Easter

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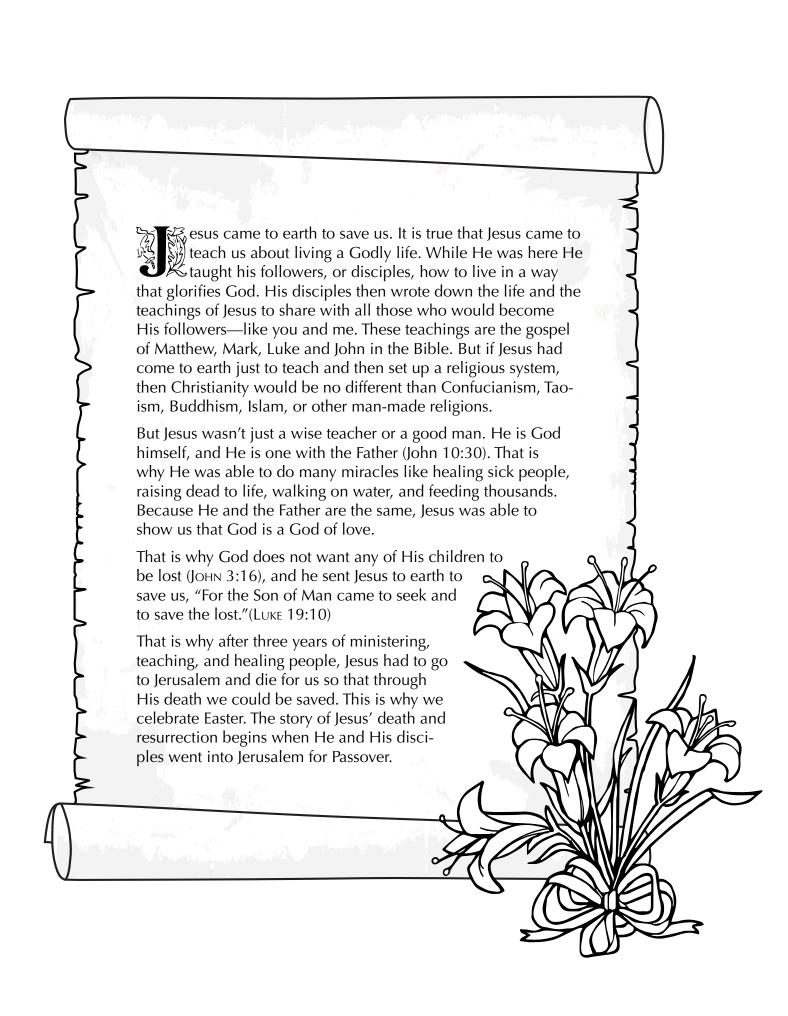
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Easter

Activity Pack





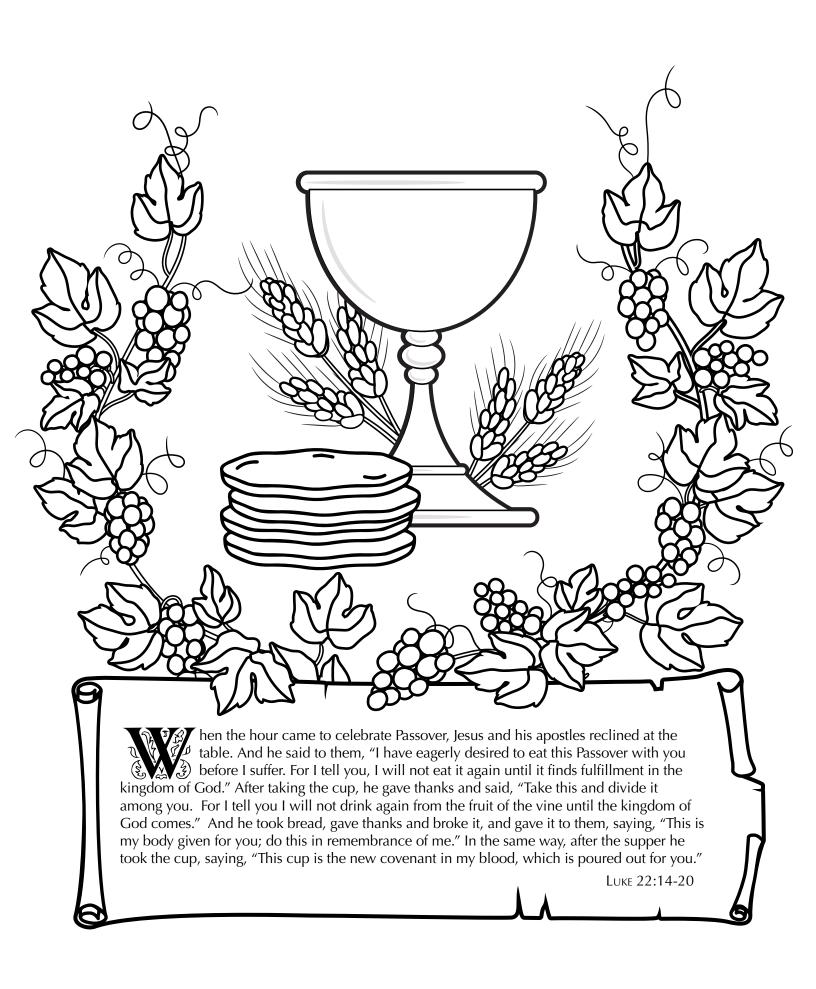


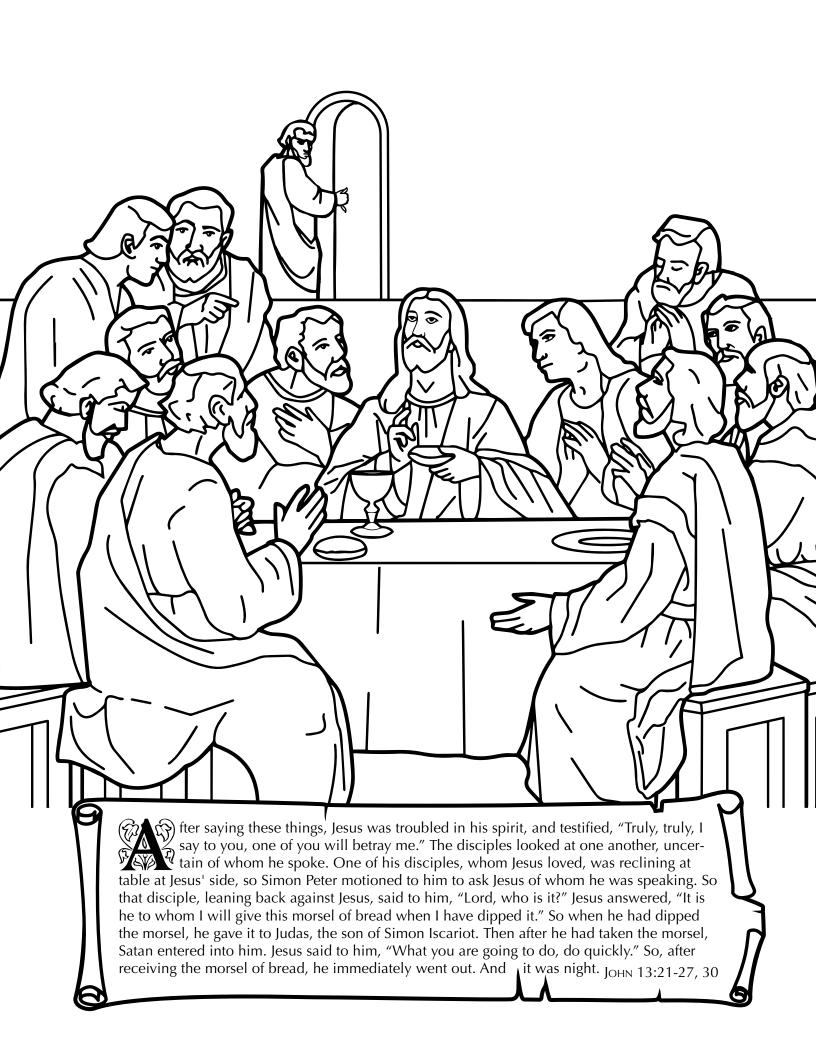
Is sthey approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me." The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

