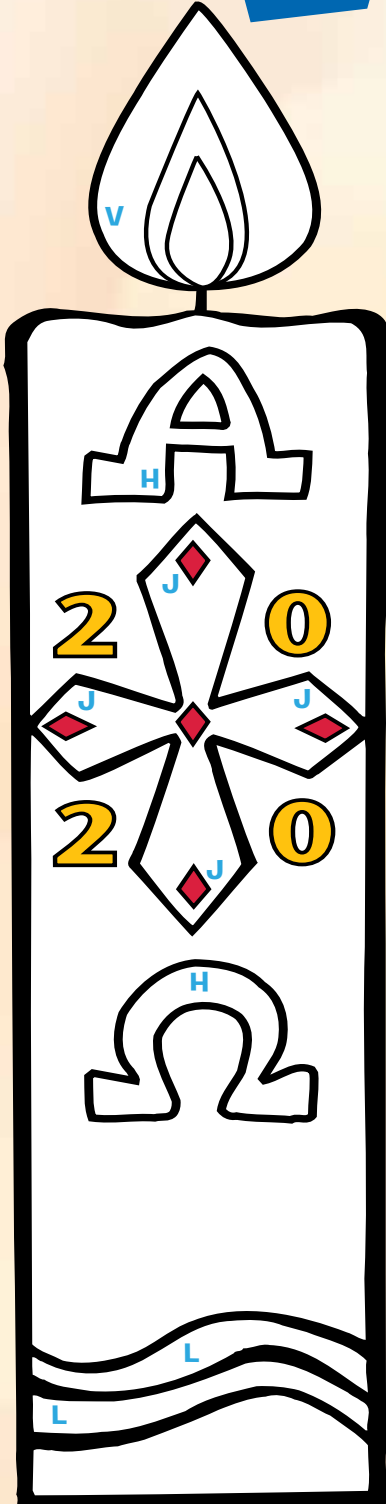




VenTuRe

April 12 & April 19, 2020
Easter & 2nd Sunday of Easter
(Sunday of Divine Mercy)



We Celebrate Jesus' Resurrection

Leader: God raised Jesus up from death to show us how powerful love is.

All: Jesus is the light of the world.

Leader: Jesus is not in the empty tomb. He is where people feed the hungry and share what they have with one another.

All: Love and service give life.

Leader: Hold your candles high and make a sign of the cross over one another. Let's pray together this blessing from the Easter Vigil.

All: Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end. By his holy and glorious wounds, may Christ our Lord guard us and protect us through every age and forever. Amen.

Roll your
Venture
lesson into
a tube and
pray this
Resurrection
Prayer
together.

Create a color code and make an
Easter candle to use in the prayer
service.

J = JOY My color for joy is:

H = HOPE My color for hope is:

L = LIFE My color for life is:

V = LOVE My color for love is:



Catholic
FAITH WORD

EASTER The day the Church celebrates Jesus' Resurrection from the dead. Easter is the high point of the Liturgical Year.

SUNDAY GOSPEL

Easter Sunday

2nd Sunday of Easter

John 20:1–9

John 20:19–31

Jesus Is Risen!

This lesson includes the Gospel Readings for Easter Sunday (April 12) and the Second Sunday of Easter (April 19), also known as Sunday of Divine Mercy.

The editors have also included verses between the two Gospel readings (John 20:10–18). These verses tell how Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene.

She then shares the Good News with his friends—Jesus Christ is risen!

Narrator 1: Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away. She ran off to tell Simon Peter and Jesus' beloved disciple.

Mary Magdalene: Jesus has been taken from the tomb! We don't know where they have put him!

Narrator 2: Peter and the beloved disciple started out toward the tomb. They were running side by side, but the beloved disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He did not enter the tomb, but he bent down to peer in and saw the wrappings used to cover Jesus' body lying on the ground.

Narrator 1: Simon Peter came along beside him and entered the tomb. He saw the wrappings on the ground and saw the piece of cloth that had covered Jesus' head. It was not lying with the wrappings but was rolled up in a place by itself.



Narrator 2: Then the beloved disciple, who had arrived first at the tomb, went in.

Beloved Disciple: I see, and I believe.

Narrator 1: Remember, as yet they did not understand the Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead. —John 20:1–9

Narrator 1: Peter and the beloved disciple returned home, but Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb. She saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.

Angels: Why are you weeping?

Mary Magdalene: They have taken my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.

Narrator 2: Mary turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was he.

Jesus: Why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?

Narrator 1: Mary thought Jesus was the gardener.

