

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



Easter Sunday

9 April 2023 - Year A

“The teaching of Scripture is that Jesus must rise from the dead.”

Something to Think About

Jesus is risen. Alleluia!

How does it feel to know that Jesus is risen from the dead and gives new life to us all?

The Story

After Jesus died, his body was placed in a tomb. The disciples were all very sad and afraid. Early on Sunday morning, so early that it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away. The tomb was empty! She ran to tell Peter and another disciple, and they ran back to the tomb. The disciples saw the strips of cloth which had been covering Jesus' body, but Jesus was not there. He was no longer dead, but alive!

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

20:1-9

On Sunday morning while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran to Simon Peter and to Jesus' favourite disciple and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb! We don't know where they have put him."

Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. They ran side by side, until the other disciple ran faster than Peter and got there first. He bent over and saw the strips of linen cloth lying inside the tomb, but he did not go in.

When Simon Peter got there, he went into the tomb and saw the strips of cloth. He also saw the piece of cloth that had been used to cover Jesus' face. It was rolled up and in a place by itself.

The disciple who got there first then went into the tomb, and when he saw it, he believed.

At that time Peter and the other disciple did not know that the Scriptures said Jesus would rise to life.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Click to watch the video: [The Story of Easter](#)

Group Discussion

Easter is a time of celebration, joy and new life. Jesus' resurrection shows us that nothing is impossible for God. This fills us with great hope.

We hope that all people will have enough food to eat and people to love them. We hope that the world will be a fair and safe place for everyone to live in.

What is your hope for the world this Easter? What can you do to make it happen?

Praying For Others

Leader: Gathered as one with all creation, let us pray for the needs of the world:

Reader 1: We pray that we will be filled with Easter joy. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for families who are welcoming a new baby. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for those who bring comfort and hope to others. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that we will always trust in God, even when things look hopeless. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will live with respect and love for all people. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



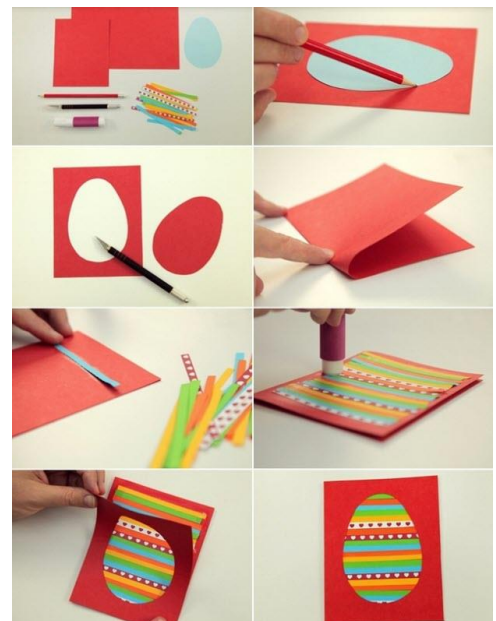
Dear Jesus,
We rejoice that you have risen to new life! Help us to be filled with Easter joy, and to recognise your presence in the world around us.
Amen.

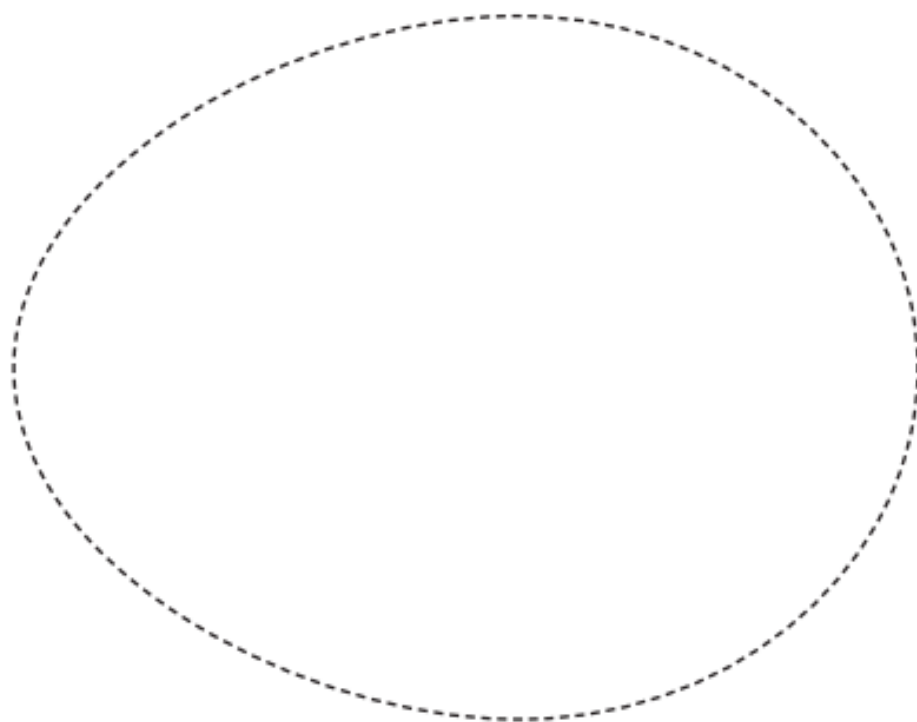
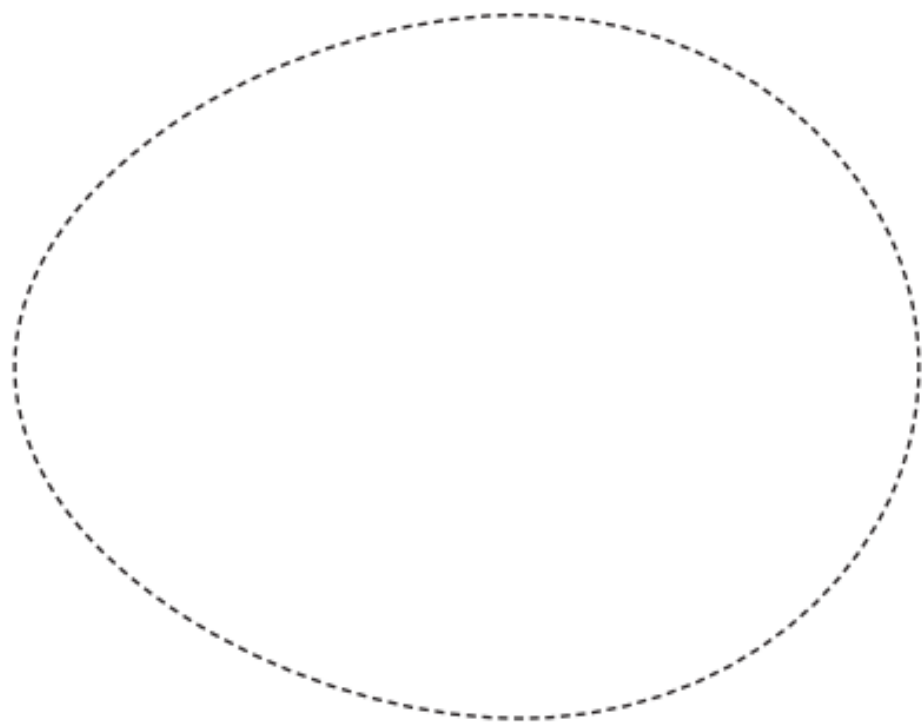
Group Activity

