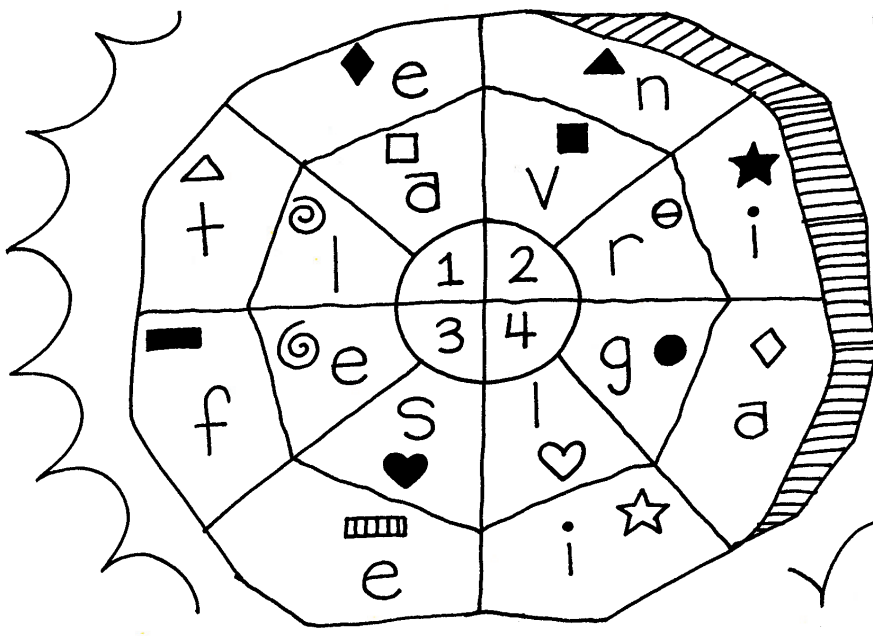


April 5, 2026 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

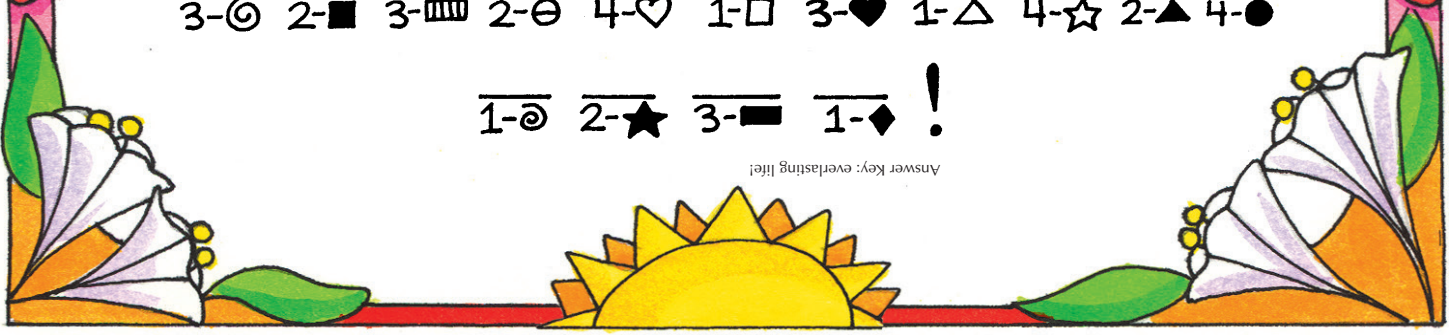
We believe that God raised Jesus from the dead three days after his death. This incredible event proved he truly was the Messiah! The scriptures promise if we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God we'll be given something amazing, too!

Use the tombstone to solve the code that reveals the answer. For each blank space in the code, go first to the number wedge; that will tell you which section of the tombstone to check for the symbol. Then, find the symbol wedge, and that will give you the letter to fill into the code! The first letter has been done for you.



e
 3-⊙ 2-■ 3-▩ 2-⊖ 4-♥ 1-□ 3-♥ 1-△ 4-☆ 2-▲ 4-●
 1-⊖ 2-★ 3-■ 1-◆ !

Answer Key: everlasting life!





“They have taken the Lord from the tomb.”