Mary Magdalene: Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.

Jesus: Mary!

Mary Magdalene: Rabbouni!

Narrator 2: This word means "teacher."

Jesus: Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my friends and say to them, "I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."

Narrator 1: Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples:

Mary Magdalene: I have seen the Lord. —John 20:10–18



Narrator 1: On the evening of that first day of the week, even though the disciples had locked the doors of the place where they were for fear of the officials, Jesus came and stood before them.

Jesus: Peace be with you.

Narrator 2: Jesus showed the disciples his hands and his side. They rejoiced.

Jesus: Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.

Narrator 1: Then Jesus breathed on them.

Jesus: Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of others, they are forgiven them; if you hold them bound, they are held bound.

Narrator 2: It happened that one of Jesus' followers, Thomas (the name means "twin") was absent when Jesus came.

Disciples: We have seen Jesus!

Thomas: I'll never believe it without probing the nail prints in his hands, without putting my

finger in the nail marks and my hand into his side.

Narrator 1: A week later, the disciples were once more in the room. This time, Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them.

Jesus: Peace be with you. Examine my hands, Thomas. Put your hand into my side. Do not persist in your unbelief, but believe!

Thomas: My Lord and my God!

Jesus: You became a believer because you saw me. Blessed are they who have not seen and have believed.

Narrator 2: Jesus performed other signs as well—signs not recorded here—in the presence of his disciples. But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, so that through believing you may have life in his name.

—John 20:19–31



- 1 What do Jesus' disciples see at the tomb? What do they think happened to Jesus?
- 2 What causes the beloved disciple to believe?
- 3 How does Mary Magdalene recognize Jesus?
- 4 How do you think Peter feels when he sees the tomb? Why does Jesus give his friends peace and forgiveness?
- 5 Why does Thomas refuse to believe Jesus is risen? What causes him to change his mind?
- 6 What do you believe about Jesus?

With My Family and Friends

Scan here for parent resources.



Pray

Alleluia! I am filled with joy that Jesus has been raised from the dead. Help me, God, to share my joy with others. Amen.



Think

How do I share the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection with others?



Act

We celebrate new life at Easter. Many people celebrate their Sacraments of Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil Mass. Say a prayer for the newly baptized members of your parish and welcome them into your community.



Connecting GOSPEL and DOCTRINE

On Good Friday, we feel the fear of Jesus' friends. They walked with Jesus and saw him beaten, bullied, and killed. On Easter Sunday, they find that he is not in the tomb. They fear that his body has been stolen.

Imagine Mary's joy when Jesus calls her name. Think of the excitement when the Risen Jesus appears to his frightened friends in the locked room. The joy of Jesus' rising is just as real on this Easter as it was the day he rose from the dead (CCC, 656). We call ourselves "Easter people." We are connected to Jesus' friends who became Easter people more than 2,000 years ago.

We celebrate both Jesus' Death and his Resurrection. "The Paschal Mystery has two aspects: by his death, Christ liberates us from sin; by his Resurrection, he opens for us the way to a new life" (CCC, 654).

But the Easter story is not yet complete. God's plan for our salvation includes Jesus' suffering, Death, Resurrection, and his Ascension to God in Heaven. This is why we celebrate the Easter

season for fifty days. We still have a ways to go!



- 1 Friends stand by us during hard times. How can you be there for friends who are sad or hurt?
- 2 Think about the Scriptures you heard during Holy Week and the Gospels for these two Sundays. List examples of ways Jesus obeys God his Father.



The Church calendar follows the major events in Jesus' life, from his Incarnation, Nativity, and ministry to his Death and Resurrection. Turn to the Church calendar on page 65 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches*. Read the description of the Easter season. Then turn to page 12 and review the mission of Jesus. Summarize this paragraph for someone who is not in your class.



Jesus Gives Saul a Mission

- Choose a color that represents each feeling in the Feelings Legend and color the square that color.
- Read the first question below and look up the citation from the Acts of the Apostles. Decide how Saul is feeling. Color all the spaces marked 1 the color of that feeling.

