Family Craft & Activity Pack

Aimed at families with Children

but fun for all ages!

EASTER DAY 2021

Jesus is risen on Easter morning — Alleluia!

Mark 16:1-8 & John 20:1-18

EASTER DAY - Jesus is alive! (John 20:1-18)

It is true that Jesus is risen, He is alive again for all time. The Lord of life cannot be held by death. God's victory over the cross and grave, victory over sin and death means that new life for all people is reality.

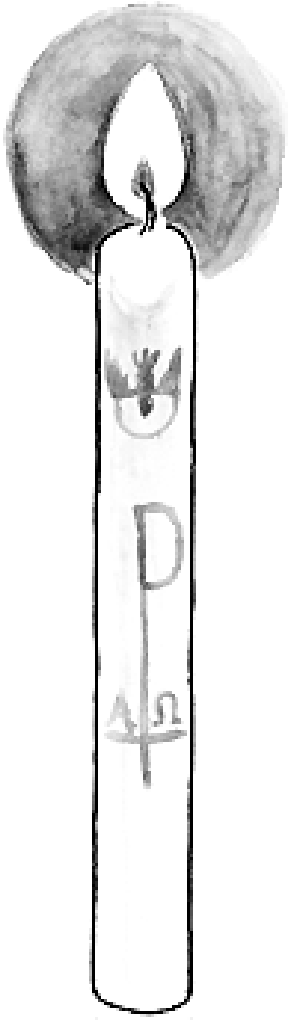
<u>Easter Sunday Morning</u>

When Jesus died he was buried in a newly hewn cave, carved out of rock in a beautiful garden. The garden was located in a large rocky hillside. Once he was buried a large bolder was rolled across the front of the cave. There was no way in, or out of the tomb, and soldiers guarded the entrance to make sure that nobody took the body of Jesus away. The women who loved Jesus and were also his disciples watched where his body was laid. Early in the morning on the third day, which is Easter Sunday, these women went to the tomb to take lovely smelling spices. They loved Jesus and even though he had died, they wanted the place where he was laid to smell beautiful. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James (and some of the other women) went to the tomb and were amazed to find the large stone rolled away. The soldiers who had been guarding the entrance and the large stone were so frightened they either ran away or fainted like dead men out of fear!

But where was the body of Jesus? The women didn't know what to think. This was completely beyond their experience. Some of Jesus male disciples also went to the tomb. Peter went in, as did other people but they didn't know what to believe. Could Jesus really be alive? After all, he had promised them that he would see them again.

In the garden, Mary Magdalene was so upset, so concerned by the missing body of Jesus that she burst into tears. Crying her eyes out, she asked a man nearby, who she thought was one of the gardeners, where the body of Jesus was. The man comforted her and said her name, "Mary." My goodness! She screamed with joy, that voice was Jesus! He is alive! Alleluia! She went to hug him, for she loved him so much and was so happy he was with her, alive. But he told her not to cling to him but rather go and tell the other disciples that he was alive and that he would see them all soon. Mary said, "My Lord and my God." She loved Jesus so much.

Jesus sent Mary (or in Matthew's Gospel, an angel sends the women) to tell the other disciples that the Lord is alive—he is risen! Jesus sends us to do the same. To tell of his new life, at Easter.



Easter Eggs and New Life

Traditionally on Easter Day we exchange Easter eggs as a sign of celebration. But what do they symbolise? Easter eggs (traditionally known as Paschal eggs, like the Easter candle we bless each Easter is known as the Paschal candle) are eggs that are sometimes decorated, but often chocolate and hollow. Sometimes inside the space is a present or gift. In the past eggs were cooked and decorated and given as presents and were a traditional symbol of new life and rebirth. In our Christian faith for the celebration of Eastertide, these Easter eggs symbolise the empty tomb of Jesus, from which Jesus resurrected. Just like the new life that bursts from a chickens egg in the form of a baby chick. Easter is also the time in the year when we see new life everywhere from daffodils and flowers to spring sunshine. New life and light which overcomes the darkness of winter.

Every Easter we have a new Easter (Pascal) candle which represents the light and hope of Easter. It is blessed and lit for the first time on Easter Eve at a service known as the Easter Vigil.

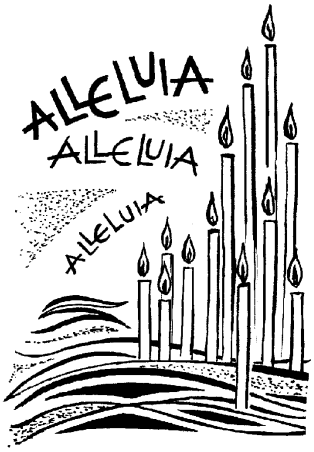
The light from this new candle is used to light other candles, and the light grows slowly to overtake the darkness. Just like the first light of Easter Day when Jesus was risen from the dead. Alleluia!

Our Easter eggs and Easter candle remind us that Jesus did what he promised, that after he had died, three days later he would rise from the dead and be alive again. The darkness of death is replaced by the bright light of Easter morning and his resurrection. That new risen life offers each one of us the chance to live in his light. Alleluia!

Praying Together

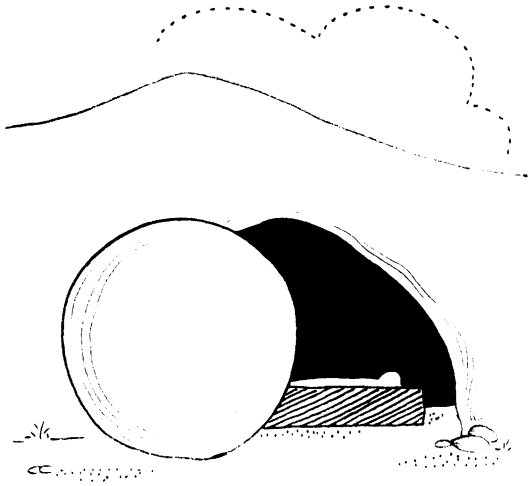
To God be the glory, great things he has done!

Lord Jesus, we thank you that you are alive for us. We thank you that you bring light and life to the world. Help us to always live in your light and to help others to find your light in their lives too. Thank you that you love us forever. Alleluia!



Mary Magdalene... observed where he was laid.

Mark 15:47



Mary Magdalene first met Jesus when he healed her of the evil spirits that had possessed her. She became one of his followers and waited with his mother when he was crucified. She saw the tomb he was laid in and was the first person to discover that the tomb was empty. Jesus then appeared to her as she was running to tell the disciples. Women were considered unimportant in Jesus' time and she was very privileged to be so close to him during his ministry.