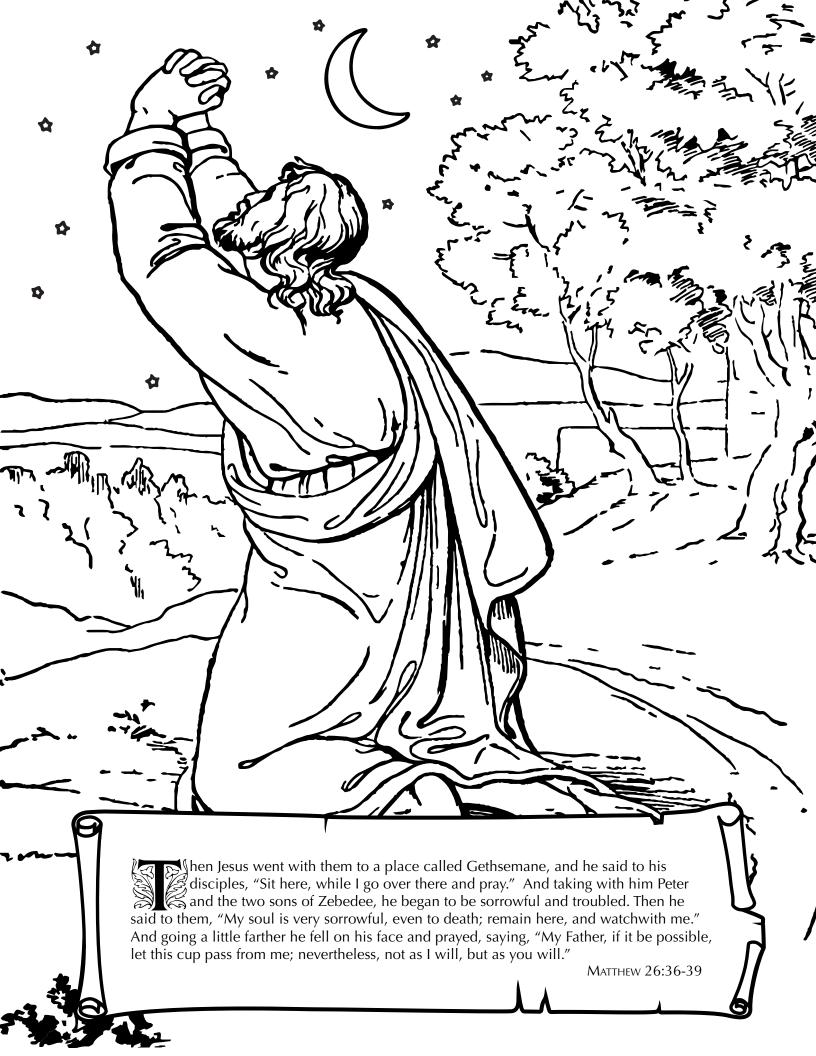
and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."

And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant, and they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise'?"









n angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

hile he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns."

LUKE 22:45-53

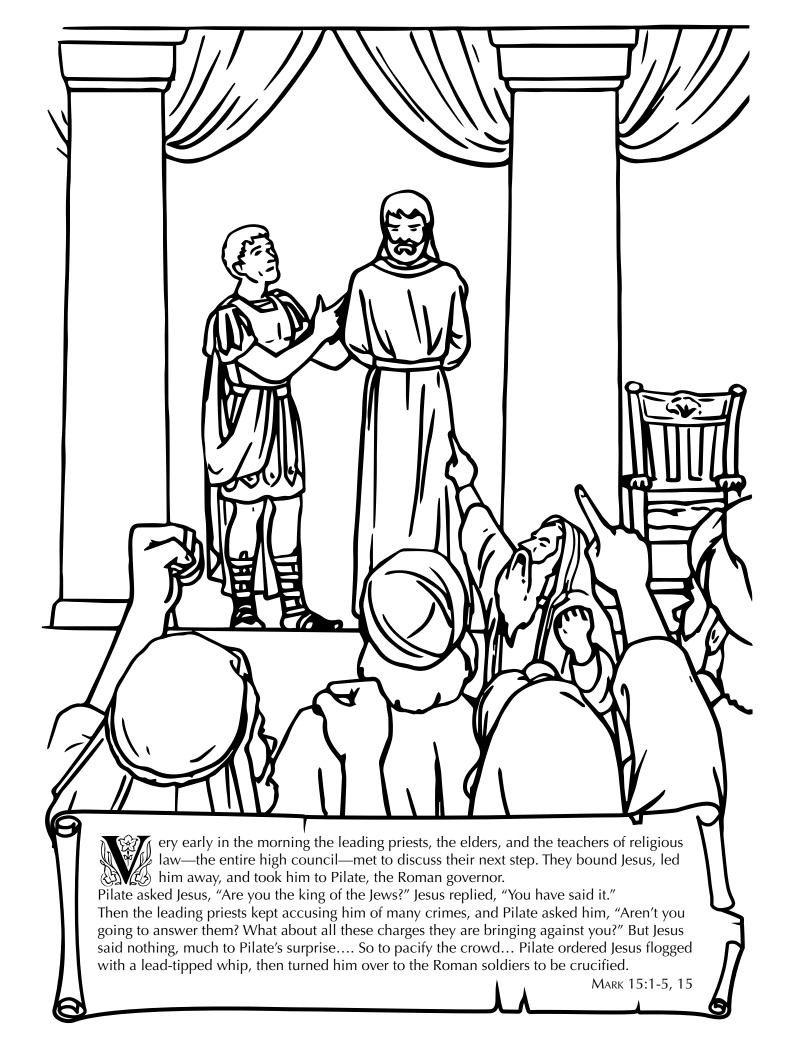
nd those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end.

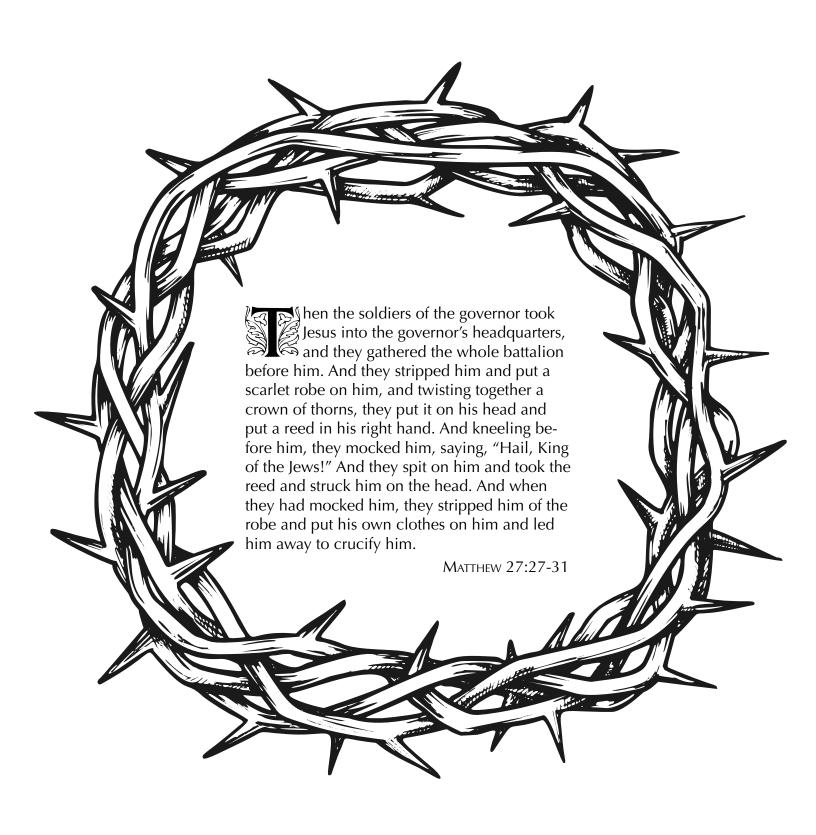
And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying." And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!" And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you." Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!"

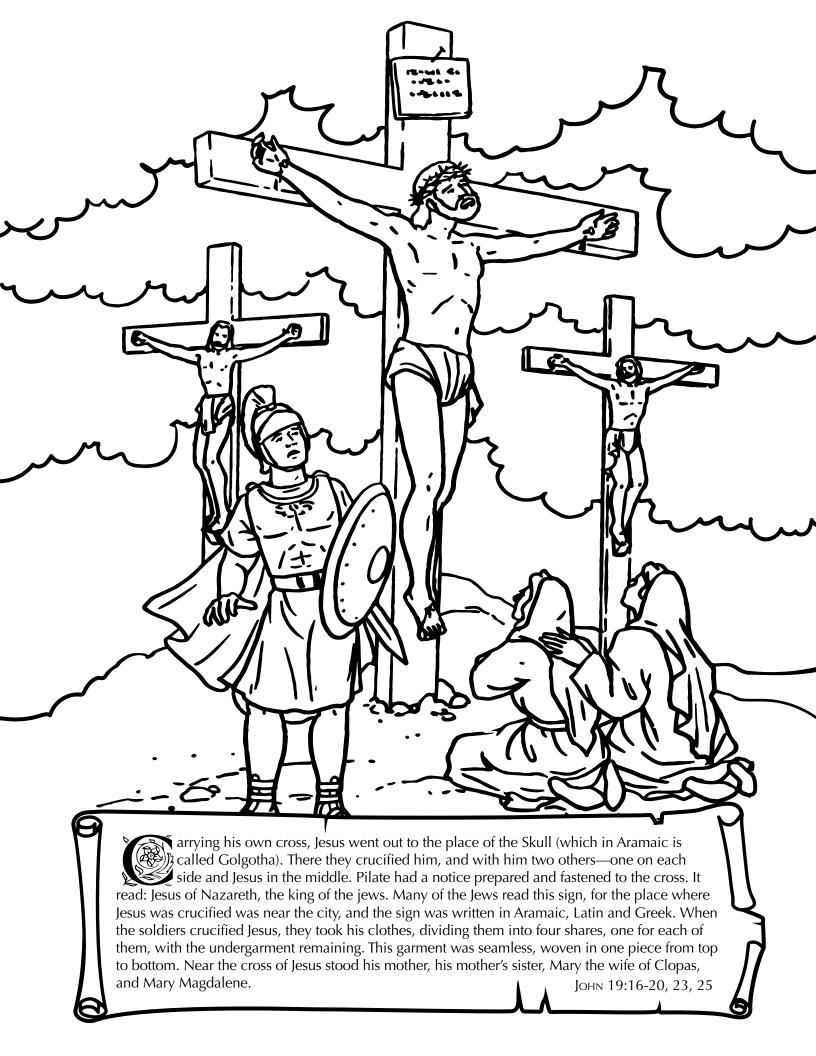
Immediately a rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.

