

Ascension Sunday



May 24, 2020

10:30 AM

Join us for our livestream at <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit/>
or see the recorded videos at <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ>
Zoom Coffee Hour: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>



Everyone is welcome. As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

May 24, 2020

Worship Live Stream at 10:30 AM on Facebook. **YOU DON'T** need a Facebook account to access the live stream. Go to www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit to see the live stream or access the video archive. If asked to sign in, click "Not now." **Worship bulletins** are located: <https://www.stjohnssummit.org/bulletins>. **SCROLL DOWN TO THE LIVE FACEBOOK VIDEO.** Visit Our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ.

Giving Is Important. The church is not closed. We continue to operate during this pandemic and seek to meet the needs of many in our congregation and community. We count on your generous offerings to continue to do our robust ministry. If you are able, please give generously. You may [give online](#) or mail checks to the church.

Zoom Children's Time is each **Sunday** at **9:30 AM**. Join: <https://zoom.us/j/374109491>.

Spiritual Practices for a Pandemic: The Power of Psalms and Prayer. Join us for some simple spiritual practices that can strengthen us for the living of these days, **Tuesday, May 26, 7:00 PM**. Join: <https://zoom.us/j/93047423385>.

Youth Zoom Meeting, Sunday, May 31, 7:00 PM: Join <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87162633366>.

Evening Prayer: We will be offering a 30-minute service of Evening Prayer, **Wednesdays at 7:00 PM** on both our Facebook and YouTube pages.

Hymns of Faith: Pastor Blake will be offering a faith formation opportunity to explore the history and spirituality of many of our favorite hymns. **Wednesdays at 10:30 AM**. Each week is independent—join when you can. Zoom Join URL: <https://zoom.us/j/97268221619>.

Family Sunday School Resources: Our Denominational Publishing House has produced resources for family faith formation. Click [here](#). There is a movie with stories, songs, and prayers and resources for activities and faith formation. New lessons each week.

Summit Feeding Ministries: St. John's has generously supported food ministries here in Summit for years. Now during COVID-19 the need is exponential. The two food pantries we support are [Loaves and Fishes](#) and [GRACE](#). If you can, please give generously.

Pastoral Care During Covid-19: During this time it is important for the whole congregation to care for one another. If you have a health, mental, or emotional concern, please do not hesitate to reach out to [Pastor Moore](#) or [Pastor Scalet](#).

Need Fair Trade Chocolate, Coffee or Tea? Contact [Jane Bowman](#) to make arrangements to purchase and pick up your supplies.

Old Smartphones: If you have an old smartphone that can still record or view videos that you would be willing to lend or donate to the church, we can use them. Call the church office to arrange a drop-off.

Prayer Before Worship

Come Holy Spirit, open our minds to see the power of Scripture to give life; enlighten our hearts that we might see Christ in all whom we meet; in the name of the one, holy, and living God, to whom we give all glory. Amen.

From *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 1*

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE Setting of *Werde munter*

By Paul Manz (1919–2009)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

O Lord our God, we give you thanks for the new life you raise up in us through the mystery of our baptism—the sorrow of the heavy cross, the surprise of the empty tomb, the love that death could not destroy. By the power of your Holy Spirit, poured out upon us in baptism, fill us with the joy of resurrection, so that we may be a living sign of your new creation.

Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



GATHERING HYMN 855 Crown Him with Many Crowns

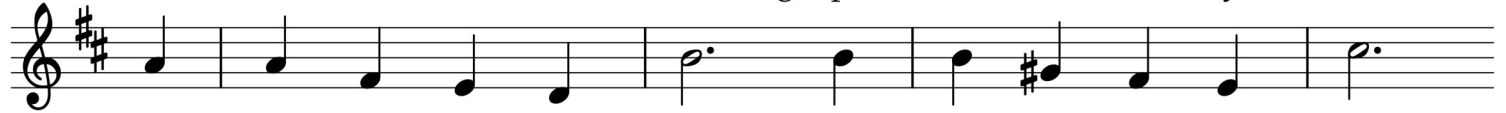
Verses 1, 3, 4, 5



1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
3. Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
4. Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
5. Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
but down-ward bend their burn-ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

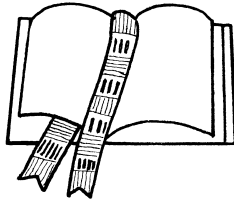
Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4
Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

READING Acts 1:1–11

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 47:5–9

Spoken responsively

⁵God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of the ram’s horn.