John 20:2

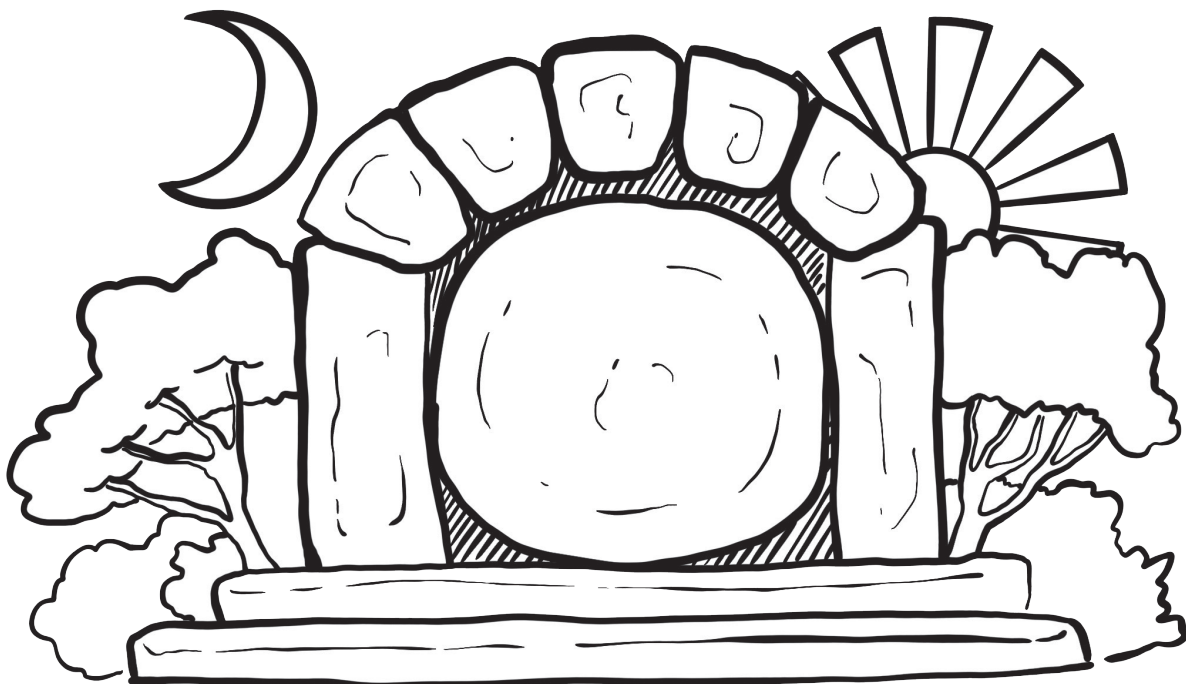
CATHOLIC CORNER

Before the Dawn

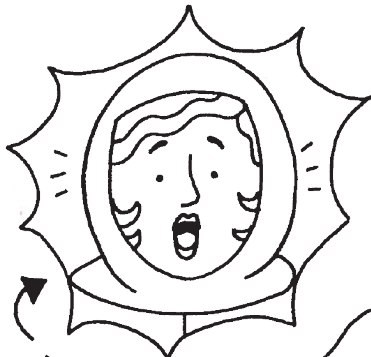
Have you ever woken up so early that it is still dark out? Before the sun comes up, the sky starts to lighten a tiny bit, but it is definitely still dark out. And in some parts of the world, depending on the time of year, it can be a very long time until the sun comes up. Mary Magdalene walked to Jesus' tomb in this kind of darkness. It wasn't the middle of the night, but most people were probably still sleeping. She was ready to be up early, even when most people wouldn't be awake yet, because she wanted to be ready to take care of Jesus' body as soon as she could. What Mary Magdalene didn't know to be ready for was that Jesus would not need her care. He was already resurrected! Raised from the dead! Instead of her coming to take care of him after he'd died, Jesus would be the one who would take care of Mary. This was the great unexpected surprise that was waiting for Mary, and that waits for all of us too—that Jesus is still there, more powerful than death, and always wanting to love us and care for us.

What do you think it was like for Mary Magdalene early in the morning of Easter, before she knew what had happened? Perhaps she was sad, nervous, or afraid. Maybe she was tired from being awake early but committed to caring for Jesus' body. What do you think it was like for Mary after she learned that Jesus had risen from the dead? She was probably excited, scared, happy, and maybe even a little confused. She thought someone she loved was dead and it turned out he had been resurrected! That is a big surprise and a big change for anyone to understand! God always has big surprises and changes in store for us, and Jesus' resurrection was the biggest surprise of all.

