

Lesson – Easter

Grade 1 – (4/10 and 4/13)

KEY CONCEPT

Understand that Holy Week is the holiest week of the Church Year. Understand the purpose of the Triduum. Appreciate the importance of the Passion and Resurrection of Christ in the culmination of the liturgical year.

QUICK SESSION OVERVIEW

STEP 1 - WELCOME

STEP 2 - INVITE

STEP 3 - DISCOVER

STEP 4 - LIVE

STEP 5 - CLOSING

Finish Lent Strong!

- Quote from Pope Benedict XVI on Lent

“Lent is like a long ‘retreat’ during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One. It is a period of spiritual ‘combat’ which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism.”

STEP 1 - WELCOME

TIP

Community Activity – coloring sheet

STEP 2 – INVITE

TIP

Let us Pray

- **Say Hail Mary**
- **Read God’s Word section**
- **Ask the What do you wonder questions.**

STEP 3 – DISCOVER

TIP

Time for Remembering (pg 34)

- Ask - What special gift did Jesus give us?
- Ask the children to share an experience of losing something very important to them and then finding it.
- Discuss the feelings they had during those experiences.
- Explain that these feelings are similar to the ones the Apostles felt during the time of Jesus' Death and Resurrection.
- Tell the children that we remember these events every year in 3 special days before Easter Sunday
- Read paragraphs
- Discuss what we are celebrating or remembering on each of the 3 days of the Triduum

Easter Joy (pg 38)

Ask: Why is Easter a time of joy and happiness?

Activity – Color Easter egg

STEP 4 – LIVE

TIP

Review Easter Sheet with children

Easter Promise sheet

STEP 5 – CLOSING

TIP

Closing Prayer

- **Our Father and Hail Mary**

Review sheet for Easter

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday

There are 40 days of Lent. During this time we try to fast, pray, and do good things for others. We may have chosen to give up something for Lent as a way to prepare for Easter. We do not eat meat on Fridays during Lent.

What is Lent preparing us for? The death and resurrection of Jesus.

Holy Week

This is the week before Easter.

Palm Sunday – We get blessed palms and celebrate Mass. Why do we do this? This is in remembrance of Jesus coming into Jerusalem. When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on his donkey, there were many followers who wanted to see him. People crowded around him and called his name. Many called out “King” or “Savior.” Worshipers knelt down and waved palm fronds as Jesus passed by. Children and grownups wanted to hear him speak to them. They wanted to touch him. Sick people wanted their Savior to make them well. Jesus continued to teach and perform miracles throughout Holy Week.