MATTHEW 26:57-58, 69-75







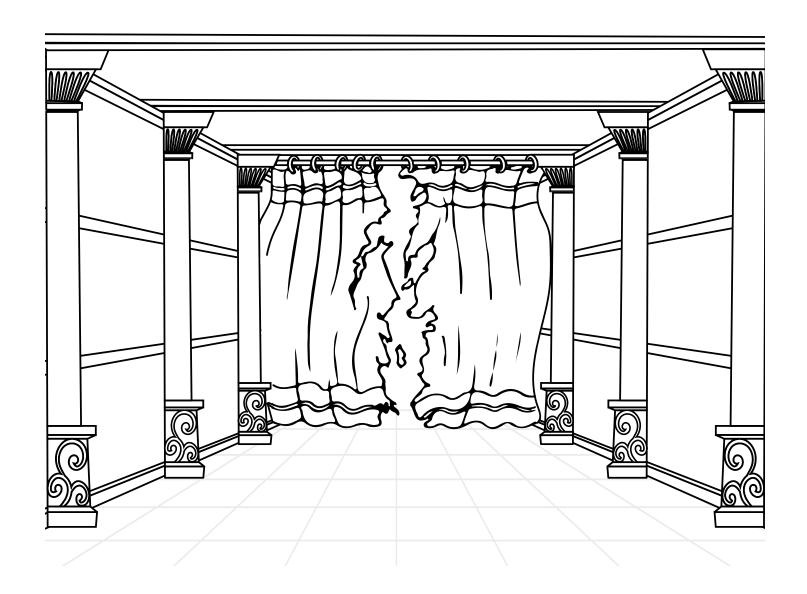


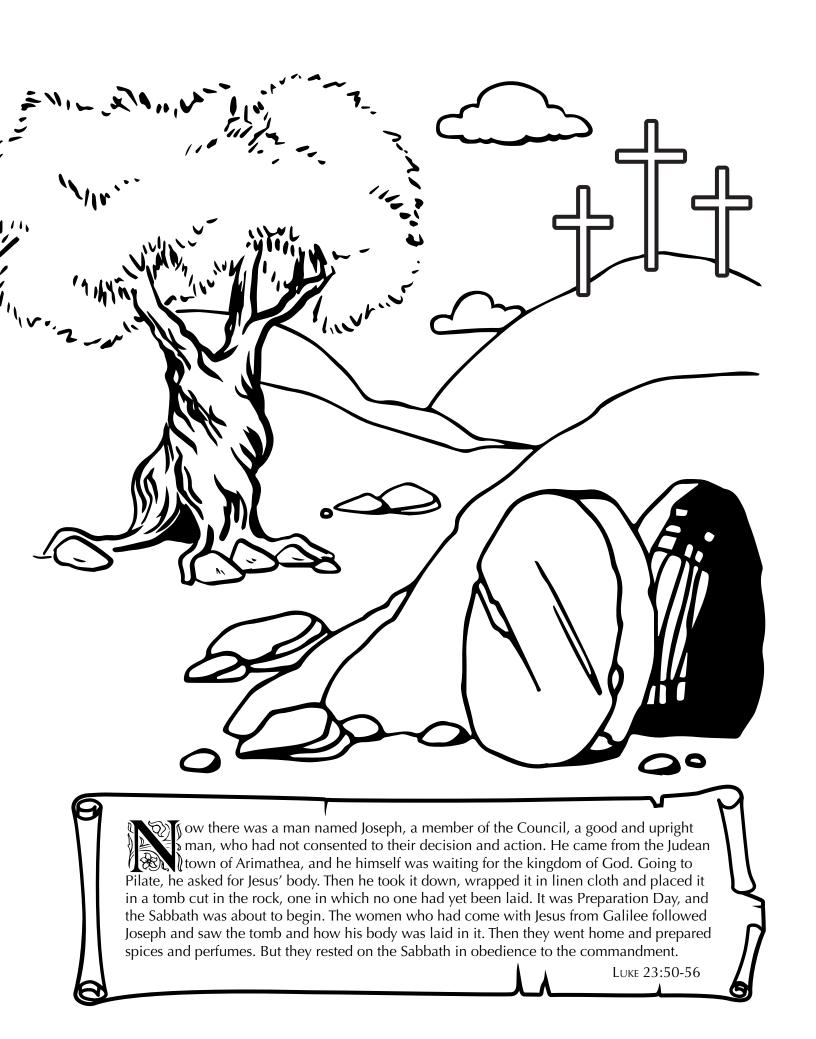
nd Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"

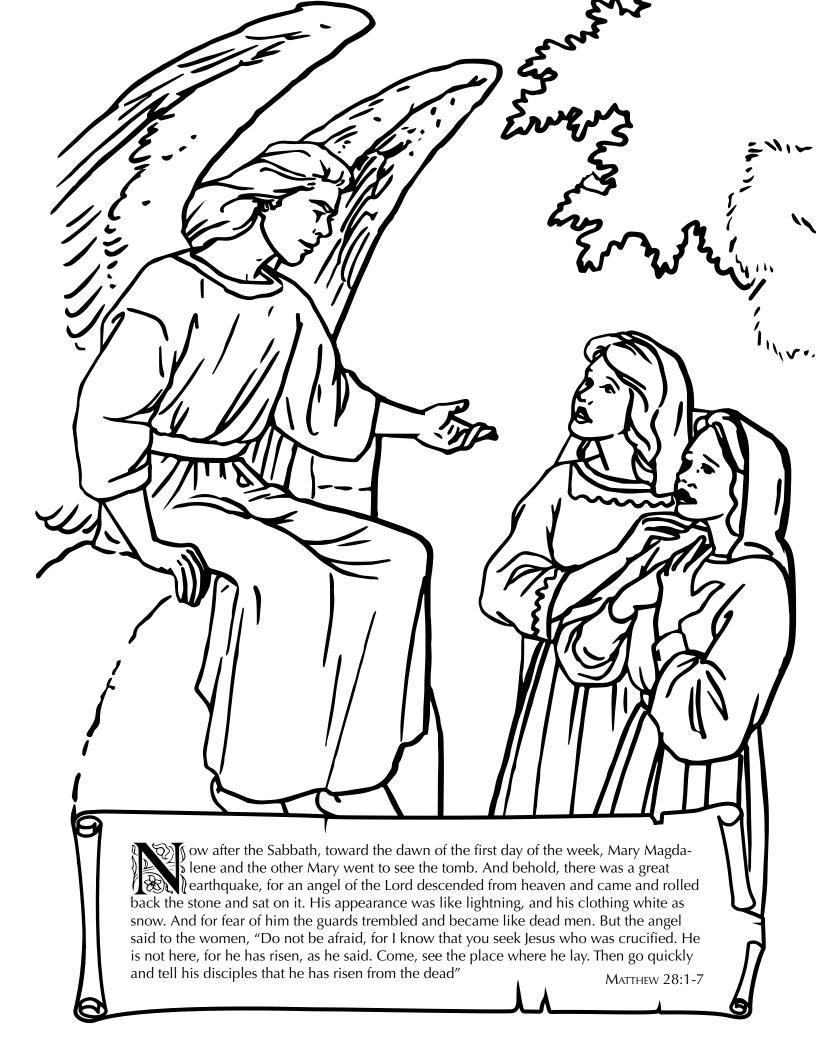
One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

y this time it was about noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock .The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" And when all the crowd that came to see the crucifixion saw what had happened, they went home in deep sorrow. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

