

Handouts for Easter Vigil Session

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Opening Prayer

Preparation

Light a large candle in the front of the room where everyone is gathered. Assign reading parts to people who will be seated in different parts of the room.

Invite everyone into a moment of silent reflection before you begin the prayer.

Opening Prayer

Lord of light and goodness, you give us fire as a symbol of your constant presence among us. Guide us with the light of faith as we explore the mysteries of Easter.

Our response to the reading will be: Christ, be our light.

Reader One

The first words out of the mouth of God in the Bible are, "Let there be light." Light is the beginning of creation. It dispels darkness and chaos. Christ is the light.

All

Christ, be our light.

Reader Two

Lord of light and goodness, you sent Abraham to the mountain with his beloved and only son, Isaac. Abraham carried a torch that tormented his soul for it was to light a fire that would destroy his son. This fire of destruction became a fire of mercy when you enlightened Abraham's mind and spared his son, Isaac. May the light of Christ's mercy burn in our hearts.

All

Christ, be our light.

Reader Three

Lord of light and goodness, you revealed yourself to Moses in a burning bush and inspired him to lead the Israelite slaves out of Egypt. You guided them through the desert darkness by showing your presence in a pillar of fire. Christ, be our guiding light.

All

Christ, be our light.

Closing Prayer

Leader

Listen to this closing prayer, which comes from the Liturgy of the Word at the Easter Vigil.

Lord God, you have brightened this night with the radiance of the risen Christ. Quicken the spirit of sonship in your Church; renew us in mind and body to give you whole-hearted service. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Cheer Page

“White”

Your group is now a cheer leading squad. Use the following words to make a cheer to help get people excited about this particular symbol of the Easter candle. Every person in your group must participate in the cheer in some way. Add handclaps, foot stomps, jumps, formations, dance moves, etc. to make the cheer more interesting. You may add words if needed, but you may not change the essential meaning of the words given.

We will fight, we will fight
For the great color, white!
White for joy
And white for purity
White is resurrection
And of that you can be surety
Yeah white-White! White! White!

Cheer Page

“Cross”

Your group is now a cheer leading squad. Use the following words to make a cheer to help get people excited about this particular symbol of the Easter candle. Every person in your group must participate in the cheer in some way. Add handclaps, foot stomps, jumps, formations, dance moves, etc. to make the cheer more interesting. You may add words if needed, but you may not change the essential meaning of the words given.

The cross is our boss
The big, big boss
It's not a thing to toss
Out the window
So don't be slow
To show, show, show
Your love for the cross
The boss, the boss, the boss!

Cheer Page

“Alpha and Omega”

Your group is now a cheer leading squad. Use the following words to make a cheer to help get people excited about this particular symbol of the Easter candle. Every person in your group must participate in the cheer in some way. Add handclaps, foot stomps, jumps, formations, dance moves, etc. to make the cheer more interesting. You may add words if needed, but you may not change the essential meaning of the words given.

Alpha, Omega
Has nothing to do with Ortega
Beginning and end
This message we will send
God at the start
God at the finish
And God in betweeny
Protecting us from meanies
Rah, Rah God!