⁶**Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

⁷For God is king of all the earth;
sing praises with a song.

⁸**God reigns over the nations;
God is enthroned on high.**

⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered
as the people of the God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God,
who is highly exalted.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 388 Be Not Afraid

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The image shows two systems of musical notation. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The music is in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!". The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system also ends with a double bar line.

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community

Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

Text and music © Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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GOSPEL Luke 24:44–53

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel is proclaimed, concluding: The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd



1. You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep-herd. You, Lord, are both
 2. Clothed in light up - on the moun-tain, Stripped of might up -
 3. You, who walk each day be - side us, Sit in pow - er
 4. Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus! Wor - thy is our



prince and slave. You, peace-mak - er and sword - bring - er
 on the cross, Shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 at God's side. You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 cos - mic Christ! Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry.



Of the way you took and gave. You, the ev - er - last - ing
 Beg - gar'd by a sol - dier's toss, You, the ev - er - last - ing
 Have a love that reach - es wide. You, the ev - er - last - ing
 Wor - thy still your peace and strife. You, the ev - er - last - ing



in - stant; You, whom we both scorn and crave.
 in - stant; You, who are both gift and cost.
 in - stant; You, who are our pil - grim guide.
 in - stant; You, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993. © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: *Picardy*, PD



NICENE CREED

With the whole church, we confess our faith:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord in your mercy, . . . **Hear our prayer.** *Response at the conclusion of the prayer: Amen.*

LORD'S PRAYER

And now let us pray as our Savior taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.



PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, or want information about mailing checks, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org/giving. You may also contact the church office for more options.

OFFERTORY

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
God, all crea - tures here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heav' - nly host; praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, Alt.

MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Glory to you, O God:

you have won the victory over death, raising Jesus from the grave and giving us eternal life.

Glory to you, O Christ:

for us and for our salvation you overcame death and opened the gate of everlasting life.

Glory to you, O Holy Spirit:

you lead us into the truth.

Glory to you, O Blessed and Holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

Let us pray. Eternal God, we thank you for your victory over sin and death. You have given us a new birth into a living hope in Christ's resurrection. By your Spirit, lift us from doubt and despair, and set our feet in Christ's holy way, that our lives may be signs of his risen life, and all we have may show forth his love. Praise, glory, and thanksgiving to you, our God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is Risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN 392 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Verses 1 & 2



1. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter, his the throne;
2. Al - lu - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in sor - row now;



Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a -
Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions



lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der
how. Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him when the



like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of ev - 'ry
for - ty days were o'er, shall our hearts for - get his



na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood.
prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more"?

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen. Go share the good news. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE Setting of *Heut' triumphieret Gottes Sohn*, BWV 630

By J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>

About the front cover: The photo on the front cover is of the stained glass window found in our chapel. It was originally designed as part of the remodeled chancel in the church on DeForest Avenue. The chancel renovation was done in memory of Frederick Janssen by his wife and was dedicated on April 18, 1937.

Music Note: Many of us know the tune Werde Munter, on which the prelude is based, as ELW 501, “Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus.” The choir has also sung it as “Jesus, Joy of Our Desiring” (https://hymnary.org/tune/werde_munter_schop). Another hymn that uses this old German tune is “Like the Golden Sun Ascending” (https://hymnary.org/text/like_the_golden_sun_ascending_breaking), a 17th C. Danish Eastertide-Ascension hymn.

Ministers: The People of St. John’s

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Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

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ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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www.stjohnssummit.org

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We’re delighted you’re worshipping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John’s for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.



In our region, a significant number of local food banks have been shuttered because they lack the infrastructure to safely deliver food, rely on elderly volunteers, or lack proper supplies (gloves, masks, disinfectant) to continue operating. As such, those individuals and families in need are looking farther afield for assistance to places like Summit that have been able to keep their food pantries open.

GRACE

(Giving and Receiving Assistance for Our Community's Essentials)

has seen a 500% increase in usage to over 500 families and 2,000 individuals, with those numbers expecting to rise this week.