Today's Bible reading

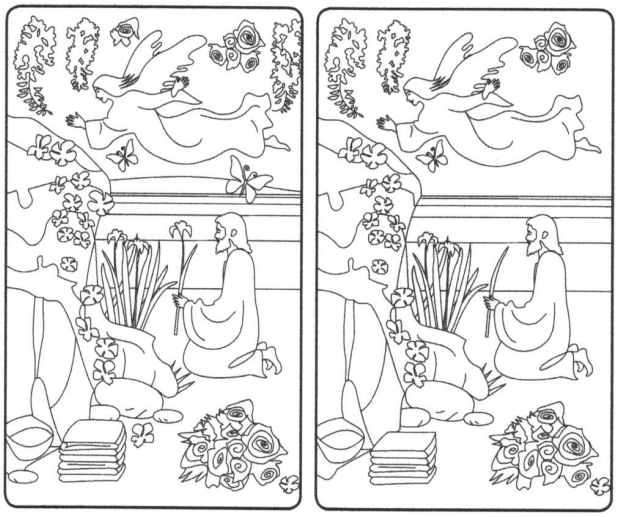
John 20.1-18

Jesus was crucified and buried. Mary went to the tomb and discovered it was empty. She ran to tell the others, who found it hard to believe her. They all went to the tomb to see for themselves and then left Mary there. She saw a gardener but then realised it was Jesus who had risen from the dead. She proclaimed 'I have seen the Lord'.

What do you find it hard to wait for?

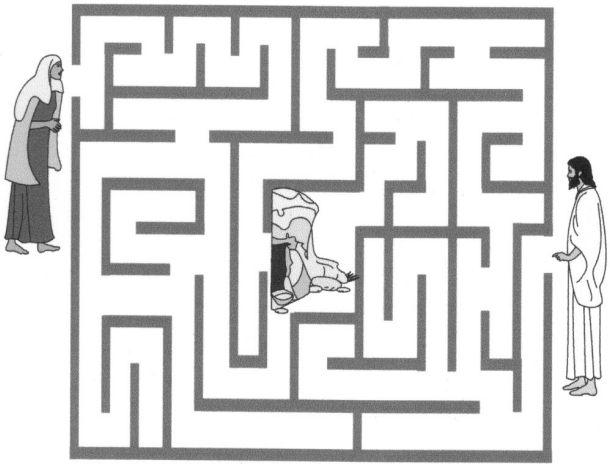
Activity 1

Spot ten differences between these two pictures.



Activity 2

Help Mary find the tomb and then reach Jesus.

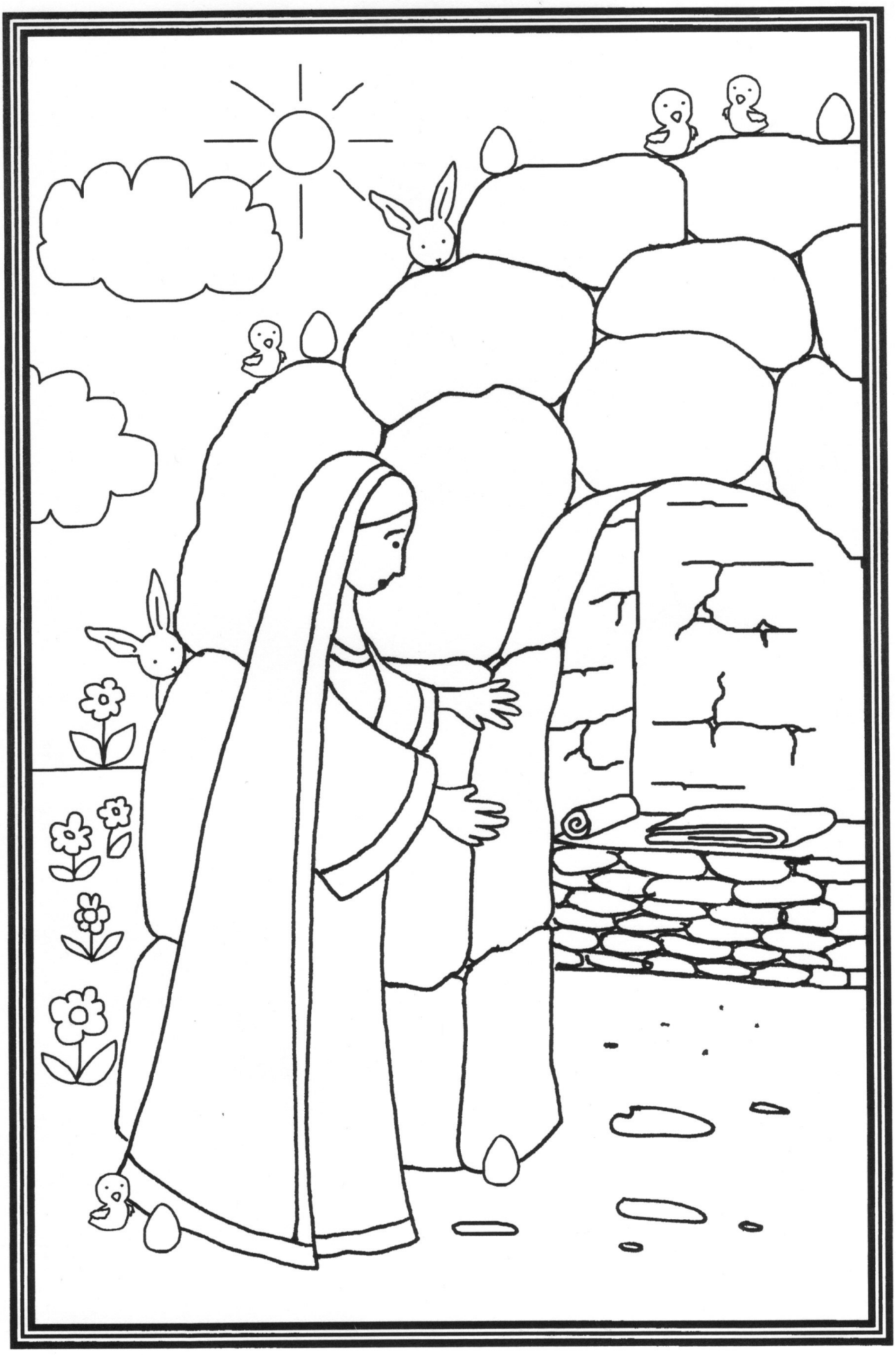


PRAYER

Alleluia, alleluia.
Jesus is risen, he has changed the world.
Alleluia.

Live your faith!

Try this week to think what Jesus would say in different situations. What would he say to the person who was hurt, or to the person who needed help? Try to do the same!



You can read this story in John 20:1-31

The Resurrection

JESUS IS RISEN ALLELUIA!

To say and act together

CHRIST HAS DIED
(curl up on the ground and wait a while)

CHRIST IS RISEN
(jump up and raise your hands up high)

CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN
(Lower your hands slowly and then go round the room shaking each other's hands and saying 'ALLELUIA!!')