LUKE 23:34-49

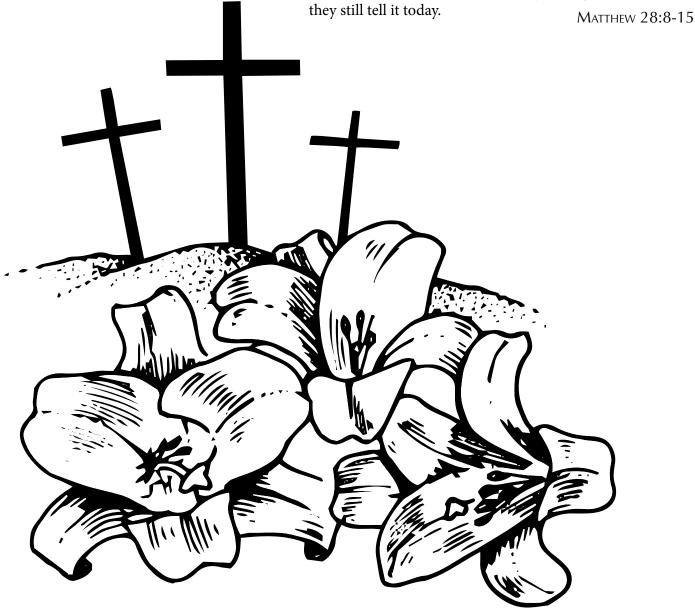


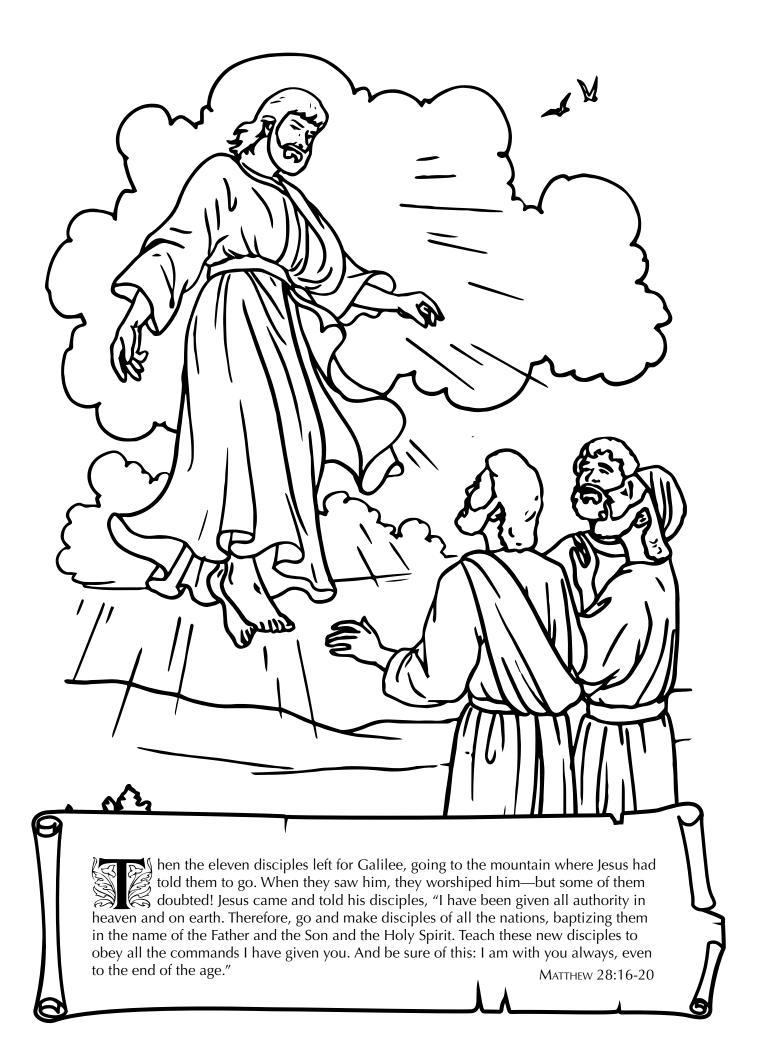




he women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel's message. And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there."

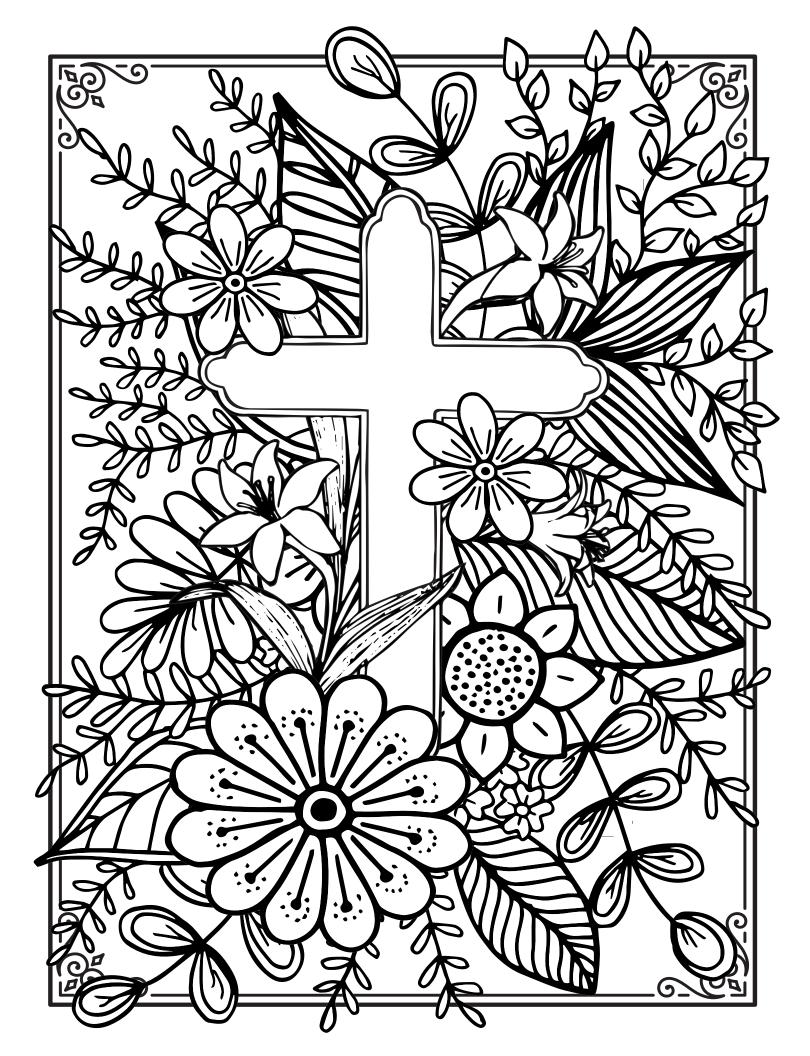
As the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and told the leading priests what had happened. A meeting with the elders was called, and they decided to give the soldiers a large bribe. They told the soldiers, "You must say, 'Jesus' disciples came during the night while we were sleeping, and they stole his body.' If the governor hears about it, we'll stand up for you so you won't get in trouble." So the guards accepted the bribe and said what they were told to say. Their story spread widely among the Jews, and they still tell it today.





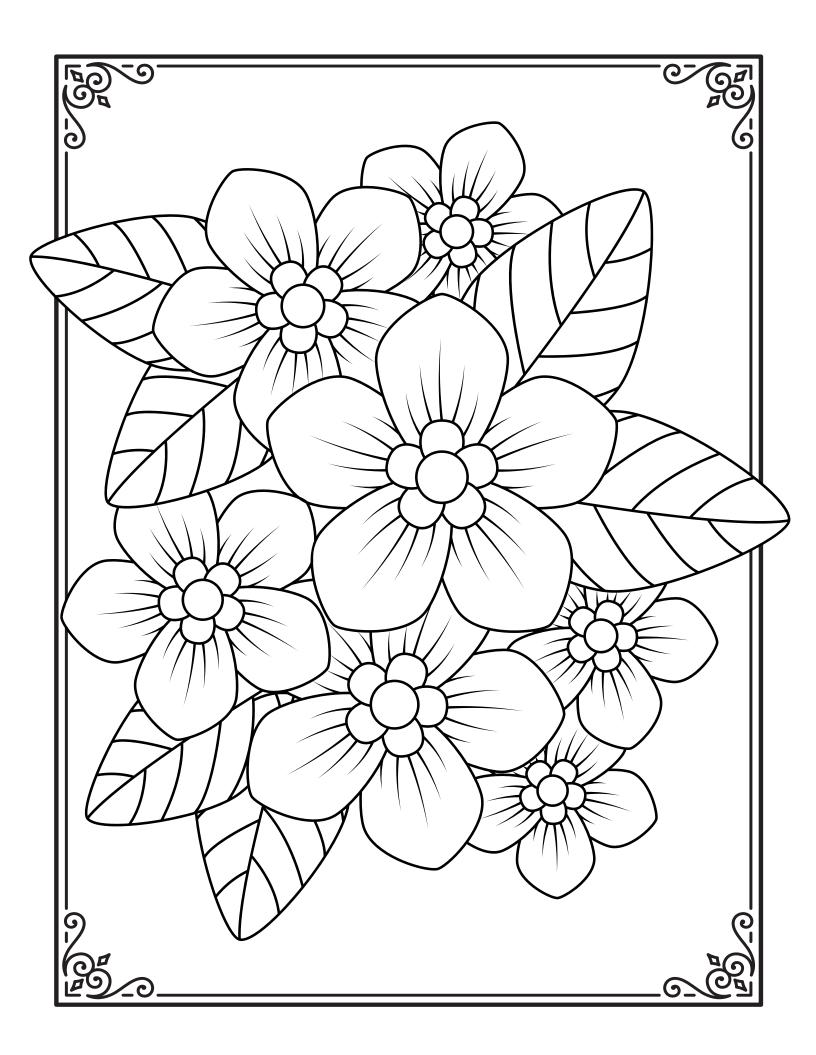
COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. True/False: Jesus came to earth to teach us
 2. What do we call the followers of Jesus? a. prophets b. friends c. fans d. disciples
3. Which of these is NOT a gospel in the Biblea. Matthiasb. Lukec. Johnd. Mark
4. True/False: One of Jesus' miracles was bringing the dead back to life
5. Jesus was able to do many miracles because a. He knew magic b. He was one with the Father c. He knew about medicine d. All the above
6. God does not want any of His children to be a. sad b. lost c. found d. humble
7. Where in the Bible can you find the verse that says, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost"?
8. After years of ministering, teaching, and healing people, Jesus had to die for us. a. 30 b. 10 c. 3 d. 2
9. True/False: Through Jesus' death we can be saved
10. The story of Easter begins when Jesus and His followers went into Jerusalema. for supplies b. to preach and worship c. to visit a friend d. for Passover