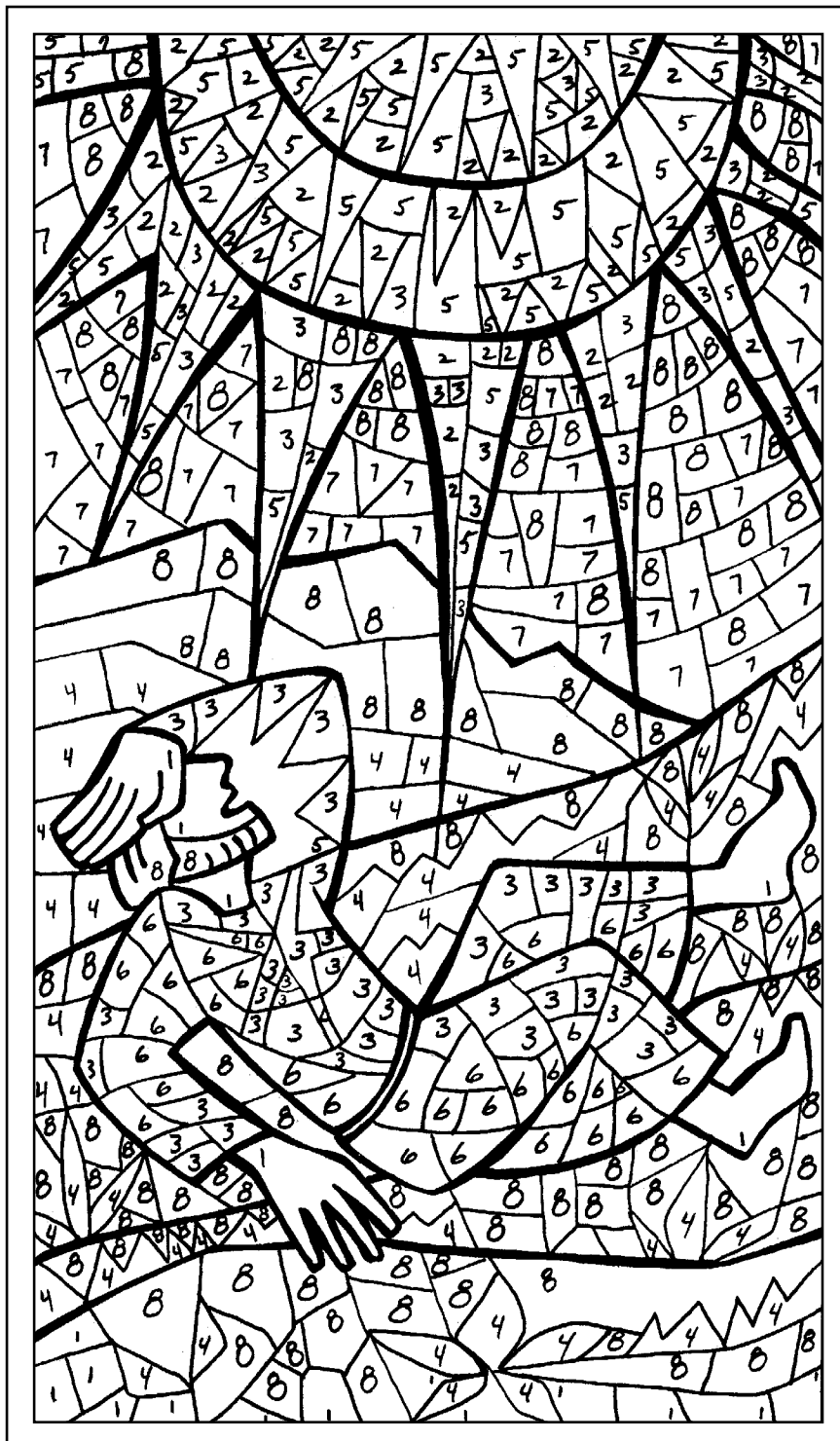
- Read the second question and look up the Bible verse. Decide on a feeling and color all the number 2 spaces that color.
- Continue until you have colored the whole picture.