FACT FILE

Jesus really died ✝

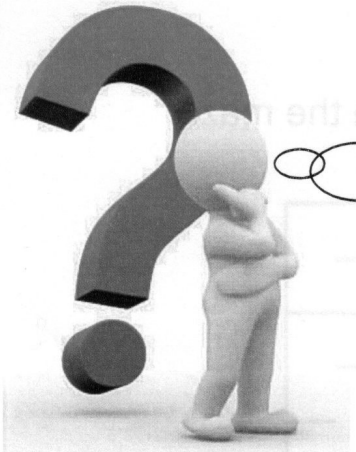
Jesus was buried in a tomb, and it was sealed with a stone

Jesus arose on Easter day and was seen by the women and the disciples

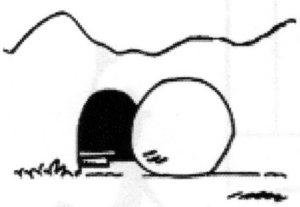
ALLELUIA

PRAY

Lord Jesus, we are glad that you arose from the dead. You have conquered darkness and death and offer us eternal life. ALLELUIA.



What do you call a guy named Bill who puts up houses?
Bill-Der!
So what do you call a guy named Bill who follows Jesus?
Bill-Eaver!



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R	S	J	B	Y	X	A	E	Q	E	C	G	X	N	S
D	O	U	B	T	I	N	G	D	B	D	S	N	O	K

Can you find the words in the word search?

disciples together doors locked Jesus showed
hands side Thomas doubting touch
believe signs miracles recorded life

Risen Jesus, make yourself known
to us all in due time
So we may know for sure the joy of heaven!
Amen

7. Easter I

Suggested Readings: I Peter 1:3–5 John 20:3–9*

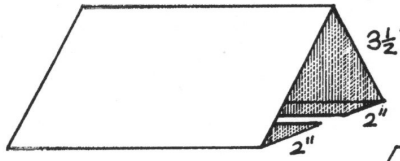
Teaching Aim: *To teach that Jesus has risen from the dead and is alive for ever.*

Suggested Teaching Outline

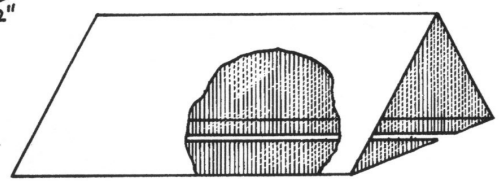
1. What did we think about on Good Friday? Where was the dead body of Jesus placed? What was his tomb like?
2. What did the disciples find when they went to the tomb on Easter morning? Had you been with them, what would you have thought when you saw the stone rolled back from the entrance to the tomb? Would you have guessed that Jesus was alive again?
3. What did Mary of Magdala think when she found that the tomb was empty? When she met Jesus in the garden, why do you think she failed to recognise him straight away? Did anyone else see Jesus after his resurrection? Why, do you think, did he continue to appear for forty days to different groups of disciples in different places? What did he want them to be certain about?
4. Why was Jesus able to rise from the dead; why wasn't death the end for him? What do graves usually make us think about, and how do they make us feel? What does the empty tomb of Jesus say to us and to all people?

Something to make: AN EASTER GARDEN

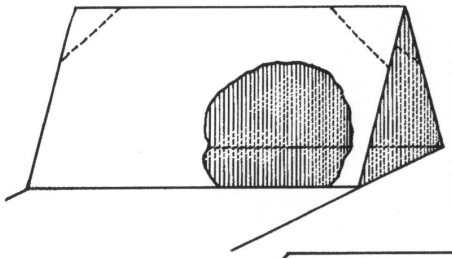
Required: Two sheets of A4-sized paper for each child, preferably one green and one stone-coloured.



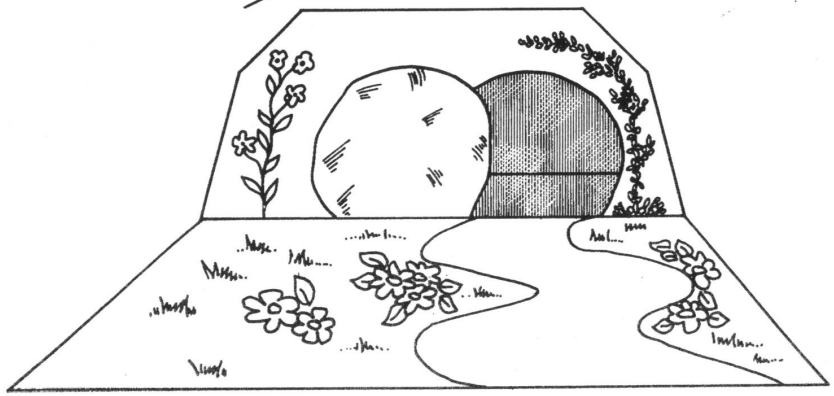
1. Fold the stone-coloured paper in half, and then fold in the ends as shown in Fig. 1 (the sizes given are approximate).



2. Cut out a hole (as shown) to be the entrance to the sepulchre; keep the piece that has been cut out to be the rolled-back stone.



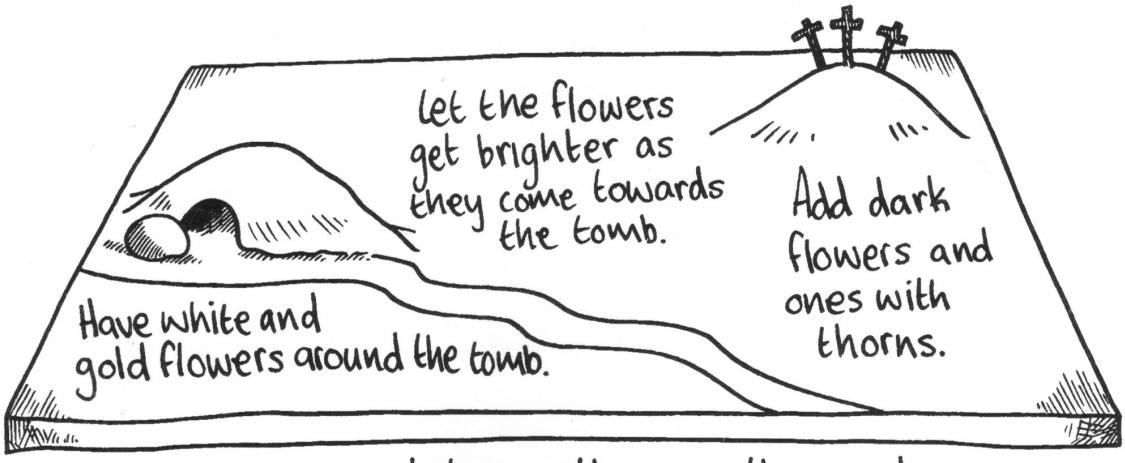
3. Glue the bottom pieces one over the other, and then glue down the sepulchre itself at one end of the green piece of paper, which becomes the garden. Fold back the top corners of the sepulchre to give a better outline, and preferably cut and glue them down in the way described for the corners of the roof of the Christmas crib (page 5).



4. Glue the stone to one side of the entrance of the sepulchre. If you wish, cut out a path from more stone-coloured paper and glue it in place and draw plants etc. to make a proper garden.