To donate directly to GRACE, click [HERE](#).

GRACE regularly helps local families in need by providing fresh food, toiletries and household goods.

LOAVES & FISHES

Food Pantry

@ St. Teresa of Avila Church, Summit has seen a dramatic increase in usage, and some food donation support organizations, such as our St. John's weekly food collection, are no longer able to provide this support.

Loaves & Fishes regularly stocks shelf-stable items as well as locally donated produce and baked good for weekly distribution.

Monetary donations can be dropped off or mailed to:

St. Teresa of Avila Church
Attn: Loaves & Fishes
306 Morris Avenue
Summit, NJ 07901

COMMUNITY FOODBANK OF NEW JERSEY

is also struggling with issues of volunteer support dropping/ceasing due to the health concerns of the volunteers.

To donate directly to CFBNJ, click [HERE](#).



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

ALSO, check out **ELCA/World Hunger** information by clicking [HERE](#).

More than 820 million people - that's about 11 percent of people in our world today - are hungry.



To help globally through Lutheran World Relief

Coronavirus is expected to spread at a catastrophic rate across Africa and health systems are not prepared. To learn more and give directly to LWR efforts in Africa, click [HERE](#). Vulnerable communities are defenseless against COVID-19.



LWR needs help to sew cloth face masks to help them reach men, women and children in vulnerable communities around the world. To join the challenge, click [HERE](#) for more info.

6825 of 75,000 Goal

If you are able, please give directly to these organizations or through St. John's, designating the funds. Give online through St. John's by clicking [HERE](#).

Or mail your check to
St. John's Lutheran Church
587 Springfield Avenue
Summit, NJ 07901

Almighty and most merciful God, we call to mind before you all whom it is easy to forget: those who are homeless, destitute, sick, isolated, and all who have no one to care for them. May we bring help and healing to those who are broken in body or spirit, that they may have comfort in sorrow, company in loneliness, and a place of safety and warmth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- ELW, p. 79

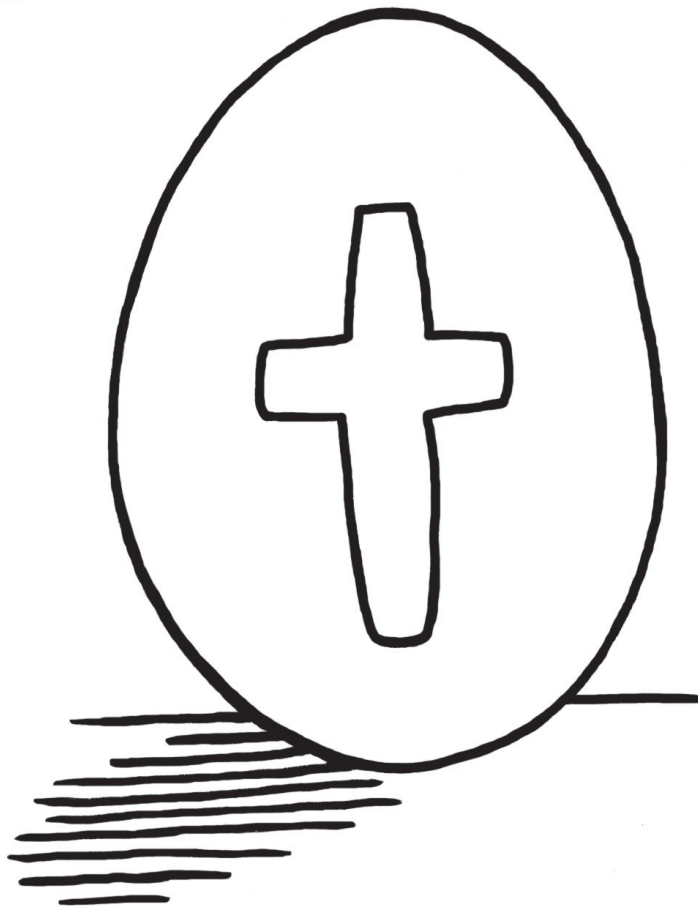


PRE-READER

Easter 7

- Today is the 7th Sunday in Easter.
- A very important word during Easter is **Alleluia**.
- **Alleluia** means **praise God!**

How do you praise God? Write or draw the ways you praise God inside this symbol for Easter.