Feelings Legend

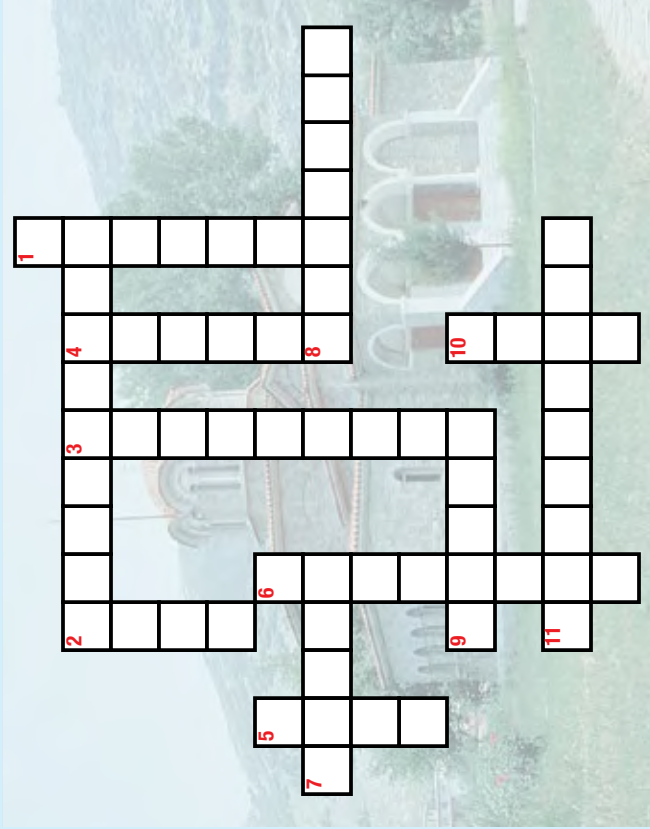
<input type="checkbox"/> Angry	<input type="checkbox"/> Frightened
<input type="checkbox"/> Ashamed	<input type="checkbox"/> Happy
<input type="checkbox"/> Raging	<input type="checkbox"/> Grateful
<input type="checkbox"/> Sorrowful	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong

- 1 How does Saul feel as he witnesses people stone the Christian named Stephen because he is preaching about Jesus in Acts 8:2?
- 2 How does Saul feel about Jewish people who believe in Jesus in Acts 8:3?
- 3 How does Saul feel when he sets off to Damascus to find men and women who belong to the Way, a name for the early Christians who followed Jesus (Acts 9:1-2)?
- 4 How do you think Saul feels when he hears Jesus in a vision on the way to Damascus in Acts 9:3-6?
- 5 How do you think Saul feels after his vision in Acts 9:8-9?
- 6 What does Jesus explain in Acts 9:15-16 he is calling Saul to do? How does Saul feel?
- 7 How do you think Saul feels after the Christian named Ananias visits him and lays hands on him in Acts 9:17-19?
- 8 How does Saul feel when he proclaims Jesus in the synagogues in Acts 9:20-22?

How does Paul feel about his missionary work in 2 Corinthians 11:24-30? Add a color for this feeling to the border around the illustration.



Acts of the Apostles Crossword



Across

2. She teaches Jesus' Good News to the missionary Apollos (Acts 18:24–28).
7. After her Baptism, she invites Paul to stay at her house (Acts 16:14–15).
8. Peter confronts this man who lied to God (Acts 5:1–6).
9. He is killed by a sword (Acts 12:1–2).
11. Philip's _____ had the gift of prophecy (Acts 21:9).

Down

1. Peter raises this disciple from the dead (Acts 9:36–43).
2. Also known as Saul (Acts 13:9).
3. The centurion Peter baptizes in Caesarea (Acts 10).
4. Paul heals a crippled man here (Acts 14:8–10).
5. Another city Paul visits on his journeys (Acts 21:7).
6. He travels and preaches with Paul (Acts 13).
10. A prophet Peter uses to explain that Jesus was sent by God (Acts 2:16–21).



Witnesses Spread Jesus' Good News

Read the **Acts of the Apostles 2:1–13**

Separate these four pages from the rest of *Venture*. Fold on the dotted line to make a booklet.

Peter, one of Jesus' followers, stood before the crowd.

"You see us so excited this morning, you think we must be drunk," he told them. "No, the words of the prophet Joel have come true: 'I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Men and women will prophesy. Young and old will see visions. I will pour out my Spirit on slaves, both men and women.'"

"Listen," Peter continued. "Jesus of Nazareth came from God as his signs and wonders showed us. And even though you



This church in Philippi is dedicated to Lydia.



Near Philippi, a city in Greece, the Apostle Paul finds a place to pray on the Sabbath near a stream. A group of women gathers there to worship God (Acts of the Apostles 16:13–15). Paul tells them about Jesus.

A woman named **Lydia** keeps asking Paul questions. God opens Lydia's heart. She and her whole household are baptized.

Lydia is a businesswoman who makes and sells purple cloth. She invites Paul to stay at her house, which becomes the house where the new Christians gather. This is the first Christian community in Europe.

In Athens, Paul makes friends with **Priscilla** and **Aquila**, a married couple. The three become coworkers, making tents and spreading the Gospel. Christians gather

at their house (Acts 18).