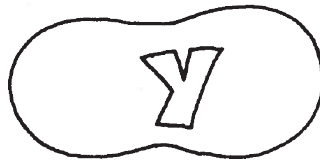
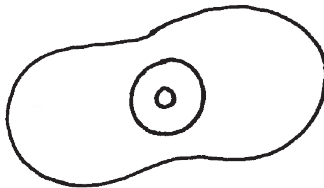
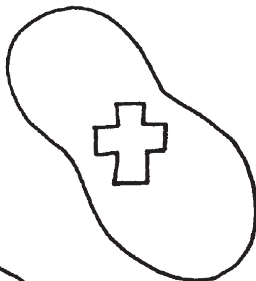
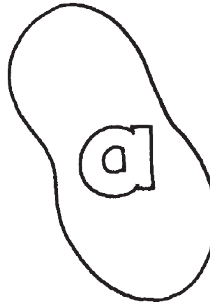
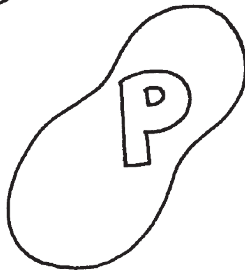
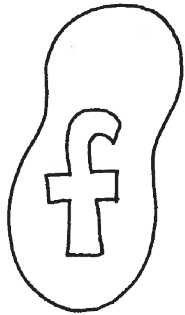
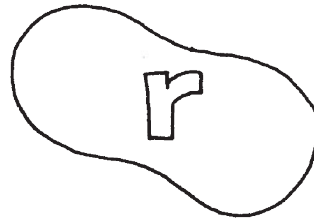
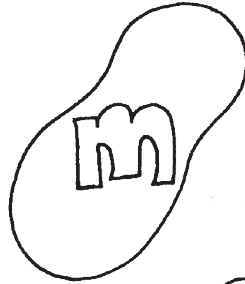
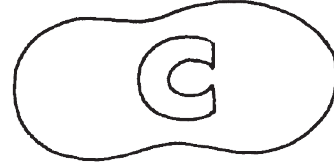
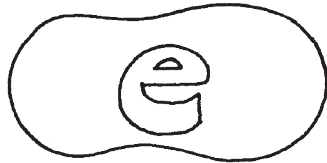
What surprises you most about Jesus rising from the dead? Are there things that might still be confusing for you? You can talk to a parent or teacher about what might still be hard to understand. Mary Magdalene had the other disciples—and Jesus—to talk to. You can also talk to Jesus, every time you pray. You can remember how Mary walked in the dark to find the great surprise of the risen Jesus, and remember that God will always be there waiting for you, too!



Mary of Magdala has gone to Jesus' tomb.
But it is empty; Jesus is not there!
Help Mary get to Peter to tell him the news by following
the footsteps that spell *empty*.