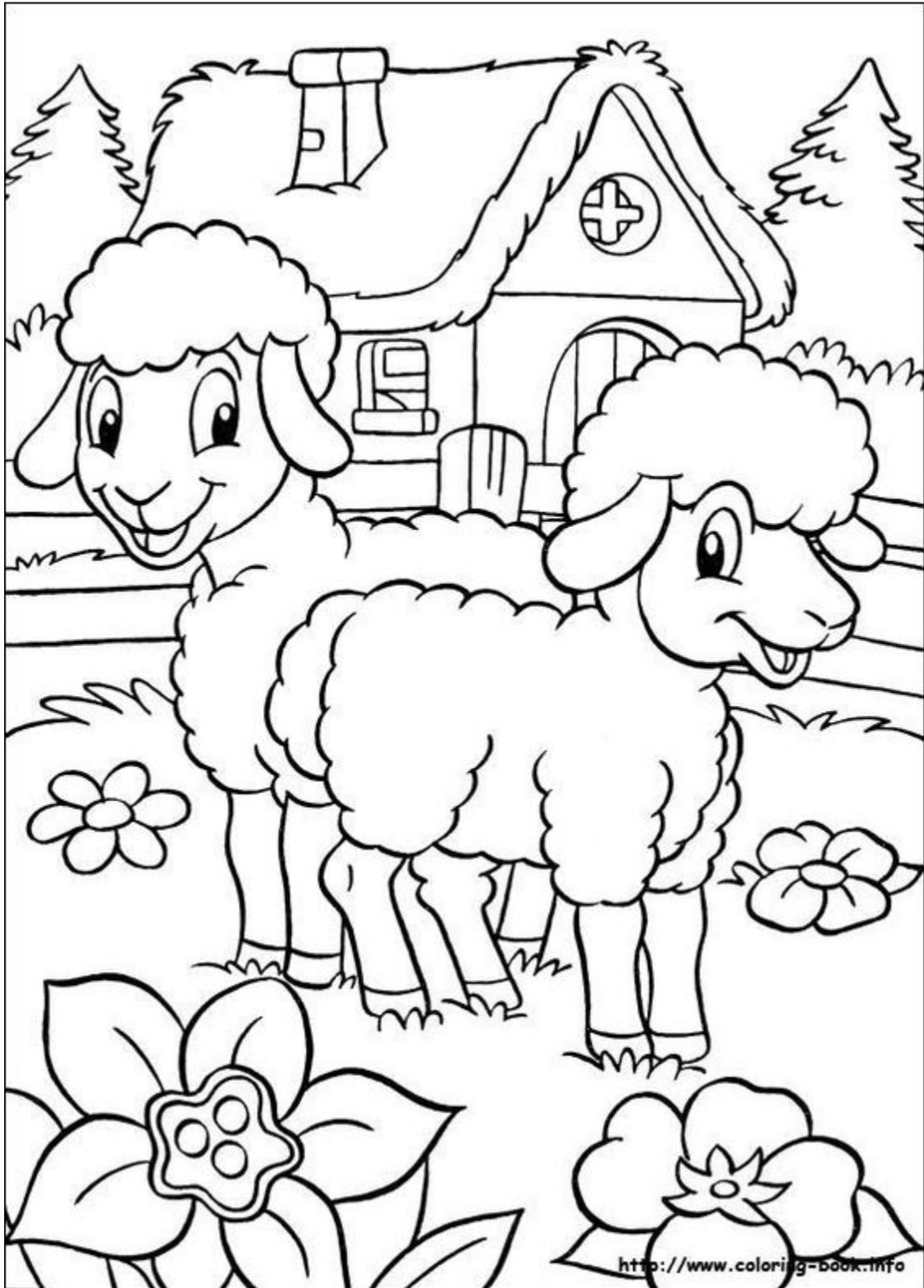
Holy Thursday – During the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of His disciples as an example of how we are to love and serve one another. He also broke bread and wine with them as His body and blood would be broken and shed for us. This is when he took bread and wine and passed it out to his disciples as we see the priest do at Mass each week. After the meal, he went to the garden of Gethsemane to pray. There he was confronted by Judas (one of his disciples) who betrayed him. Jesus was arrested by soldiers.

Good Friday - This is when Jesus was crucified on the cross. After Jesus was arrested he was taken to Pontius Pilate. He asked the people what Jesus did wrong and tried to free him but the people said to crucify him. They said he claimed to be a king. Jesus was sentenced to death on a cross. We do the stations of the cross which shows what happened to Jesus as he was being crucified. He had to carry his cross up a big hill. He fell while carrying his cross. The guards made a man in the crowd (Simon) help Jesus carry his cross. Once he got up the hill, he was crucified along with 2 other men who were robbers. The hill where he was crucified is called Golgotha. When he died on the cross, a dark cloud came over the area and everyone knew he was dead but was indeed the son of God. The soldiers broke the legs of the robbers but not Jesus. Instead they pierced his side with their sword and blood and water flowed out.

After he died, Joseph of Aramethea asked Pilate if he could bury Jesus. He was taken down from the cross and placed in a tomb and a stone rolled in front of the entrance.

Holy Saturday – This is called the Easter Vigil. During this mass we start with the church dark and have lighted candles as the priest processes in. There are numerous readings and blessings. In addition, some adults who are becoming Catholic receive sacraments of baptism, 1st communion, and confirmation. It is a service preparing us for Easter Sunday.

Easter Sunday – This is a special day because it is the day of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead!! Mary, mother of Jesus and Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to look for Jesus. When they got there they saw the stone had been rolled back and the tomb was empty. He had been raised from the dead. They ran to get the disciples. We celebrate Jesus’ resurrection on Easter.