Later, Priscilla and Aquila move to Ephesus, a city in Turkey today. They meet a young man named Apollos, who doesn't know about Jesus. Priscilla and Aquila share their faith in Jesus with him. Apollos asks to be baptized and becomes part of the Church that meets at Priscilla and Aquila's house.

Jesus' followers start many Christian communities.

When a woman named **Tabitha** dies, the Christian community in the town of Joppa sends two men to get Peter (Acts 9:36–43). Peter finds that many widows belong to this community. They show him all the clothing Tabitha had made for poor people. Peter prays and says, "Tabitha, arise." She comes alive to keep serving the poor.

A young man named Saul lived in Jerusalem and threatened to kill anyone who believed in Jesus. He asked the high priest to send him to the city of Damascus to find people who followed Jesus and drag them back to Jerusalem.

On his way, a light from Heaven flashed around him, and he fell to the ground.

“Saul, why do you persecute me?” asked a voice. “Who are you?” asked Saul. “I am Jesus. Get up and enter the city and you will be told what to do.”

Saul got up and, although his eyes were open, he could see nothing. He couldn’t see for three days. He didn’t eat or drink, either.

The Lord spoke in a dream to Ananias and told him to

lay his hands on Saul’s head, so he would see again.

“I’ve heard about that man,” Ananias said, “and how much evil he has done to your followers in Jerusalem.”

“Go anyway,” said the Lord. “I have chosen him to tell the peoples of the world about me.”

“Saul,” Ananias said while placing his hands on Saul’s head, “Jesus, who spoke to you on your way here, sent me so you will regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

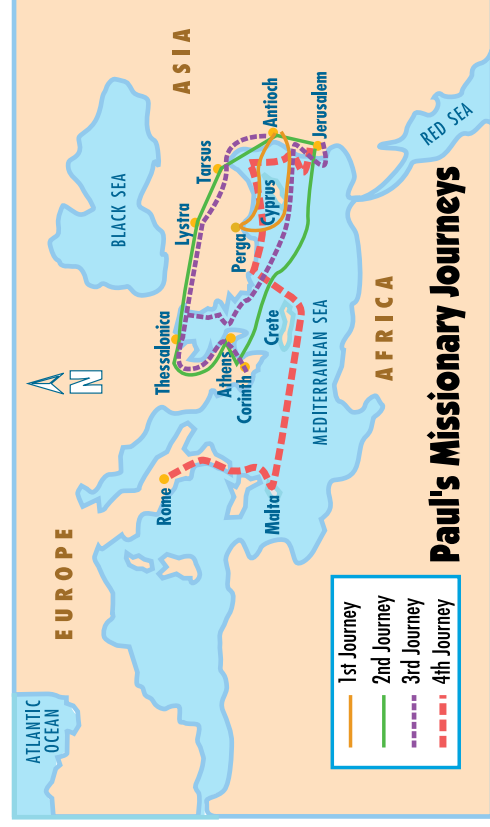
Immediately Saul could see again. Then Ananias baptized him. Saul became known as Paul and began to proclaim that Jesus is the Messiah.

Paul made four great journeys. The last was to Rome, where he was martyred.

have crucified this Jesus, God has raised him up from Death and has given him the promise of the Holy Spirit. We are the witnesses. God has made Lord and Messiah this Jesus whom you crucified.

“Open your hearts and be baptized. Your sins will be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Read Acts of the Apostles 2:41 to find out how many people Peter baptized that day.



These new believers in Jesus sold everything they owned and gave their money to people who were poor and needy. Day by day, they spent time praising God together in the Temple and shared meals with each other in their homes. And day by day, they added new believers to their new community.

Jesus' followers continued to preach about Jesus and heal crippled and sick people. Great numbers of men and women listened to them and believed.



Some people laughed and sneered at them. Government leaders ordered them beaten, jailed, and killed.

Find what Gamaliel said about these orders in Acts 5:38–39.

Philip journeyed to Samaria and proclaimed to the Samaritans that God had raised up Jesus from the dead. He healed and baptized new believers there.

Then an angel sent Philip to the wilderness road from Jerusalem to Gaza. There he met an Ethiopian official of the queen's court returning home to Africa from worshipping in Jerusalem. The Ethiopian was reading from the prophet Isaiah.

"Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

"How can I, unless someone guides me?" said the Ethiopian.

"Whom is Isaiah writing about?"

Philip proclaimed to him the Good News about Jesus.

"There is some water. Please baptize me," the Ethiopian said.



Philip baptized him. Then the Holy Spirit snatched Philip away to preach to other towns.

—Acts of the Apostles 8:26–40