Easter Cards

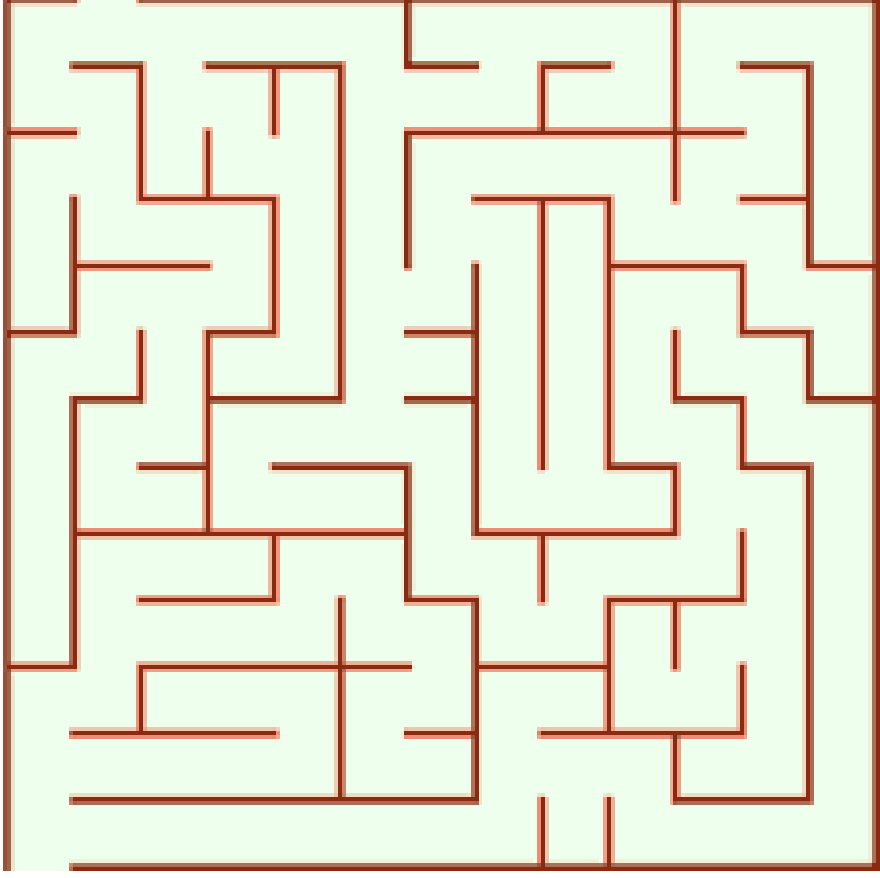
For each child you will need: egg shaped template, two pieces of coloured paper (A4 and A5), patterned construction paper in different colours cut into narrow strips approximately 14 cm long, glue, markers, scissors.

1. Trace the egg template onto the A5 piece of paper and cut it out.
2. Fold the A4 paper in half to make a card.
3. Glue coloured strips of paper one under the other, down the front of the card.
4. Glue the A5 piece of paper, with the egg cut out of it, over the front of the card so the coloured strips show through.
5. Children write or draw an Easter message inside and give it to someone special.





THE TOMB IS EMPTY. WHERE HAVE THEY TAKEN JESUS?



FIND THE WAY FROM THE EMPTY TOMB TO THE RISEN CHRIST.

JESUS IS ALIVE: NO ONE TOOK HIM AWAY!