*My jelly beans tell a
wonderful story,
All for God's own glory.*

-  *Red is for the blood of
God's only son,*
-  *Black is for the sins
we've done.*

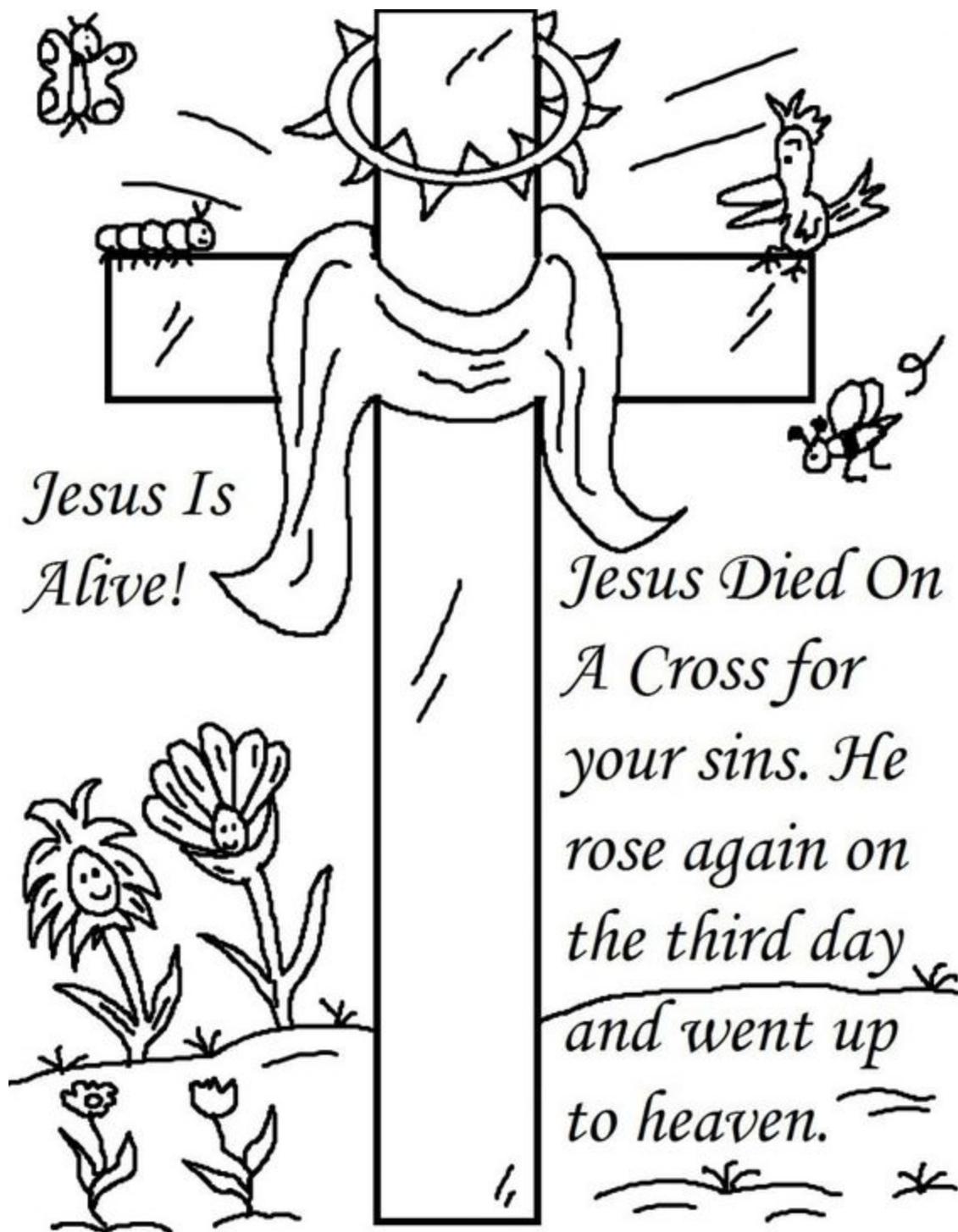
An Easter Promise

-  *Yellow is for the morning
so bright,
The day He arose
to make all things right.*

-  *Green reminds us that
He is risen,*
-  *White is for the
forgiveness we find in Him.*

-  *Purple is for Jesus'
throne,*
-  *Pink reminds me
that I am never alone.*

*A bag full of jelly beans,
colorful and sweet.
It's a prayer, a promise,
and an Easter treat.*



*Jesus Is
Alive!*

*Jesus Died On
A Cross for
your sins. He
rose again on
the third day
and went up
to heaven.*