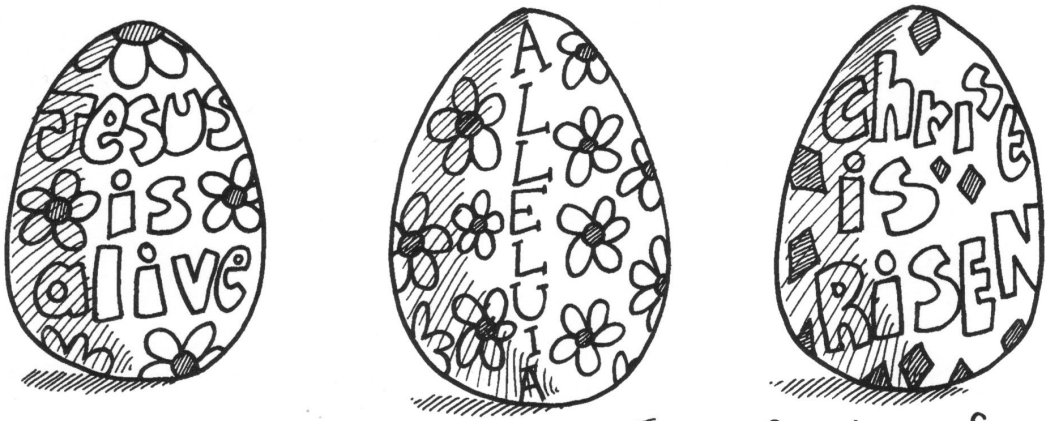
Make an Easter garden.

Use a tray or a table top if there are lots of you.

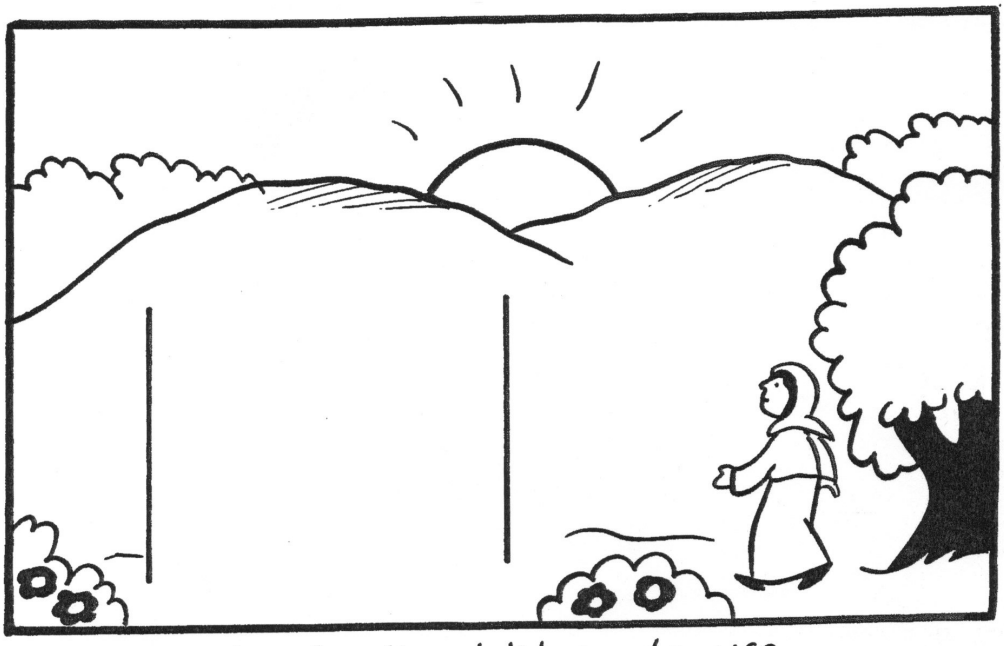


Let a path cross the garden.

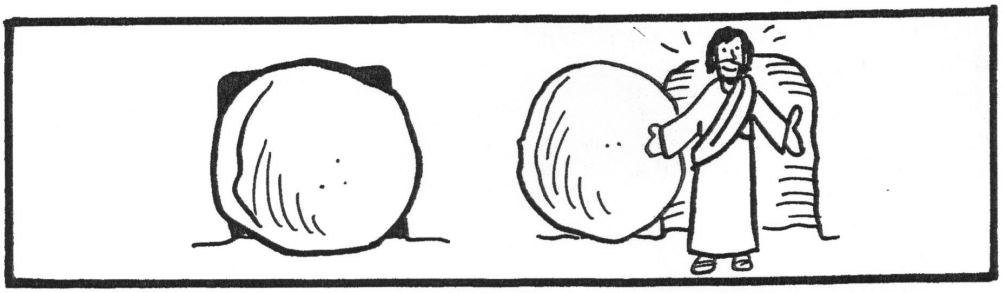
Paint Easter eggs.



Write a prayer to say thank you to Jesus for rising from the dead.



Cut slits for the children to use



Show how Jesus is alive

For parents and children to pray together:

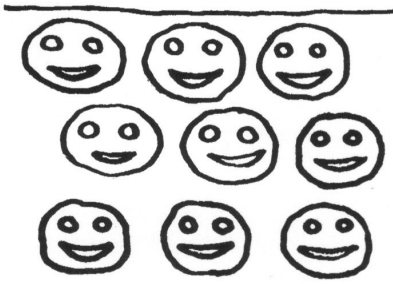
Thank you, God, that Jesus is alive and is our friend. He is with us always.

Alleluia

CROWDED OUT

This activity points up the difference between the crowd shouting in praise of Jesus on Palm Sunday and shouting 'Away with him' a few days later. Make two crowd pictures by potato printing, as shown in illustration. Make a supply of speech bubbles. On one crowd picture put a speech bubble saying 'Jesus is King!' and on the other, one saying 'Kill him!' Children could use the extra speech bubbles to put modern sayings for and against Jesus, on the two pictures.

1 Cut a potato in half.
2 Use a blunt knife to gouge out holes for a mouth and eyes.
3 Dip into thick poster paint.
4 Print a crowd of people.