aster is by far one of the most important Christian celebrations, it's right up there with Christmas—and with good reason. While we celebrate the birth of our Savior at Christmas, Easter celebrates His resurrection and His triumph over sin and death.

Churches all over the world prepare a special service. Some churches do a pageant to re-enact or portray the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Others have their church choir prepare and practice for many weeks in order to sing beautiful and uplifting songs during Easter. The interior of some churches are decked out with flowers and ribbons, and children are often given treats on this day.

How does your church celebrate Easter?		
		—



Christian families and people all over the world celebrate Easter in different ways.

In Rome, where many people are of the Catholic faith, many people attend a special service called mass at the Vatican. There, the lights in the church are not all lighted to signify the tomb of Christ before his resurrection. During the mass the Pope, who is the head of the Roman Catholic Church, lights candles and blesses the people.

Some countries observe, or celebrate, the holiday for several days. In places such as Latin America, the festivities span several days in which they do processions in the street reenacting, or acting, important events in Jesus' life. They have mass, and they have colorful parties after the Easter service.

In the United States children go on egg hunts at the park or in their front lawns or backyards. Colorful eggs, often made out of plastic, contain chocolate treats that children and adults love! Additionally, since 1878 the White House has hosted the Easter Egg Roll where many families play a fun family game on the South Lawn. Finally, another interesting tradition in the United States is that of Egg Knocking in the state of Louisiana.

Competitors pair up and knock the tips of their hard boiled eggs on the other competitor's egg. The person whose egg cracks gets

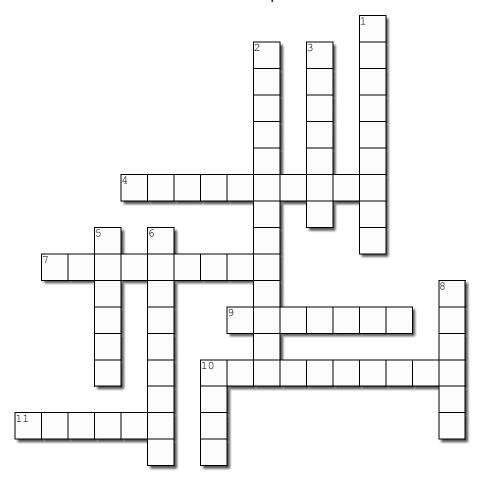
disqualified while the winner remains in the game. The game continues until only one egg remains intact. Other countries like England, Croatia, and the Netherlands also participate in some form of egg knocking during Easter.

In Norway, many people take celebrate for 5 days, starting from the Thursday before Easter Sunday to the Monday after Easter. Shops and businesses close during this time as people celebrate the arrival of spring and that the days begin to get longer. During this time, people may go on vacations or simply stay home. However most people observe the tradition of reading detective novels and crime thrillers, called Paaskekrim, which means "Easter Crime." The practice of reading crime thrillers during Easter is said to reflect Jesus' death.

In Sweden, Easter is also a 5-day celebration that starts on Thursday and ends on Monday. In parts of Sweden people light giant bonfires, and children dress up as colorful witches and go door to door asking for treats. They place the treats in egg-shaped bowls made of bright paper or cardboard. During Easter Swedish people will eat pickled herring, potatoes, meatballs, Gravad Lax (a dish of cured salmon), eggs topped with fish eggs, and a traditional Swedish casserole called Janssons' Temptation made of potatoes, onions, anchovies, bread crumbs, and cream sauce.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Use your knowledge of how people celebrate Easter around the world to complete this crossword puzzle



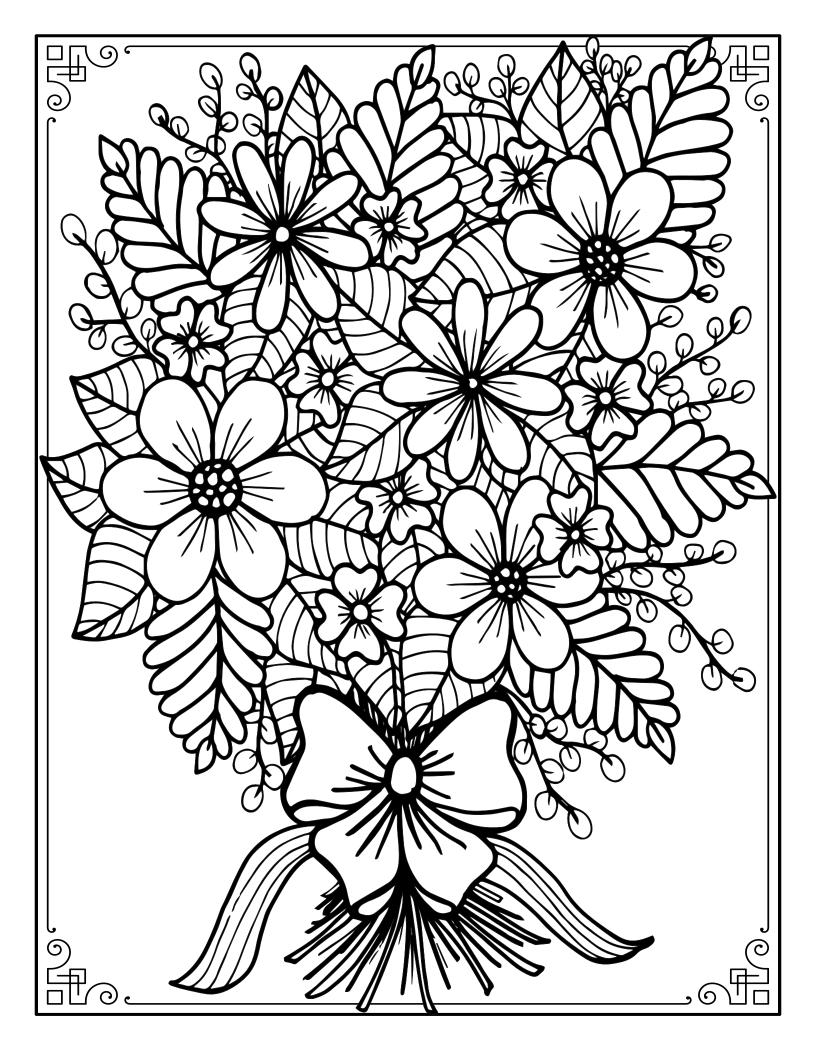
Across

4. Every year since	1878 there is a	∟aster egg Rol
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7. Colorful eggs con	ntain	treats
9. In Sweden, child	ren dress up as	colorful
	and go door to d	loor asking for
treats	-	_
10	means	s "Easter
Crime"		
11. In parts of		people
light giant bonfires		

Down

mass

4 1 0 11 20 100 0 12	
 In the United States, child 	ren go on
at the par	k or in their backyards
2. In places such as	people do
processions in the street	
3. In Rome, many people at	tend a special service
at the	
5. In	there is a tradition
of reading crime thrillers dur	ing Easter
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place in the state of	
8. Gravad Lax is a Swedish	dish of cured
10. In the Vatican, the	
lights candles and blesses t	he people during

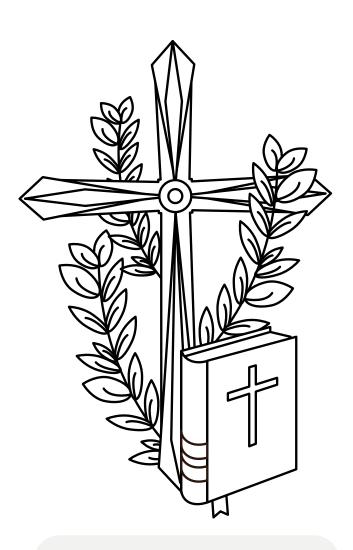


GELEBRATING EASTER When is it celebrated?