ALLELUIA

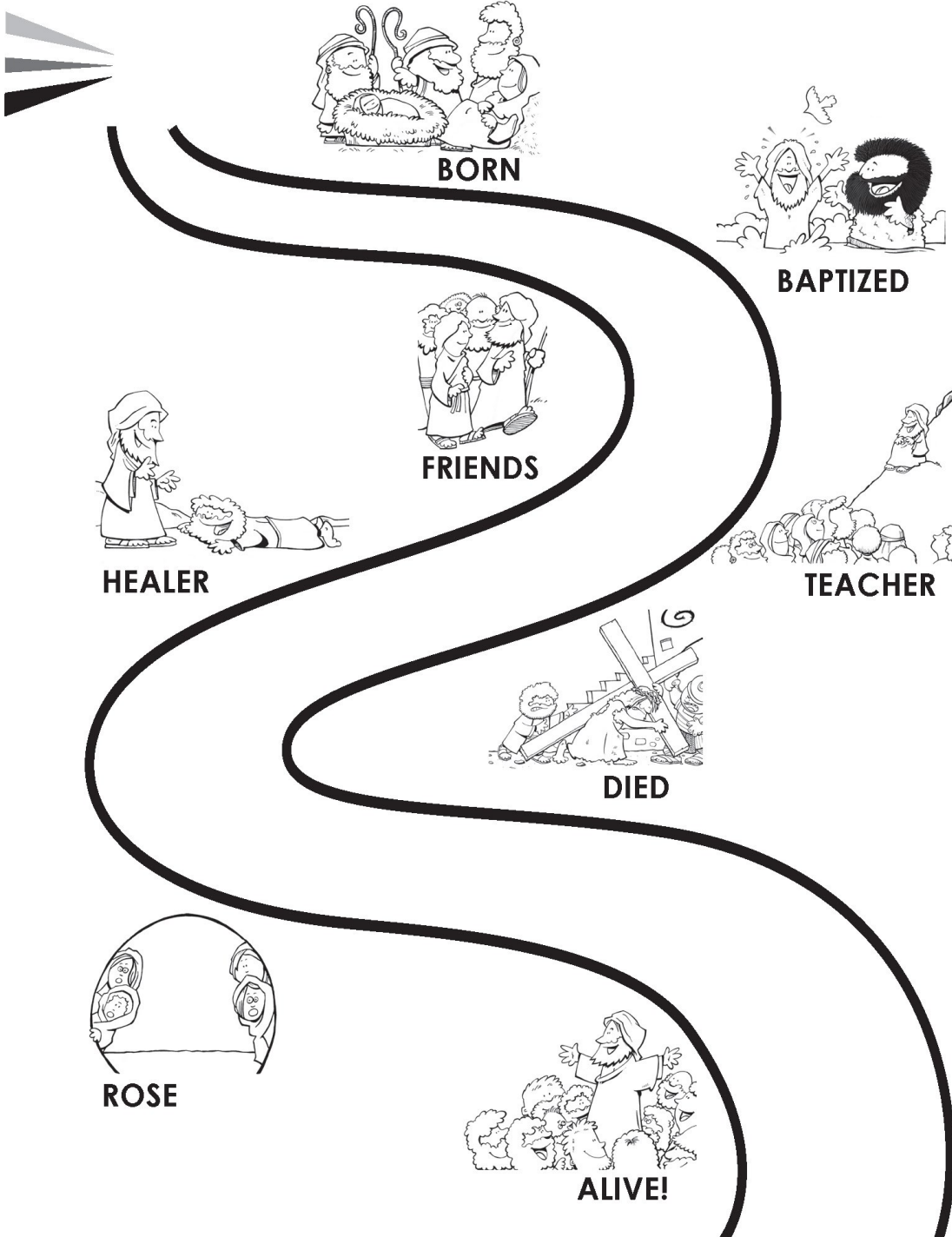


Then suddenly Jesus was rising—up in the air!



Today we hear the story of the **Ascension**.
The **Ascension** is the end of Jesus' time on earth.

**Follow this path to remember all the things
Jesus did on earth.**



The color for the season of Easter is white. In today's Gospel story, two men dressed in white stood with Jesus in heaven.