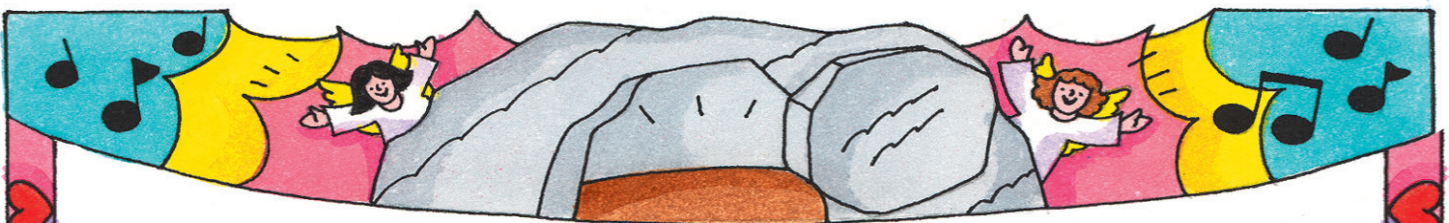


Mary



Peter

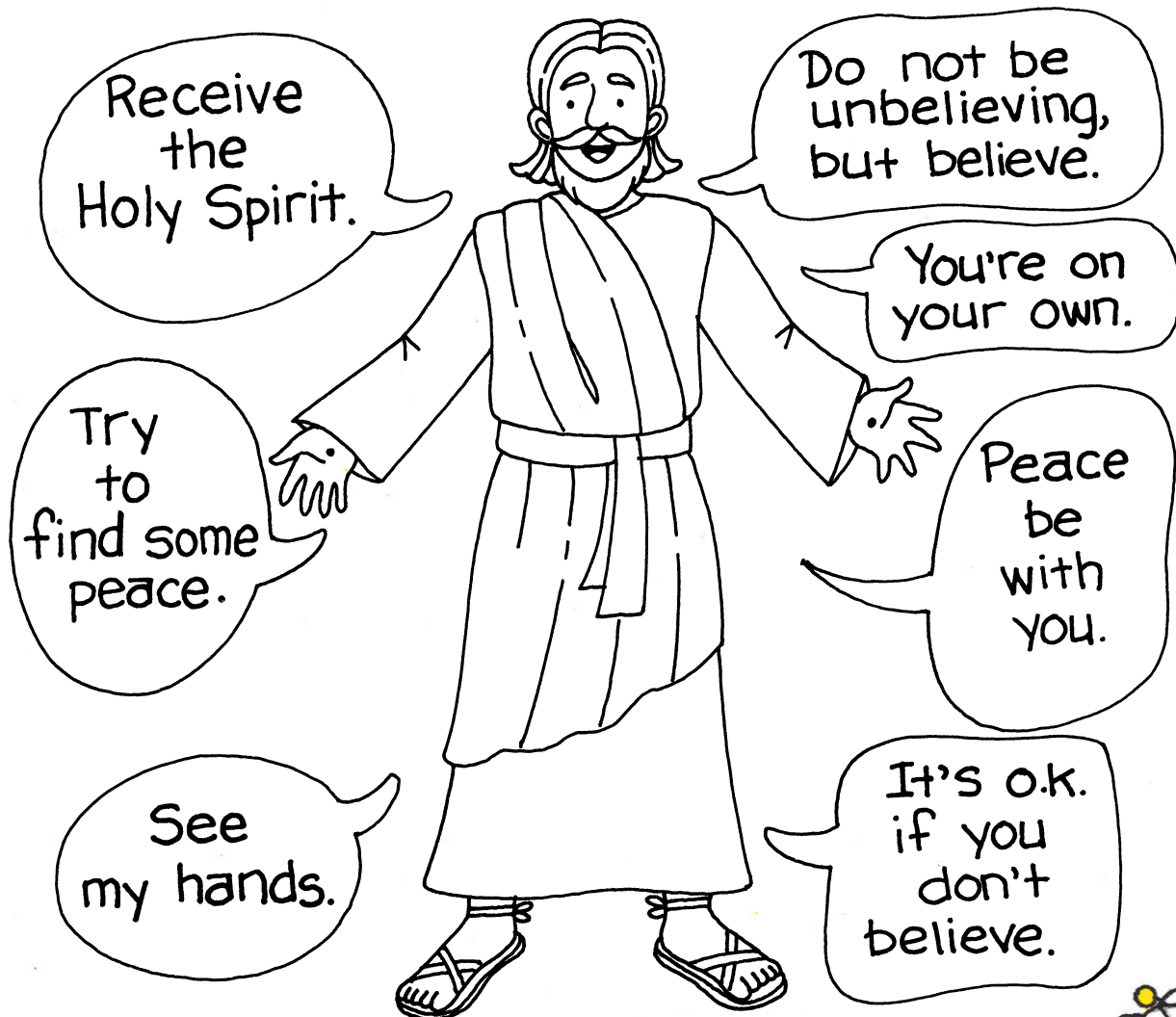




April 12, 2026
Second Sunday of Easter

After his resurrection Jesus appeared twice to his disciples in a locked room.

Cross out the speech bubbles that do not tell what he said during these visits.
You can read the story in your Bible at John 20:19-31.



Answer Key: Cross out "Try to find some peace," "You're on your own," and "It's o.k. if you don't believe."





**Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you."**

John 20:19

CATHOLIC CORNER

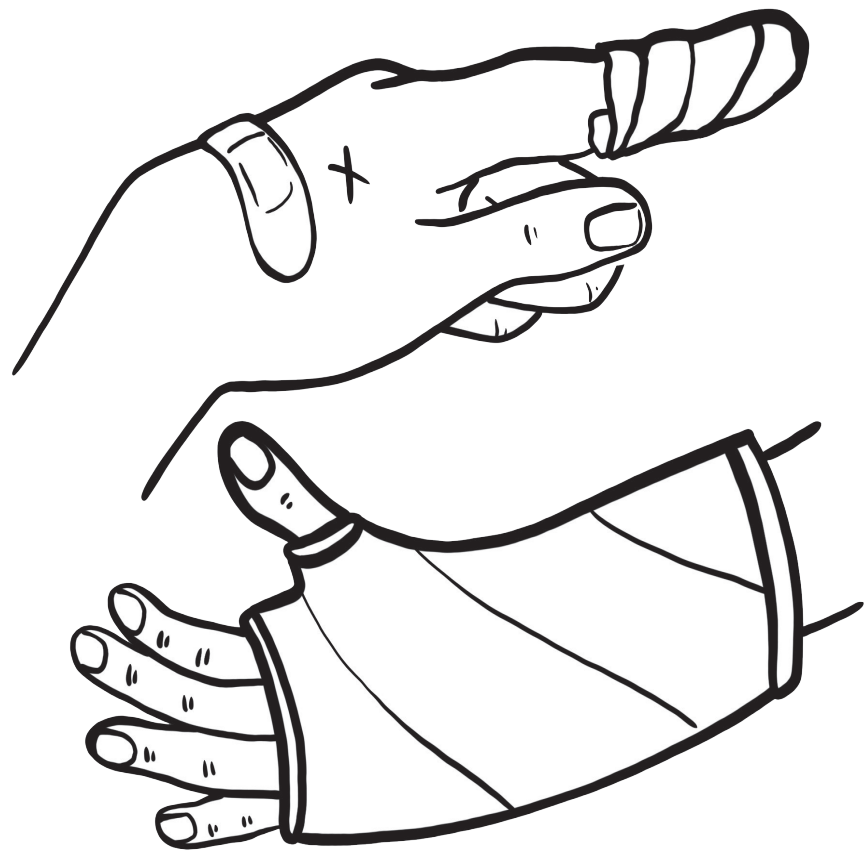
See My Hands

Have you had a broken bone before? Or have you had a bad fall and a cut that needed stitches? Maybe you are someone who likes to run and jump and ends up with a lot of bumps and bruises. Everyone gets hurt sometimes, and it takes time to heal and to feel better. Even though our bodies will heal from the things that hurt them, they sometimes aren't quite the same. Places where we broke bones can still get sore and be uncomfortable. Big cuts that need stitches will often leave what we call a scar. Scars are a special way that your skin grows back together and heals, leaving what looks like a white line. Scars aren't bad—they are just signs that something happened to us that needed to be healed. Scars don't ever fully go away, they just become part of who we are.