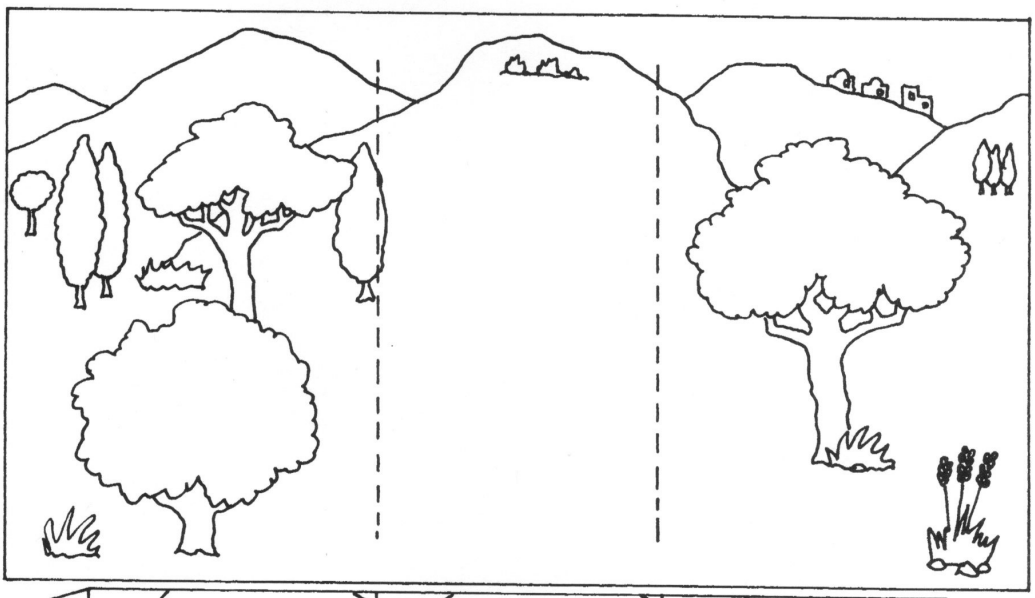


MOVING EASTER STORY PICTURE

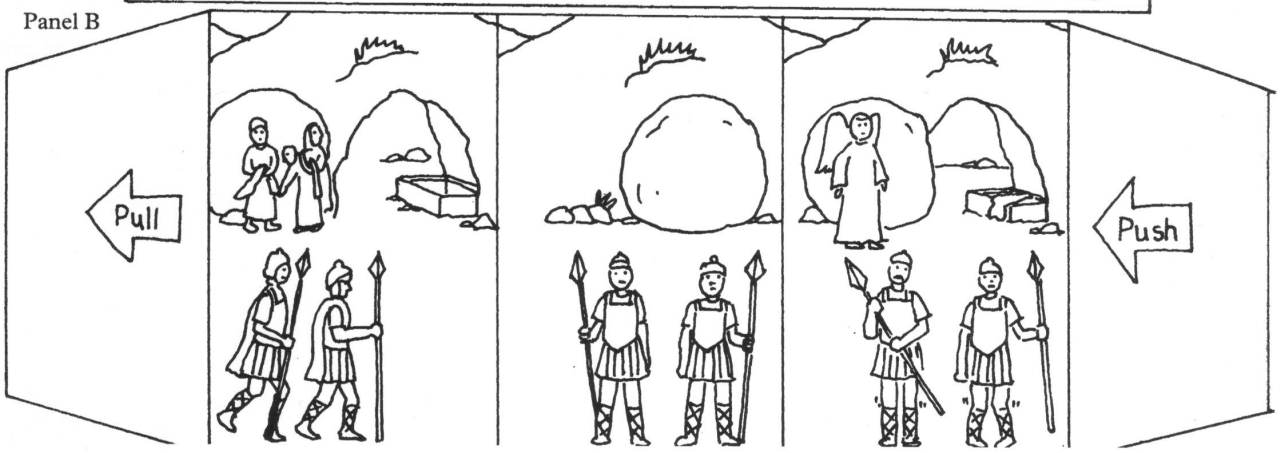
Photocopy one copy of the illustration for each child. Cut out and colour in panels A and B. Then cut along the dotted lines marked on panel A. Thread panel B through these two slits so that the three pictures appear in the middle of panel A as they are pulled through the gap.

Tip: For extra strength paste panel A on to a piece of thin card and then cut the slits through both paper and card.

Panel A



Panel B

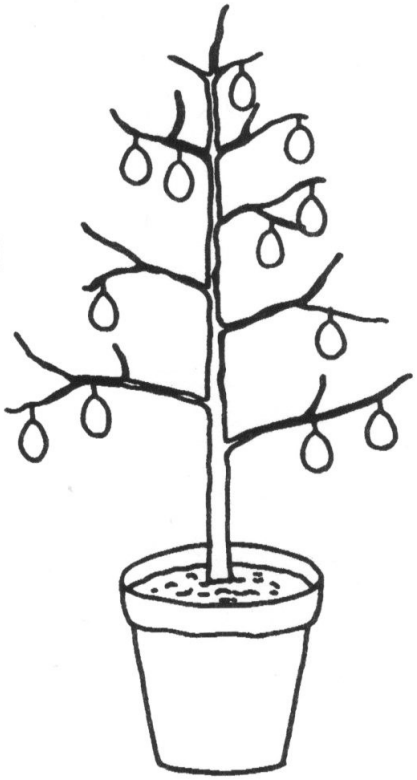


Easter Tree

Topic: Easter.

Bible reference: Matthew 28

Introduction: An Easter tree can be made from any potted small tree, shrub or bare branch decorated with lots and lots of hand-decorated eggs.



Equipment per person:

- a plastic egg (see Resources) or a blown, real eggshell
- 15 cm of thin gold wool
- P.V.A. glue
- materials to decorate the egg e.g. sequins, glitter, thin ribbon, coloured sand, tissue paper, cellophane, crystal chips, dried peas and pulses and small fluffy Easter chicks
- O.H.P. pens

Instructions:

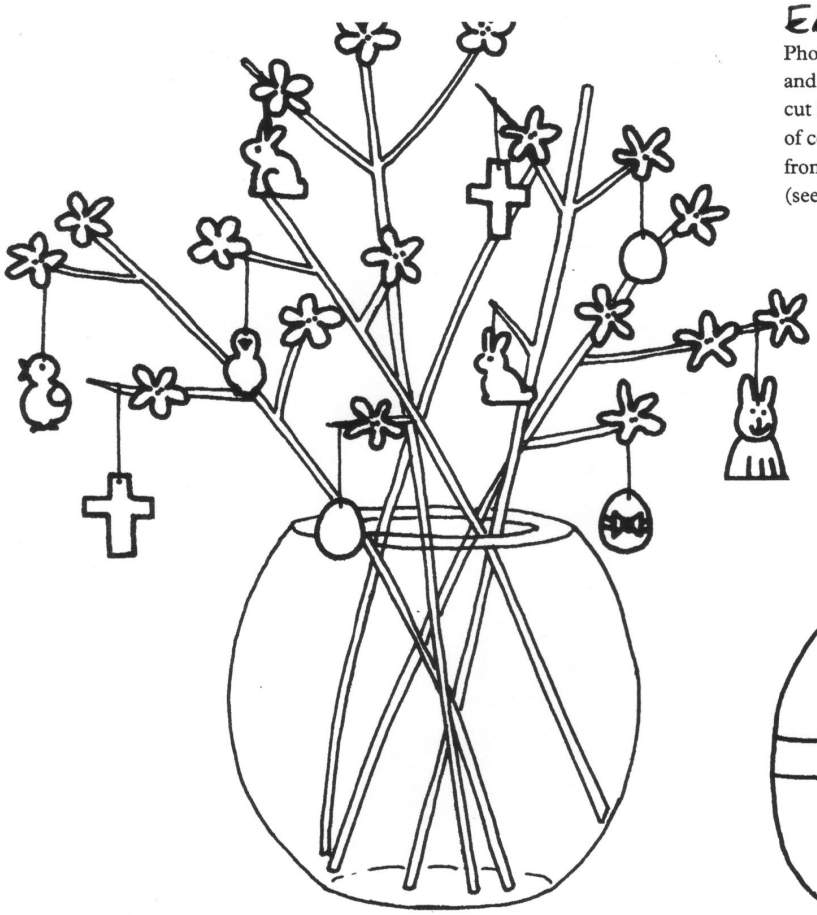
1. Thread the wool through the hole in the top of the plastic egg and knot the ends together.
2. Decorate the egg using the glue to stick the various items on and the pens to draw with. An Easter chick or scrunched up cellophane can be placed inside the plastic egg.
3. Hang the eggs onto the tree.