In the Bible, Jesus' death and resurrection happened during the Jewish Passover. The Jewish Passover is always celebrated on the first full moon after the Spring Equinox. This spring full moon is called the Paschal Full Moon

Because of this, early Christians celebrated Easter on different dates. Some celebrated Easter on the day of Passover, other celebrated on the Sunday *after* Passover. To clear things up, in 325 AD the Council of Nicaea determined that Easter should be celebrated on the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon. As a result, Easter always lands on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25th. Because the date of the Paschal Full moon always changes from year to year, so does the date of Easter.

Some Christian churches celebrate additional dates leading up to Easter. These dates make up the Holy Week and commemorate, or celebrate, important events in Jesus' life. These include Palm Sunday, Ash Wednesday, The Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday), Good Friday, and Holy Saturday



Terms to Know

Jewish Passover - in Judaism, a major holiday commemorating the Hebrews' liberation from slavery in Egypt and the "passing over" of the forces of destruction, when God "smote the land of Egypt" on the eve of the Exodus. In the time of Jesus, all the people of Judea made a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

Paschal - of or relating to Easter or Passover

Spring Equinox - An equinox occurs when the position of the sun is exactly over the equator. When this happens, the hours of daylight and the hours of darkness are about equal almost everywhere on Earth. Equinoxes take place twice a year: Spring and Autumn.

Council of Nicaea - a gathering of Christian leaders in 325 AD meant to settle questions about Christian doctrine which would affect all Christians within the Roman Empire

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden $\rightarrow \Psi$ and \searrow .

ASH WEDNESDAY
COMMEMORATE
COUNCIL OF NICAEA
EASTER
EQUINOX
FULL MOON

GOOD FRIDAY
HOLY SATURDAY
HOLY THURSDAY
HOLY WEEK
LORDS SUPPER
PALM SUNDAY

PASCHAL PASSOVER SPRING SUNDAY

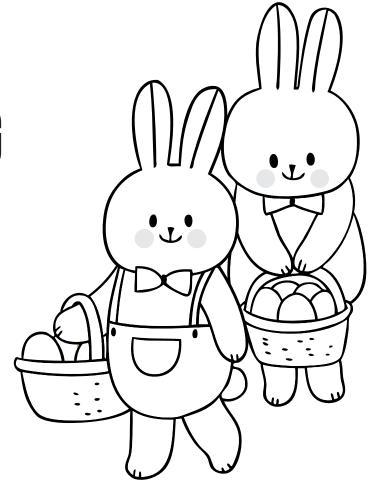




Happy Easter!

CELEBRATING EASTER

Where do the traditions of Easter eggs and the Easter bunny come from?



Eggs are a symbol of rebirth and fertility. Because they are also associated with Easter, a holiday that celebrates the resurrection of Christ, they sometimes are referred to as resurrection eggs. Another Easter symbol associated with fertility and the arrival of spring is the rabbit. It is an animal that reproduces very quickly. But where did these symbols come from?

The Easter egg tradition goes back to medieval times. The Germanic inhabitants of England, also known as the Anglo-Saxons, celebrated the arrival of spring in April with festivals. The deity, or god, that this celebration centered around was Eastre (also known as Ostara), a Spring-like figure that the Anglo-Saxons considered a goddess of fertility. The rabbit was associated with Eastre as well.

Eggs were eaten at the festival and also possibly buried in the ground to encourage fertility. Additionally, there are records that show that during this festival, people would celebrate with unique sword dances, lighting bonfires, baking a special kinds of pastries and breads, and some young women would even dress up as Eastre in white, flowing dresses.

The earliest evidence of the tradition of dying eggs with bright colors goes back to 1290 when it is said King Edward I of England ordered 450 eggs to be colored for his Easter party.

Much like they did for Christmas (See Christmas Activity Pack for more history on this), Christian leaders incorporated pagan customs, or customs of people who did not worship Christ, into the Christian celebrations. This, they believed, would make it easer for unbelievers to accept the new Christian religion.

Today the old symbols and festivities adopted form the old practices are an integral part of Easter celebrations. However, while it is okay to go egg hunting and perfectly acceptable to paint eggs in pretty colors, never forget that the real reason we celebrate is because Jesus came to Earth to save us, and only He can give us abundant life.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



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Find the following words in the puzzle.

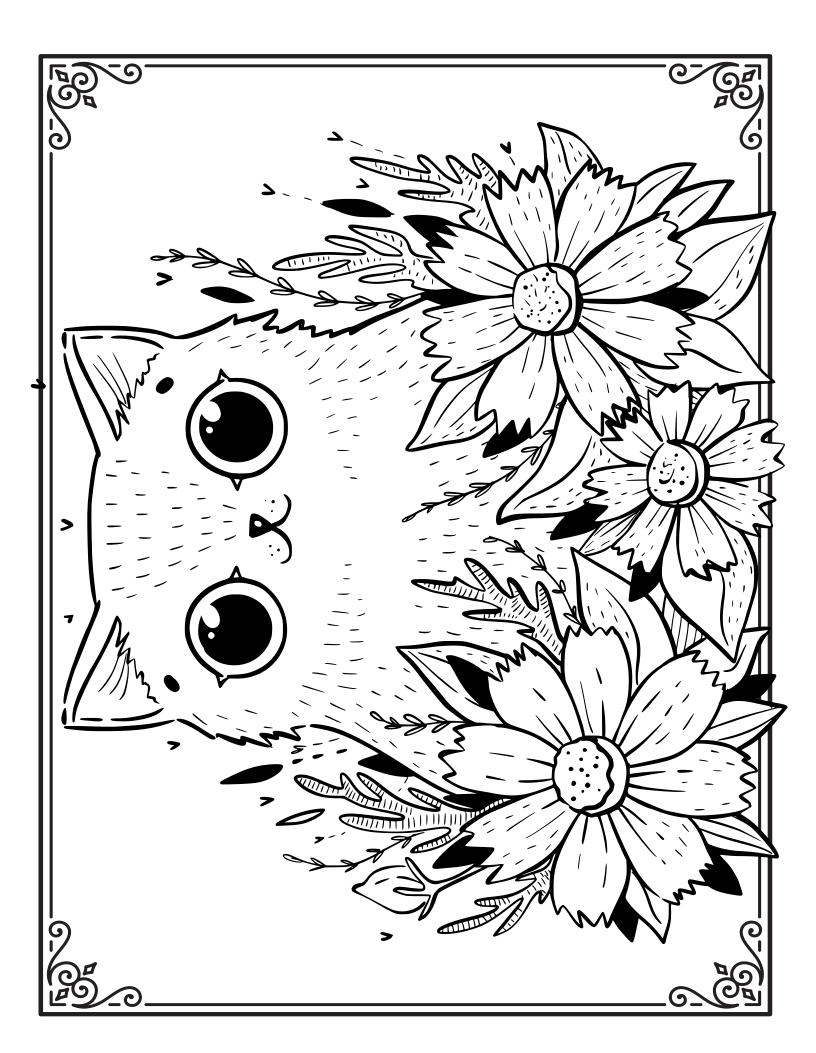
Words are hidden $\wedge \quad \downarrow \quad \Rightarrow \quad \leftarrow \quad$ and $\quad \downarrow \quad$

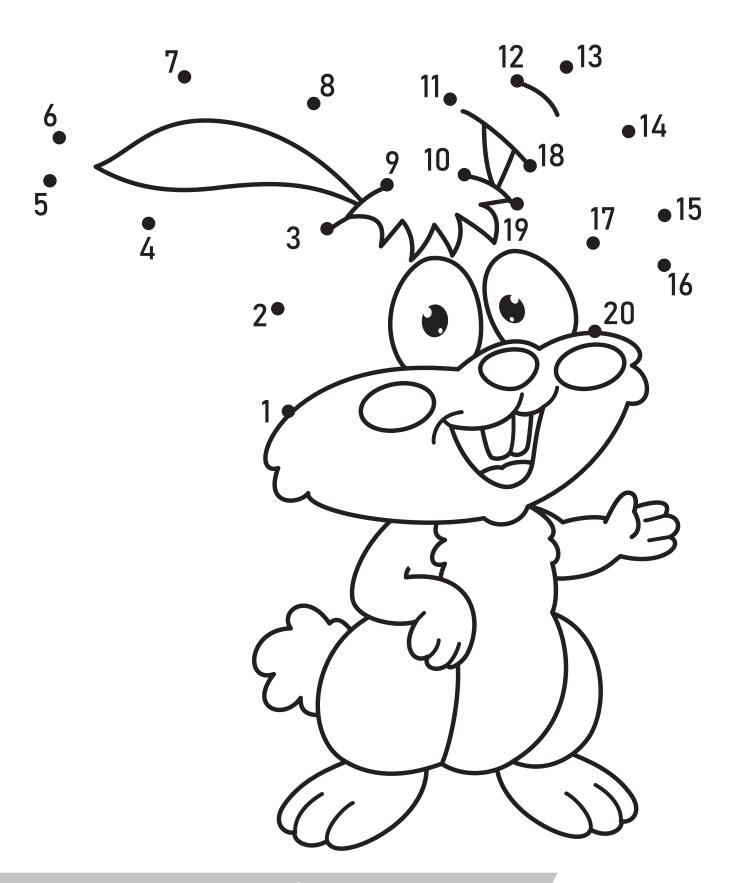
ANGLO SAXONS BONFIRES BREADS EASTER EGG HUNTING EGGS FERTILITY
FESTIVALS
JESUS
KING EDWARD I
PASTRIES
RABBIT

RESURRECTION SPRING SYMBOLS









Connect the dots!