When Jesus rose from the dead, his body still showed all the ways it was hurt before he died. He had places in his hands and on his sides where he had been wounded. These were pretty big cuts, so they would still be able to be seen on his body. In today's gospel, we hear about the disciple Thomas, who wasn't there when Jesus appeared to the disciples. Thomas wasn't sure it was really Jesus. So when Jesus came back, he showed Thomas all of his wounds—and Thomas was astounded!

This was Jesus, wounds and owies included! Thomas and the disciples had a lot to figure out—someone they love had died and then risen from the dead. But Jesus made sure to be there for him and to help him understand what had happened.

Hard things happen to everyone. People get hurt, and sometimes that hurt is in their body, but sometimes that hurt can be inside their heart, too. We know we can heal from these things, but we also see in Jesus how we carry with us those things that happen to us. And that's okay! Thomas was able to recognize who Jesus was because of his wounds. The important and hard things we experience change us. For Jesus, his death meant he could be resurrected and we could see and believe in how powerful God's love for us really is. And just like with Thomas, Jesus will be there to help us when hard things happen. No matter what happens, God and God's love will always be with us.

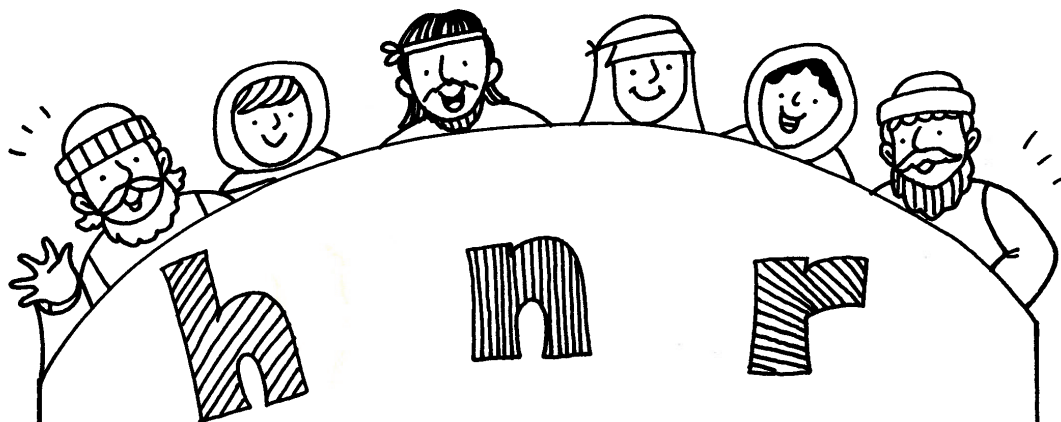


Acts 2:42-47 tells us how the believers lived.

They took care of each other.

Decide which of the letters will complete this sentence about them.

Write that letter in the blanks.



T _ e y s o l d w _ a t
t _ e y _ a d,
t _ e n s _ a r e d
w _ a t w a s
m a d e .

Answer Key: They sold what they had, then shared what was made.