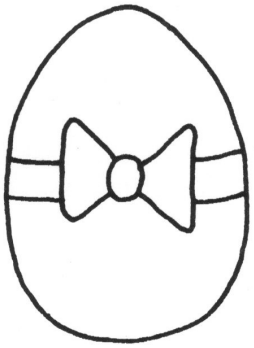
Hints:

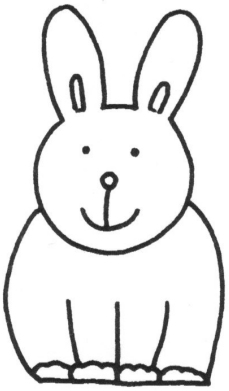
1. This tree makes a good focal point in a church for the Easter celebrations. It also encourages the children and informs other members of the congregation about the children's work.
2. A selection of twisted branches can be sprayed gold and used to hang the eggs onto.

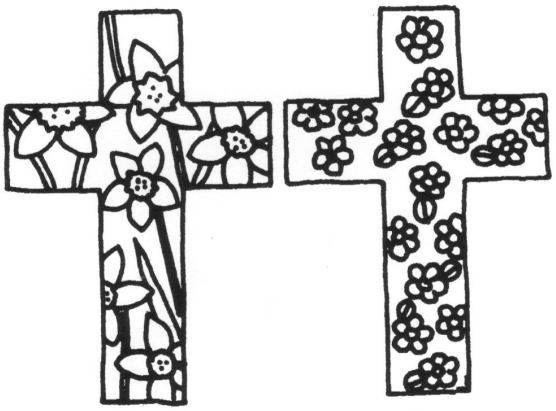
DECORATIONS FOR EASTER TREES

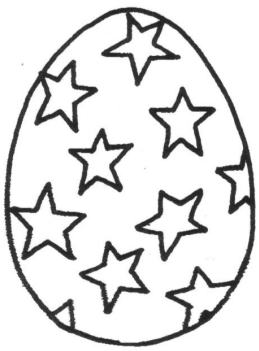
Photocopy the Easter shapes, cut them out and decorate them as desired, or use shapes cut from old Easter cards. Attach to lengths of coloured embroidery silk and display hung from leafy or flowering branches in a vase (see illustration).

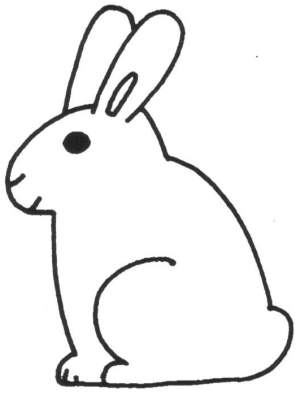






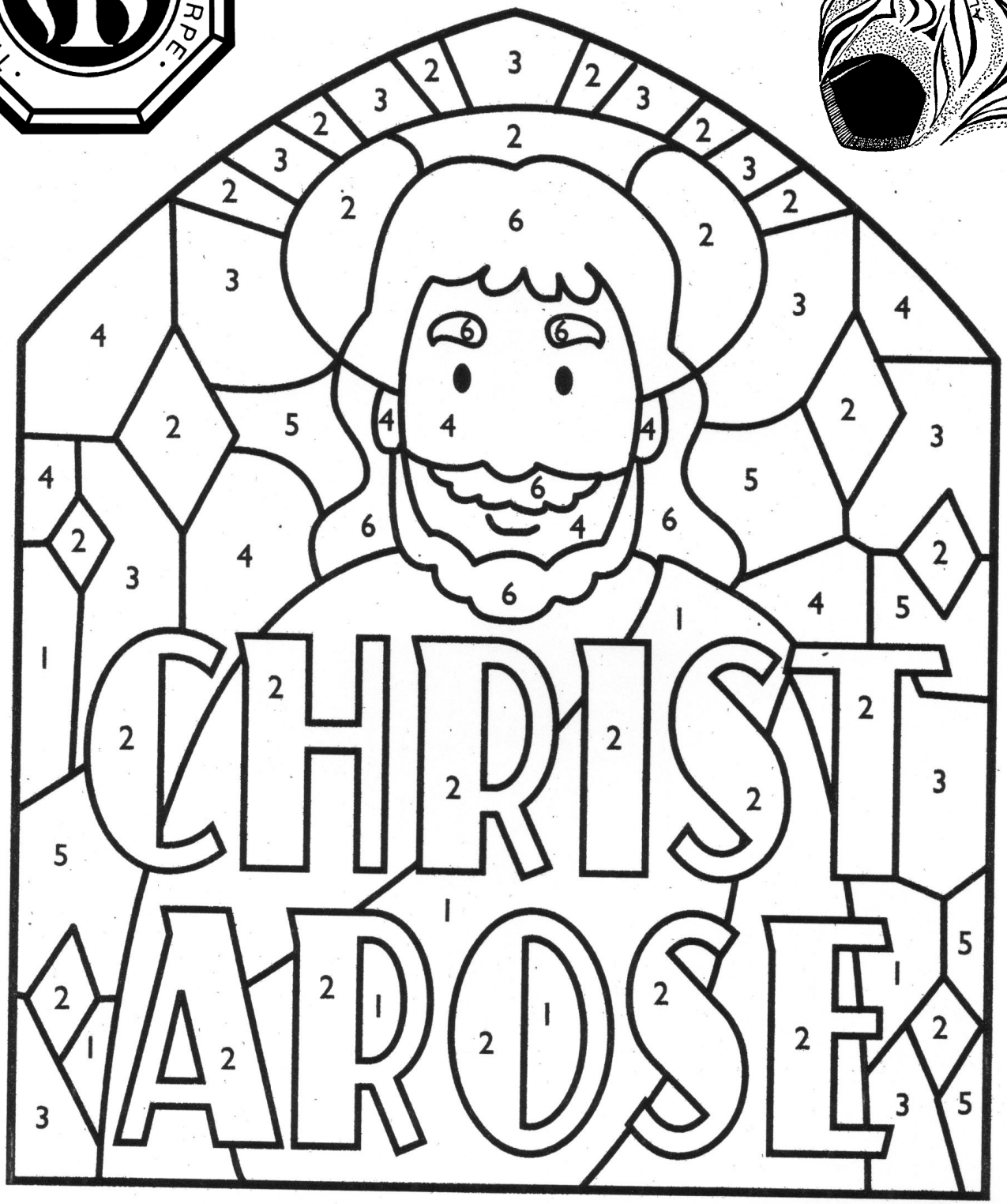






THE PARISH OF ST. MARY THORPE

Easter Day — Colour by Number!

