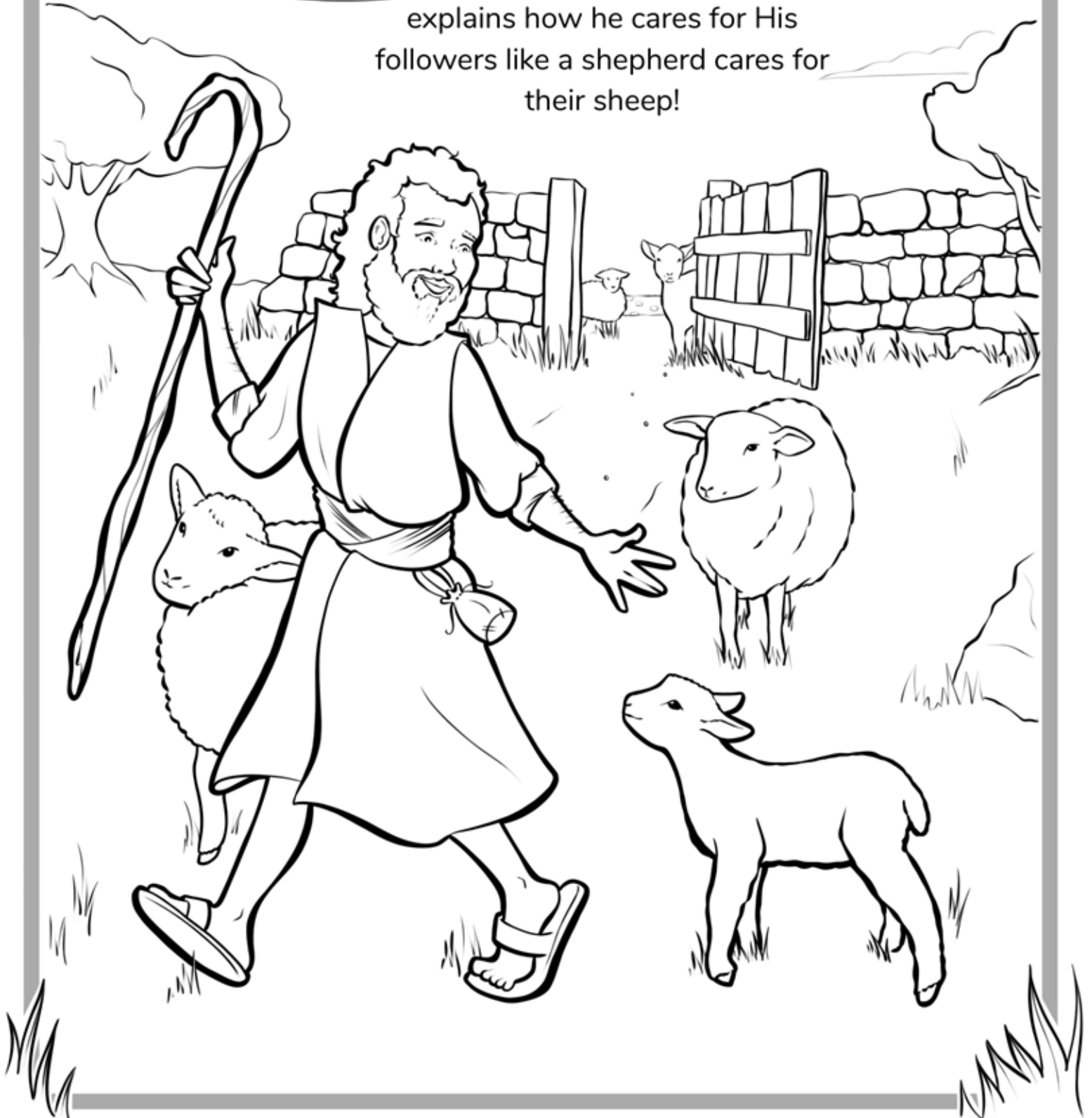


KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

BIBLE LESSON: JOHN 10:1-10

In today's bible verse, Jesus explains how he cares for His followers like a shepherd cares for their sheep!





CRYPTOGRAM

Match the symbols to the letters and see what Jesus says about His followers!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
*	◇	▽	☉	☺	□	!	δ	∩	ε
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
⊙	◻	⊖	∧	↘	⌵	∞	◐	➤	⊗
U	V	W	X	Y	Z				
◁	✦	⊙	◊	∩	⌵				

“ I CAME THAT _____

⊗ δ ☺ ∩ ⊖ * ∩

δ * ✦ ☺ ◻ ∩ □ ☺ * ∧ ☉

δ * ✦ ☺ ∩ ⊗ ⊗

_____”

* ◇ ◁ ∧ ☉ * ∧ ⊗ ◻ ∩

- JOHN 10:10b



Prayer

My dear Shepherd, watch over me that I may never stray from You. Amen.

(The Lutheran Study Bible, 2009)