GIA

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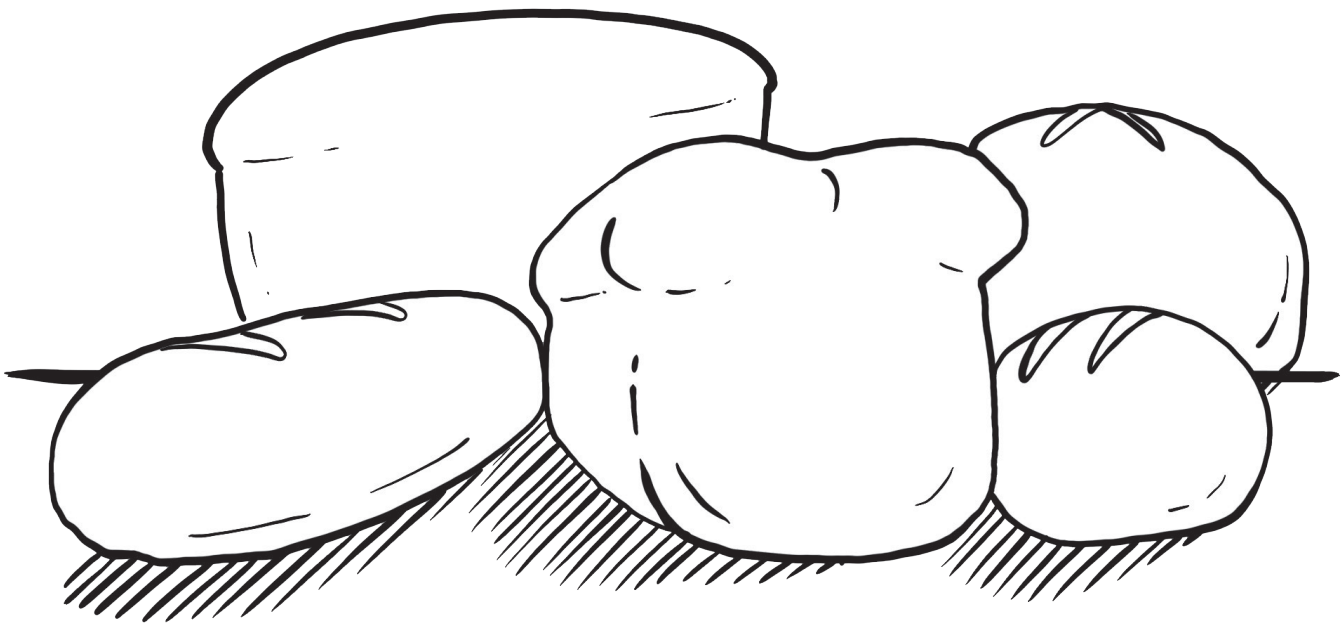
Two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village . . . called Emmaus,
and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.

Luke 24:13, 14

CATHOLIC CORNER

In the Breaking of the Bread

Did you have a special meal on Easter? Every family celebrates Easter differently. Maybe your family has a special meal together early in the day. Some families eat at home and some families will go out to eat. Some families will eat later in the day. There might be special foods you eat together, too. Each family has different traditions to help celebrate Easter, but part of those traditions will almost always be sharing a meal together. No matter what kind of food is shared or what time of day you eat together, Easter (and many special occasions) are marked by sharing a special meal.



Today we get to hear about a special meal that happened shortly after Easter morning and Jesus' resurrection. Two of Jesus' disciples were walking to a town called Emmaus. Jesus started walking with them (but they didn't realize it was Jesus). They were talking about what they had heard about Jesus. It was pretty big news for the disciples, so there was a lot for them to talk about! When they got there, they invited Jesus to share a meal with them. Jesus then broke the bread for them, blessed and shared it, just like he had at the Last Supper only a few days earlier. His actions recalled an earlier and special time they had shared together. This helped them understand who was with them, and they went to tell the other disciples how sharing bread together let them know it was Jesus.

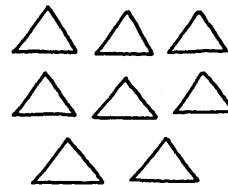
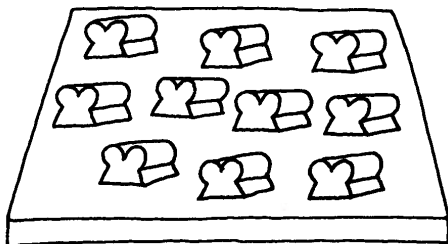
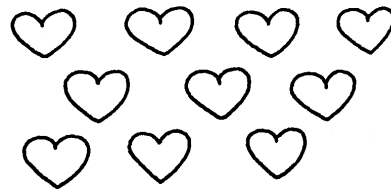
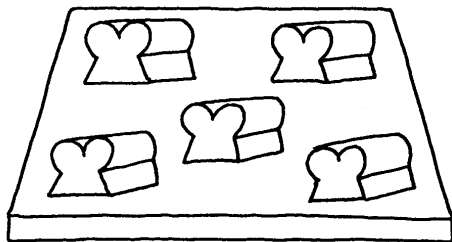
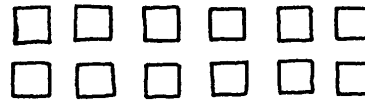
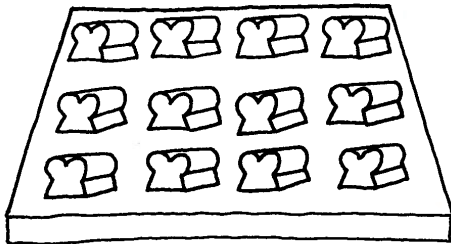
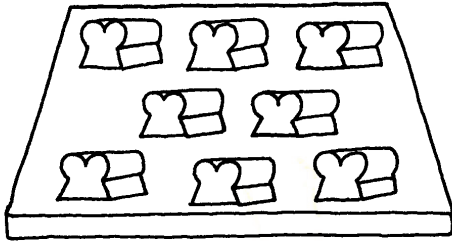
This breaking of the bread, like at the Last Supper, is the same kind of ritual we do every Sunday when we break bread at Mass just as Jesus did. This is one of the most special ways we know who Jesus is—when we break bread together and celebrate the Eucharist at Mass. Special meals help us to mark important occasions, and they also help us remember important things that happened before our time. They give us a chance to be with the people we love and recall ways we have been loved. In the Eucharist, we celebrate God's love made real for us as Jesus becomes fully present to us in the bread and the wine. We do it every week so that we can remember all the time how deeply Jesus loves us and wants to be with us.