EASTER WORD SCRAMBLE

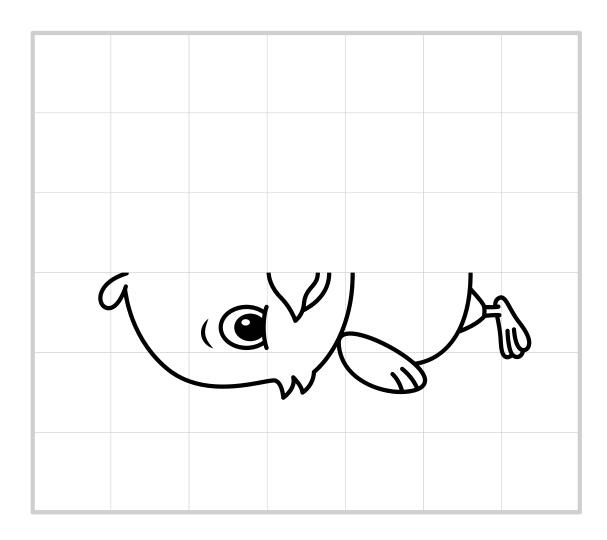
Unscramble the words below

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Word Bank:

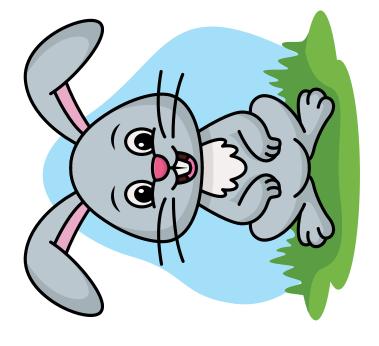
APRIL FLOWERS
CELEBRATION JESUS
CHRISTIAN JOY
COLORS PASSOVER
CROSS RABBIT
EASTER SPRING
EGG TRADITIONS



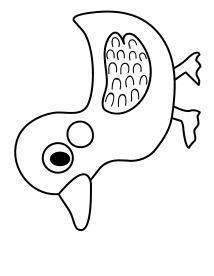






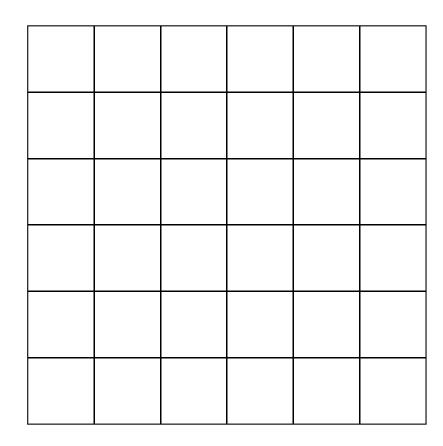


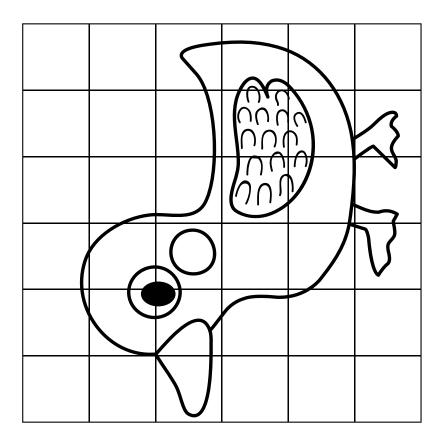
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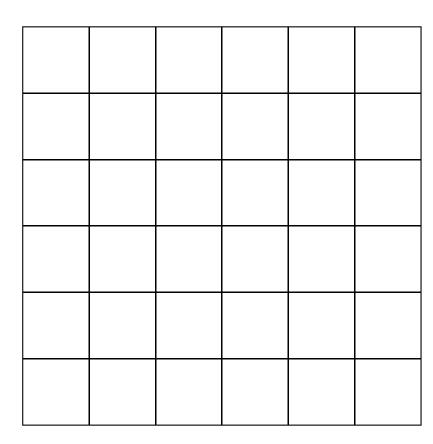
Use the guide on the left to draw the duck on the right grid

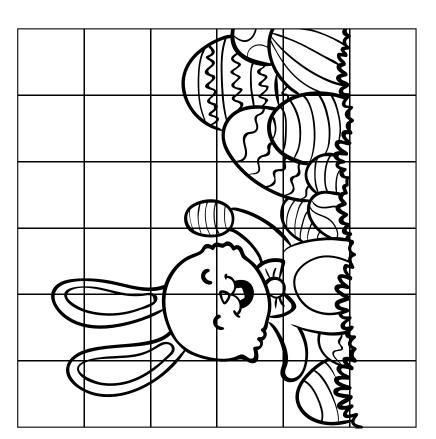




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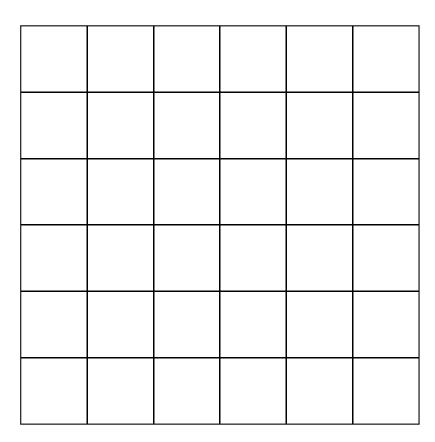
Use the guide on the left to draw the rabbit on the right grid