What do you see in your worship space that is white? Write or draw about it here.



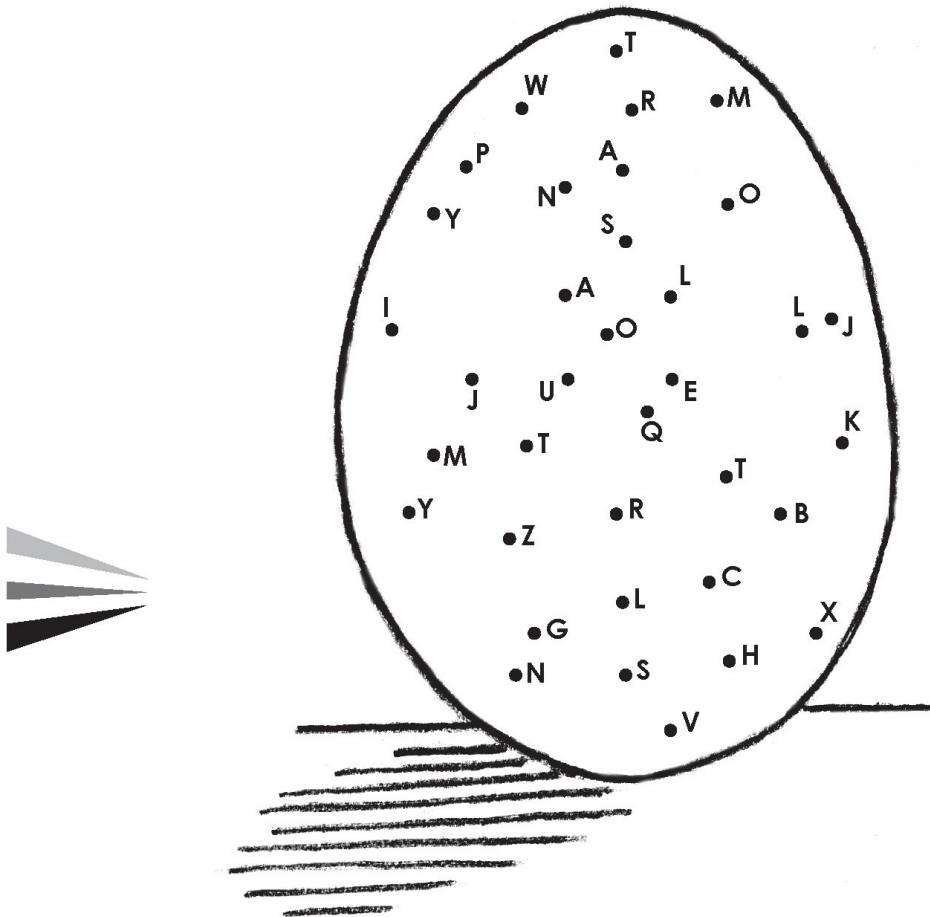
READER

Easter 7

- Today is the **seventh Sunday** in Easter.
- A very important word during Easter is **alleluia**.
- **Alleluia** is a word that expresses **joy, thanksgiving, and celebration**.

Connect and Celebrate

Connect the letters that spell A-L-L-E-L-U-I-A to make a symbol for Easter appear.



Find the letters in matching shapes to spell the words that fit into the blanks of this week's memory verse.

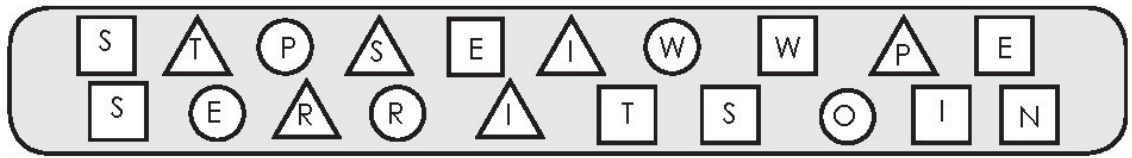


But you will receive ○○○○○○

when the Holy ▲▲▲▲▲▲

has come upon you; and you will be my

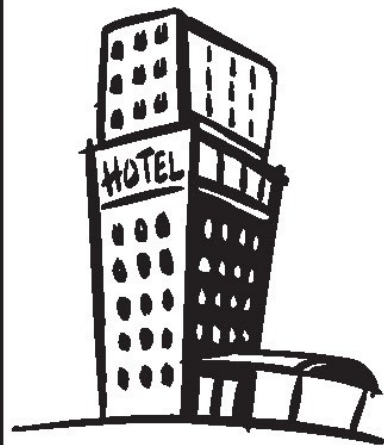
□□□□□□□□ in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8