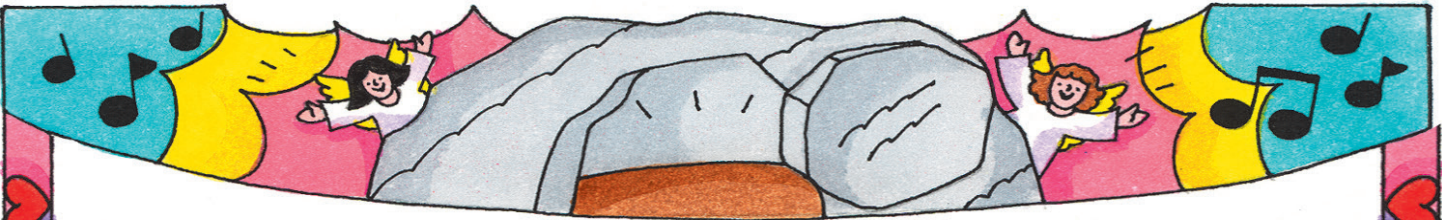
What are ways you can remember the way Jesus loves us? What are ways you can remember to share love with others in your life? Write them in the loaves of bread above.

When Jesus broke a piece of bread,
the disciples who were with him recognized him!

Count the loaves of bread on each tabletop.

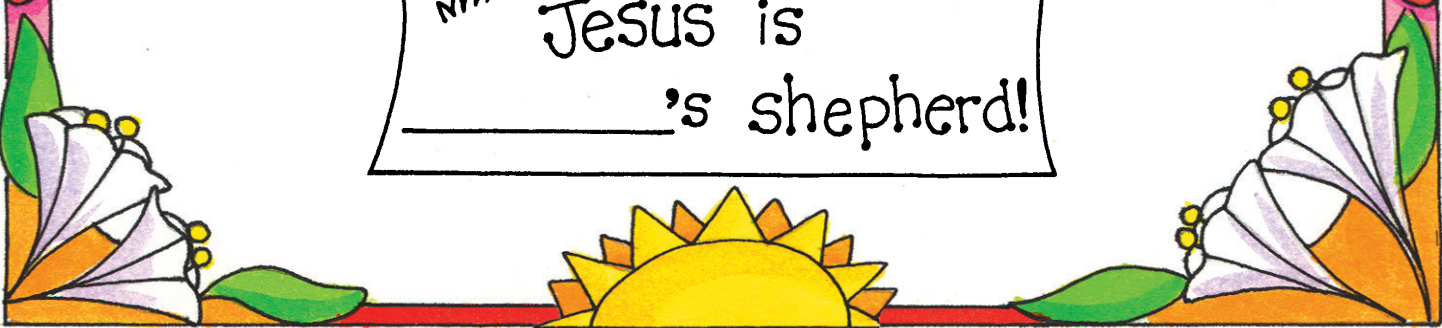
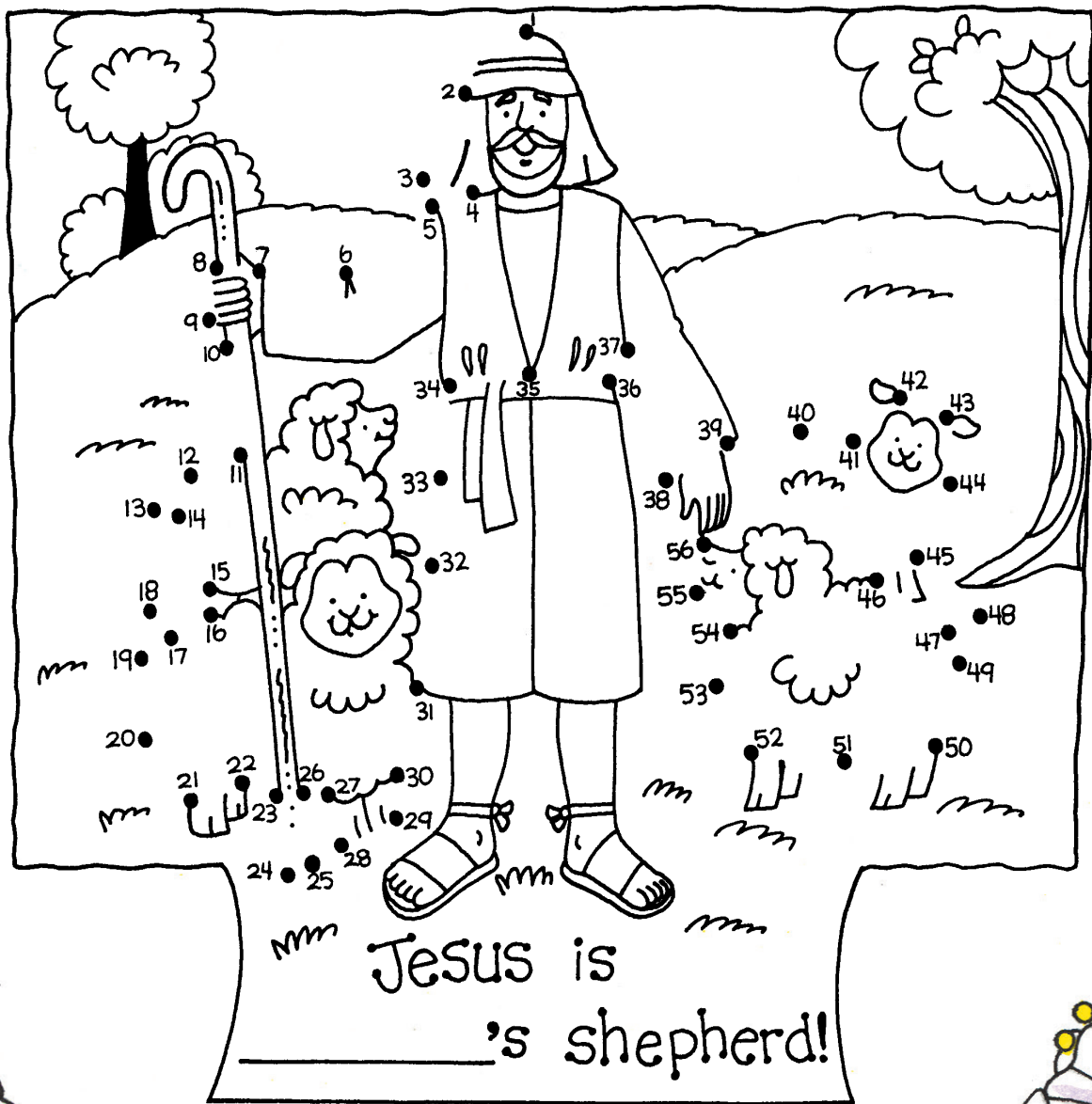
Then draw a line from each group
to the same number of shapes.