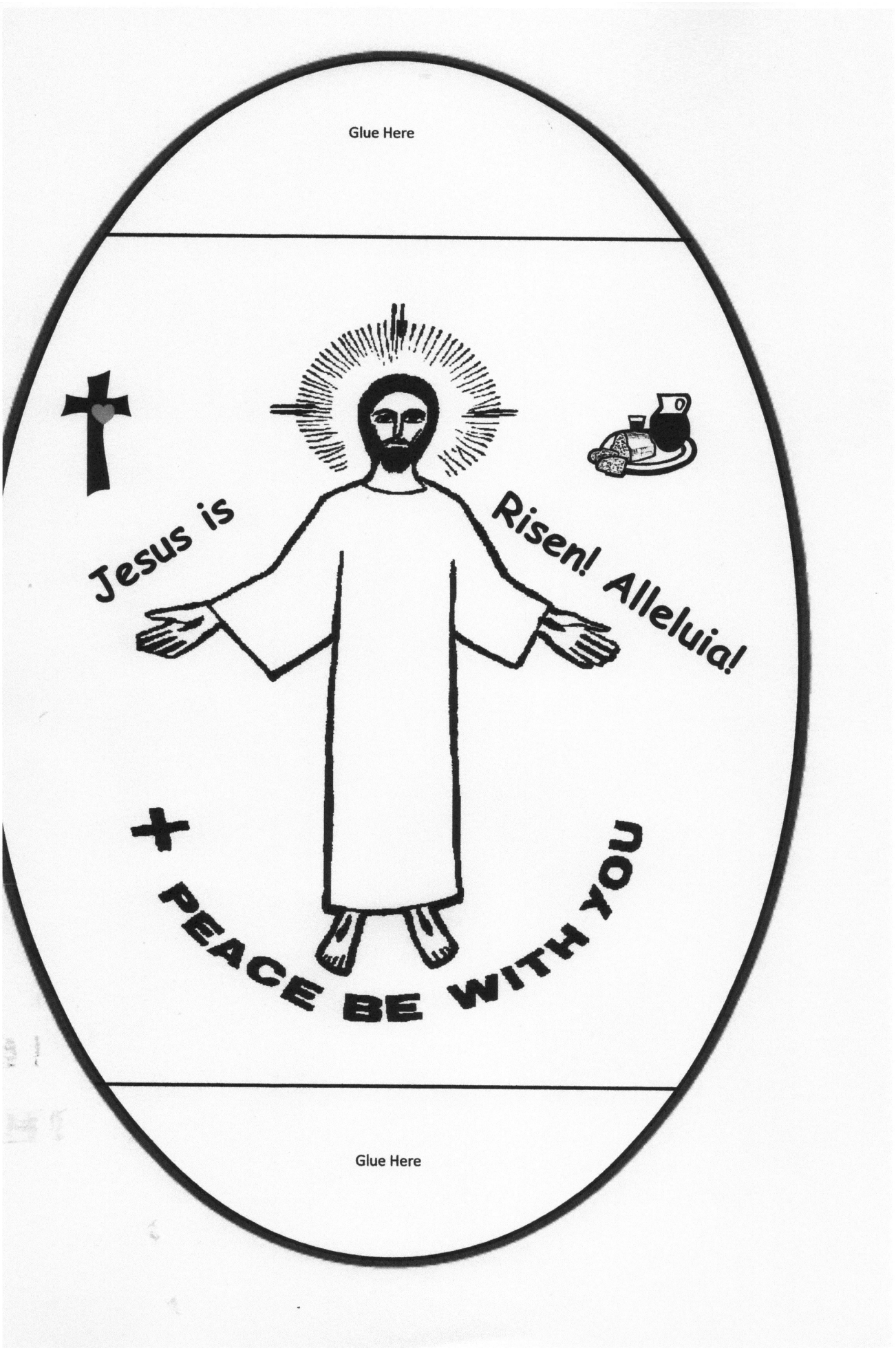


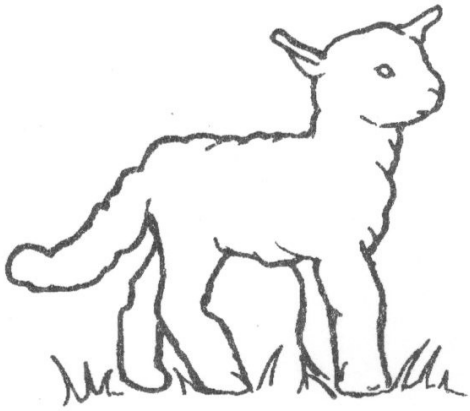
1) RED
2) YELLOW
3) BLUE
4) PINK
5) GREEN
6) BROWN

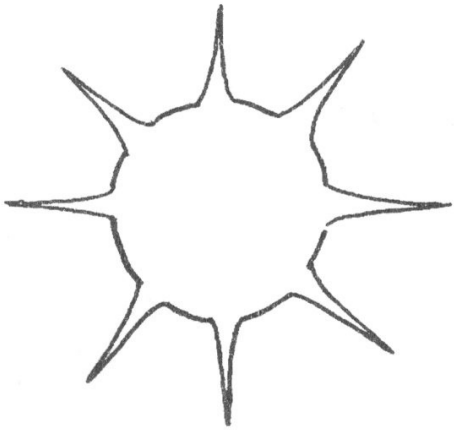
Easter Day — Craft Activity

Cut out the egg shape and eggs shells. Then decorate / colour in.

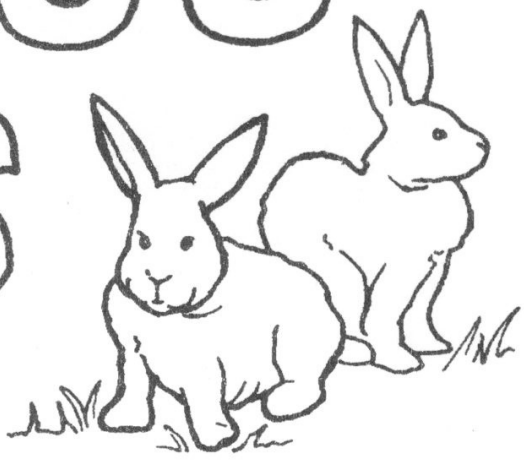
When decorated, attach shells over the top.