Going Up

To ascend means to go up. When Jesus' time on earth was over, he ascended into heaven on a cloud! Elevators go up too! The elevator in this building goes up and down all day long. See if you can figure out where it ends up each time.

If the elevator starts on this floor...	... and goes...	It will end up on the...
1st	Up 7 floors	_____ floor
5th	Down 2 floors	_____ floor
15th	Down 8 floors	_____ floor
3rd	Up 2 floors and then down 4 floors	_____ floor
10th	Down 5 floors and up 7 floors	_____ floor
3rd	Up one floor and down one floor	_____ floor



Earth's atmosphere reaches over 560 kilometers (348 miles) from the surface of the earth!

Did You Know?



Prayer Postcard

In today's Gospel lesson, Jesus says a prayer for all of his friends and disciples. Who in your life would you like to say a prayer for? Fill out this prayer postcard for him or her.

Dear God,

Today I would like to pray for

I care about _____

because _____

Please protect _____

from _____

Please help _____

to _____

Thank you, God. Amen.

44

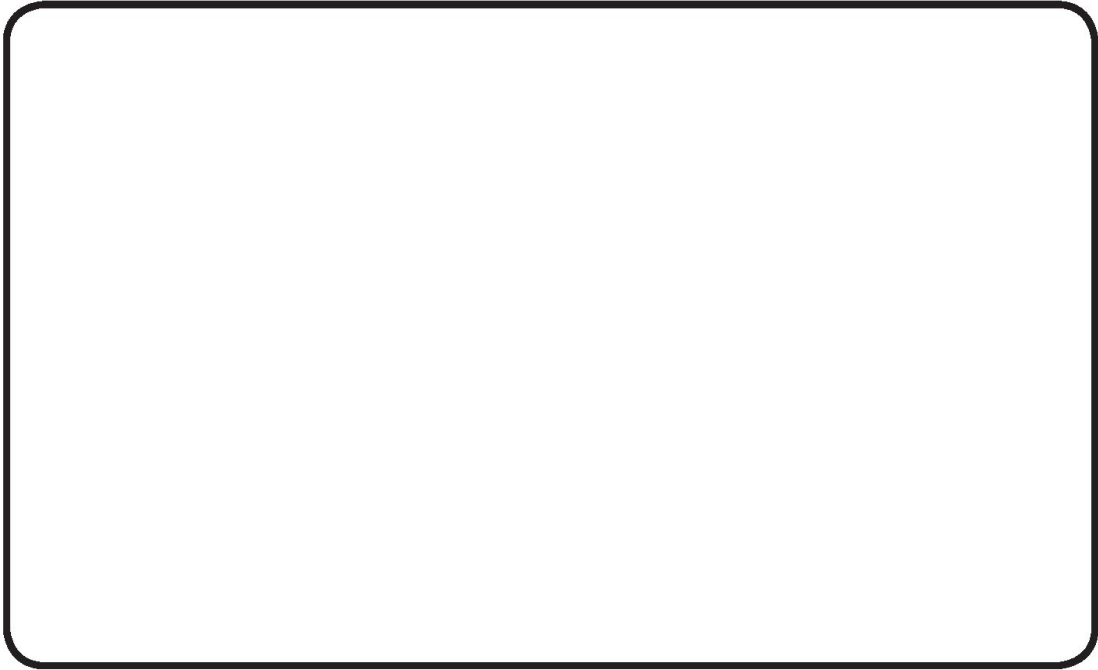
To: God

From: _____

Why? Where? White?

The color for Easter is **white**.

In today's Gospel story, two men **dressed in white** stood with Jesus in heaven. White is the color for the season of Easter. What other colors do you think are good ones for celebrating Easter?



What do you see in your worship space that is white?
Write or draw about it here.