April 26, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today's readings compare us to sheep that have returned to the shepherd. Complete this dot-to-dot and color it!
Then write your name on the blank below.





So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you,
I am the gate for the sheep."

John 10:7

CATHOLIC CORNER

Loved and Known

Do you recognize the voice of your parents? Are there other grown-ups in your life who care for you, like teachers or grandparents, whose voice you recognize? The people we spend a lot of time with, and especially the people who show great love to us, are very familiar. We can tell who they are by the sound of their voice without having to look. For people who don't hear well, there are other ways to recognize the people they care about. Maybe it's the way they smell because of their soap or shampoo, or the way they give a really good hug. There are a lot of ways we recognize and know the people in our life who love us and will always be there to take care of us.

Jesus is one of the people who loves us deeply and will always be there for us, just like parents, grandparents, teachers, and other important grown-ups. It is why Jesus talks about being a 'Good Shepherd' in the gospels. It isn't his job to just be in charge of everyone, but to make sure all of his sheep—which is you, me and everyone!—are loved, safe, and cared for. Pope Francis used to talk about why it was important for priests, bishops and other leaders in the church to smell like the sheep. It meant that they spent time with the people they were supposed to take care of. People can't know you well if you don't spend time with them.



In order to know God, it's important to spend time with God. God will always know who we are and how to recognize us, because God made each one of us! But we can be sure to get to know God better and better each day. One of the ways we can get to know God better is by going to Mass, hearing stories read from the Bible, and celebrating the Eucharist. We can also spend a little time praying each day. When you pray at night, you can think about everything you did that day. What are the things that were hard? The things that were really good? You can ask God for help with hard things and thank God for the good things. Doing this whenever we can helps us learn how to look for the good things God shares with us, and how to rely on God when we struggle. There are always good things to look for to help us find God, because God is always our Good Shepherd and will always be there to care for us.

Peter explained to the people that through Jesus, they could receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (see Acts 2:38).

This is true for everyone! What a generous God we serve! Think of this as you write in the missing word on each package so it says "Gift of the Holy Spirit!"



Answer key: of, Gift, Holy, the, Spirit, of



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