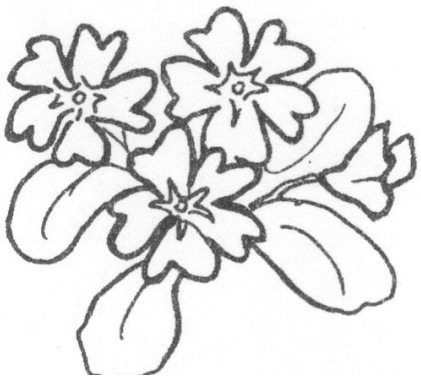


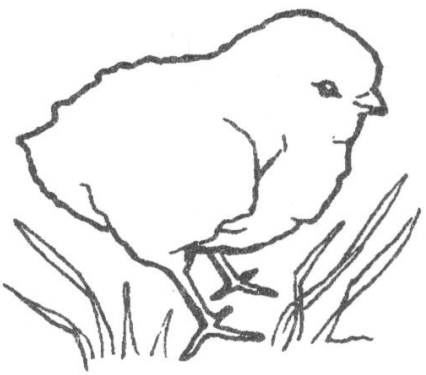


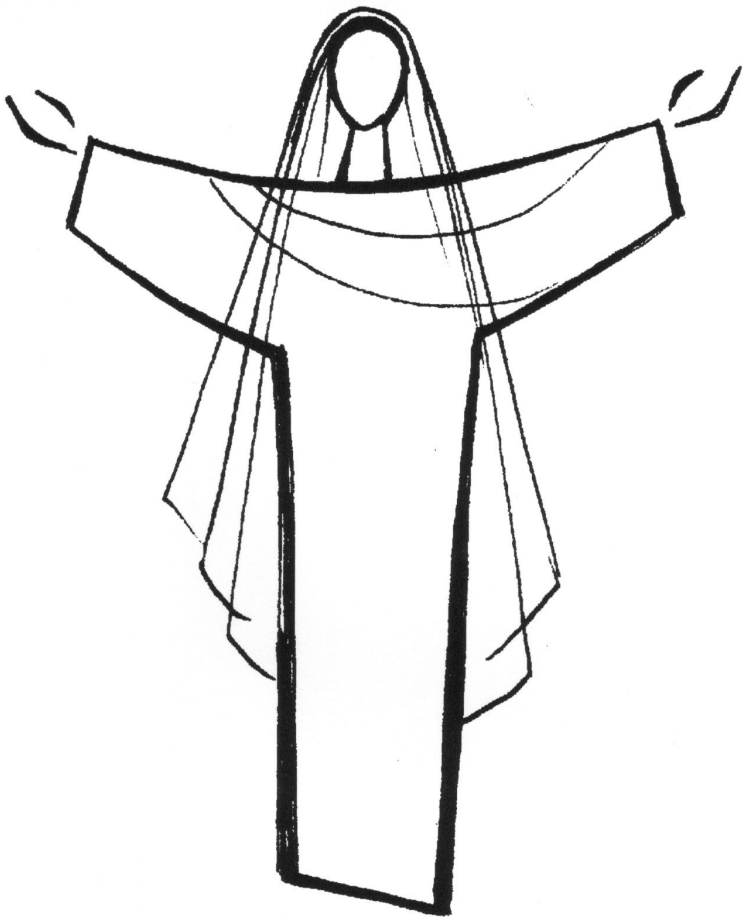


JESUS IS ALIVE









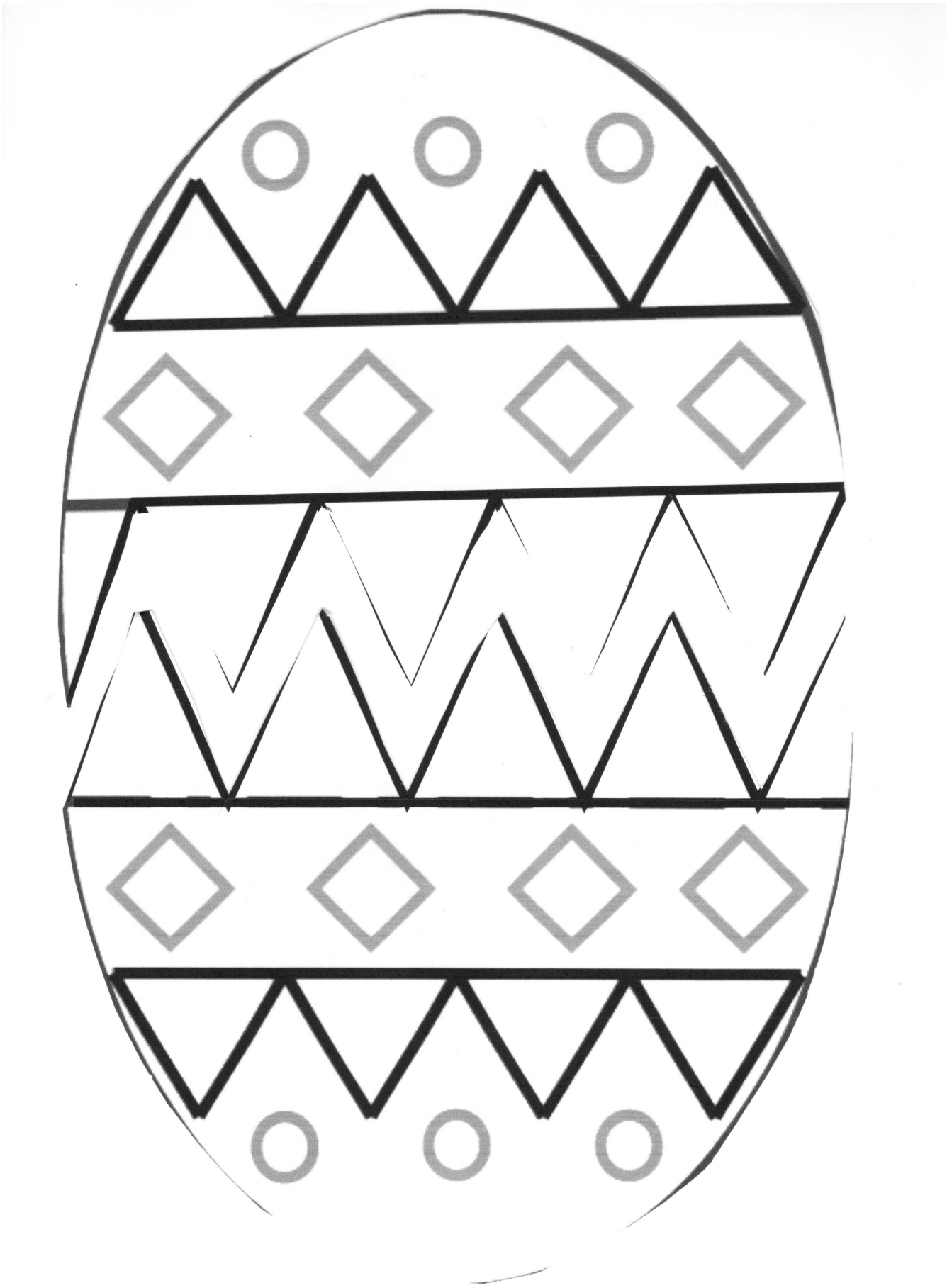
EASTER DAY

Jesus is risen!

Jesus is alive again!

Alleluia!

Easter Day — Craft Activity

Cut out the egg shape and eggs shells. Then decorate / colour in.

When decorated, attach shells over the top.