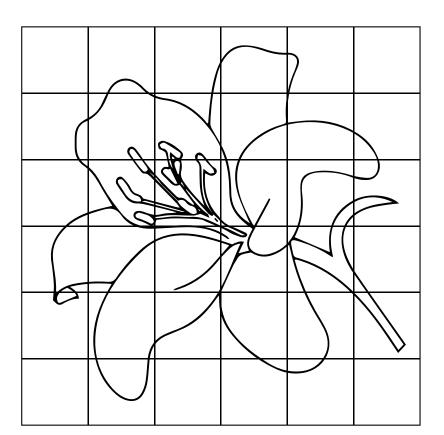


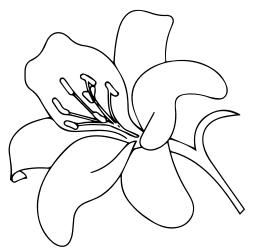


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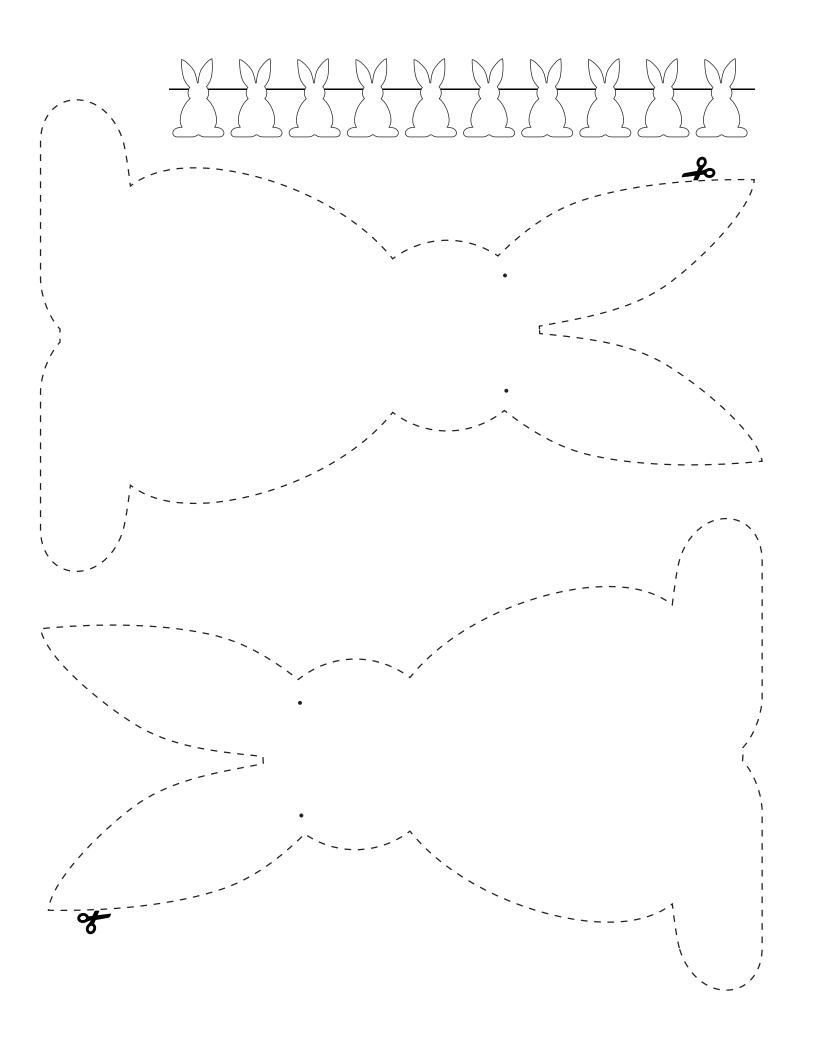




Materials

Bunnny template
Cardstock paper in colorful patterns
Scissors
Hole puncher
String
Cotton Balls
Hot glue gun

- 1. Print out several copies of the bunny template on the cardstock paper
- 2. Cut the bunnies out
- 3. Punch a hole on the bunnies under their ears (there is a black dot to guide you)
- 4. Using a hot glue gun, glue the cotton "bunny tails" to the back of each bunny
- 5. Once glue is cool, thread the string through the holes in the bunnies
- 6. Enjoy your Bunny banner!





Swimming Peeps



Ingredients

1 Pack of yellow peeps

1 3oz pack of berry blue Jell-o

1 cup boiling water

1 cup cold water

Clear plastic tumblers

- 1. Prepare the Jell-o per instructions in the box
- 2. Pour jello into plastic tumblers
- 3. Refrigerate for 30 minuntes, or until it is soft-set
- 4. Place a peep on top of the blue Jell-o
- 5. Refrigerate again unti it is set. Enjoy!





Rice Krispies Egg Nests



Ingredients

- 4 cups of marshmallows
- 5 cups of rice cereal
- 1/4 cup coconut oil or butter
- 2 teaspoons of vanilla
- 2 cups of mini eggs, berries, or jellybeans
- Muffin pan

- 1. Grease a 12-cup muffin tray
- 2. Microwave the marshmallows for 25-30 seconds. Stir well. Repeat if necessary
- 3. Add the melted oil (or butter) and the vanilla and stir well to incorporate
- 4. Add the rice cereal, 1 cup at a time, stirring in carefully
- 5. Scoop 1/4 cup of the mixture on to each of the muffin molds in the muffin tray. Press the mixture into the tray, making a sort of hollow in the center to form a cup-like shape
- 6. Refrigerate overnight
- 7. Pop the treats from the muffin trays using a butter knife. Fill with treats. Enjoy!





Ingredients

Clear disposable cake decorating bags

1 large bag of cheese puffs (or any other orange snack like goldfish crackers) Green curling ribbon

- 1. Fil the bags with snacks
- 2. Twist the tops closed, and tie with ribbon
- 3. Curl the ribbon to match the appearance of carrot tops



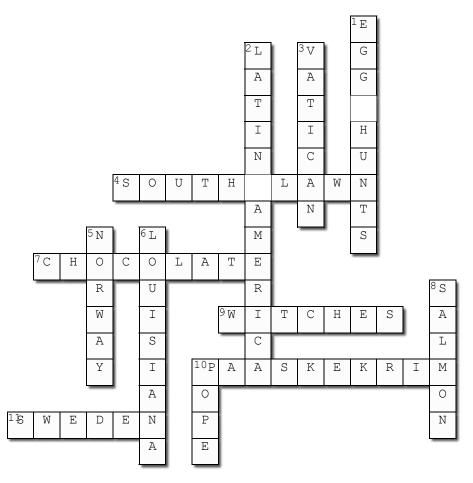


COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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 2. What do we call the followers of Jesus? a. prophets b. friends c. fans d. disciples
3. Which of these is NOT a gospel in the Bible a. Matthias b. Luke c. John d. Mark
4. True/False: One of Jesus' miracles was bringing the dead back to life
 5. Jesus was able to do many miracles because a. He knew magic b. He was one with the Father c. He knew about medicine d. All the above
6. God does not want any of His children to be a. sad b. lost c. found d. humble
7. Where in the Bible can you find the verse that says, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost"? <u>Luke 19:10</u>
8. After years of ministering, teaching, and healing people, Jesus had to die for us. a. 30 b. 10 c. 3 d. 2
9. True/False: Through Jesus' death we can be saved
 10. The story of Easter begins when Jesus and His followers went into Jerusalem a. for supplies b. to preach and worship c. to visit a friend d. for Passover

CROSSWORD PUZZLE - ANSWERS

Use your knowledge of how people celebrate Easter around the world to complete this crossword puzzle



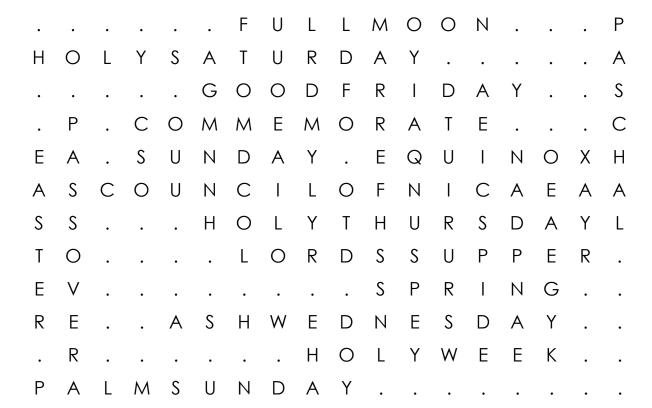
Across

4. Every year since roro mere	e is a casiei eyy Ru
at the White House	(South
Lawn)	
7. Colorful eggs contain	treats
(chocolate)	
9. In Sweden, children dress u	up as colorful
and go do	or to door asking for
treats (witches)	
10	_ means "Easter
Crime" (paaskekrim)	
11. In parts of	
people light giant bonfires (Sw	veden)

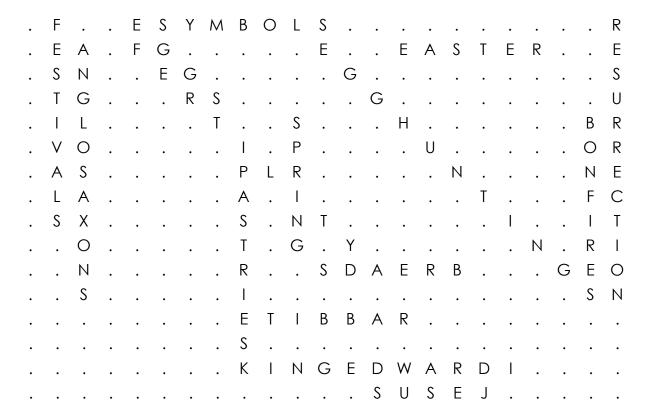
Down

1. In the United States, ch	nildren go on
at the p	ark or in their backyards
(egg hunts)	
2. In places such as	people do
processions in the street ((Latin America)
3. In Rome, many people	attend a special service
at the (Vatican)
5. In	there is a tradition of
reading crime thrillers dur	ing Easter (Norway)
6. Egg Knocking is an East	ster tradition that takes
place in the state of	(Louisiana)
8. Gravad Lax is a Swedis	sh dish of cured
(sa	almon)
10. In the Vatican, the	
lights candles and blesses	s the people during
mass (Pope)	(
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WORD SEARCH PUZZLE - ANSWERS







EASTER WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the words below

JESUS 1. ESSJU **CROSS** 2. OSCSR **PASSOVER** 3. PSAEROSV **EGG** 4. GGE **RABBIT** 5. ATBIBR **SPRING** 6. PNRIGS **FLOWERS** 7. FRLWSEO **COLORS** 8. OOLRCS JOY 9. OJY **CELEBRATION** 10. BAERETNCILO **EASTER** 11. ETAERS **TRADITIONS** 12. OTSIADINRT **CHRISTIAN** 13. NSHRCITIA **APRIL** 14. LIRAP

Word Bank:

APRIL FLOWERS
CELEBRATION JESUS
CHRISTIAN JOY
COLORS PASSOVER
CROSS RABBIT
EASTER SPRING
EGG TRADITIONS

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26