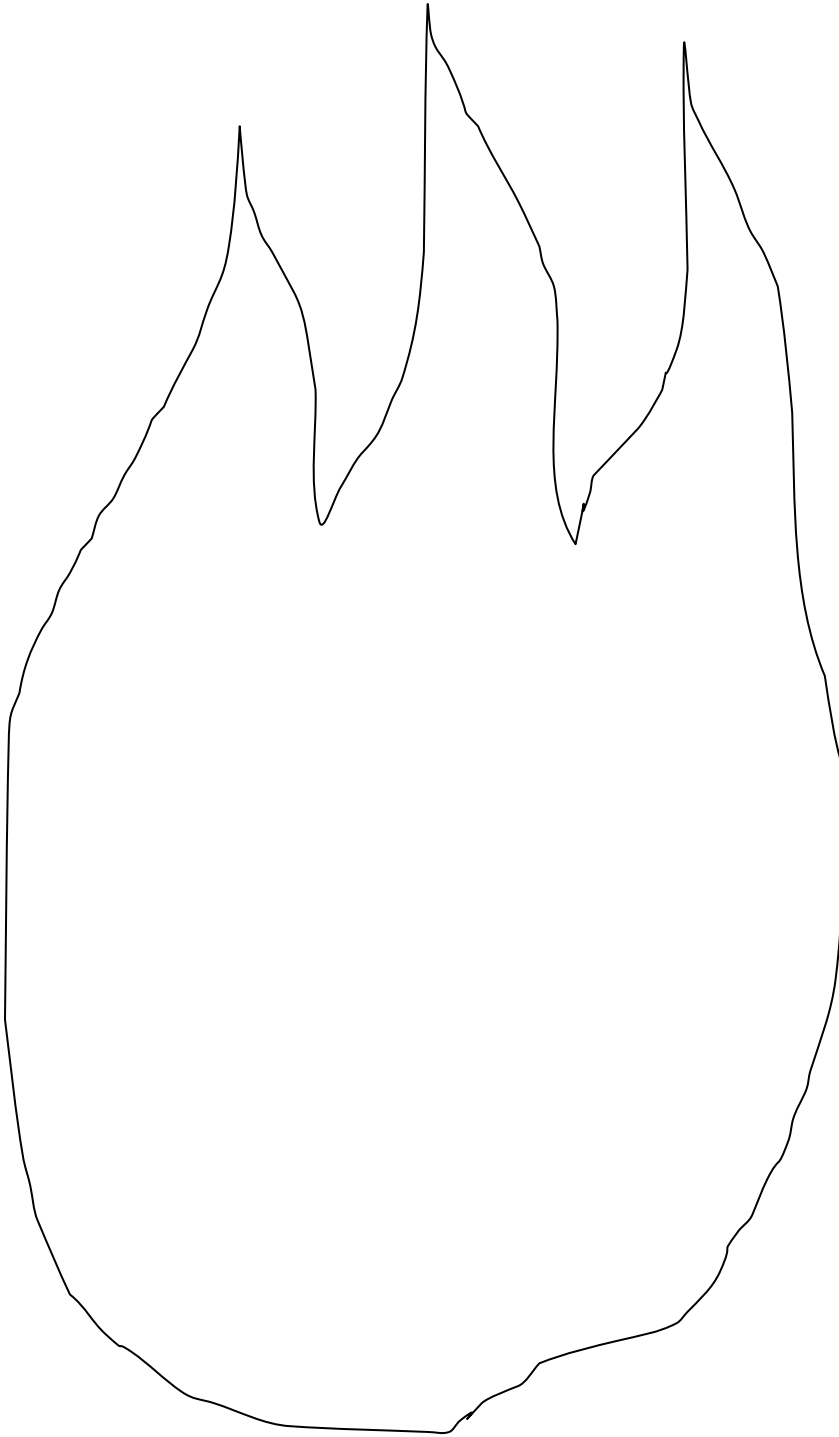
Cheer Page

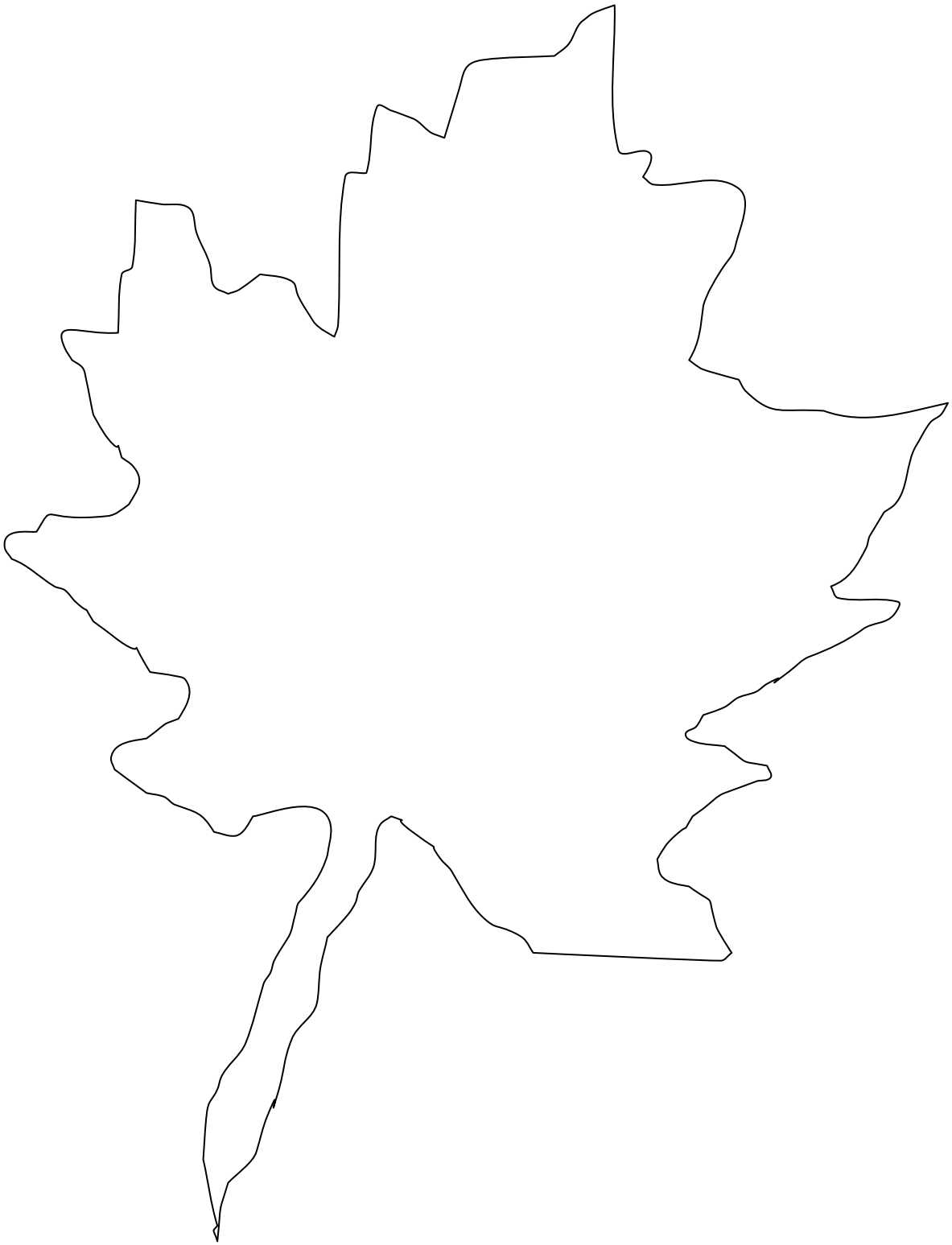
“Five Wounds of Christ”

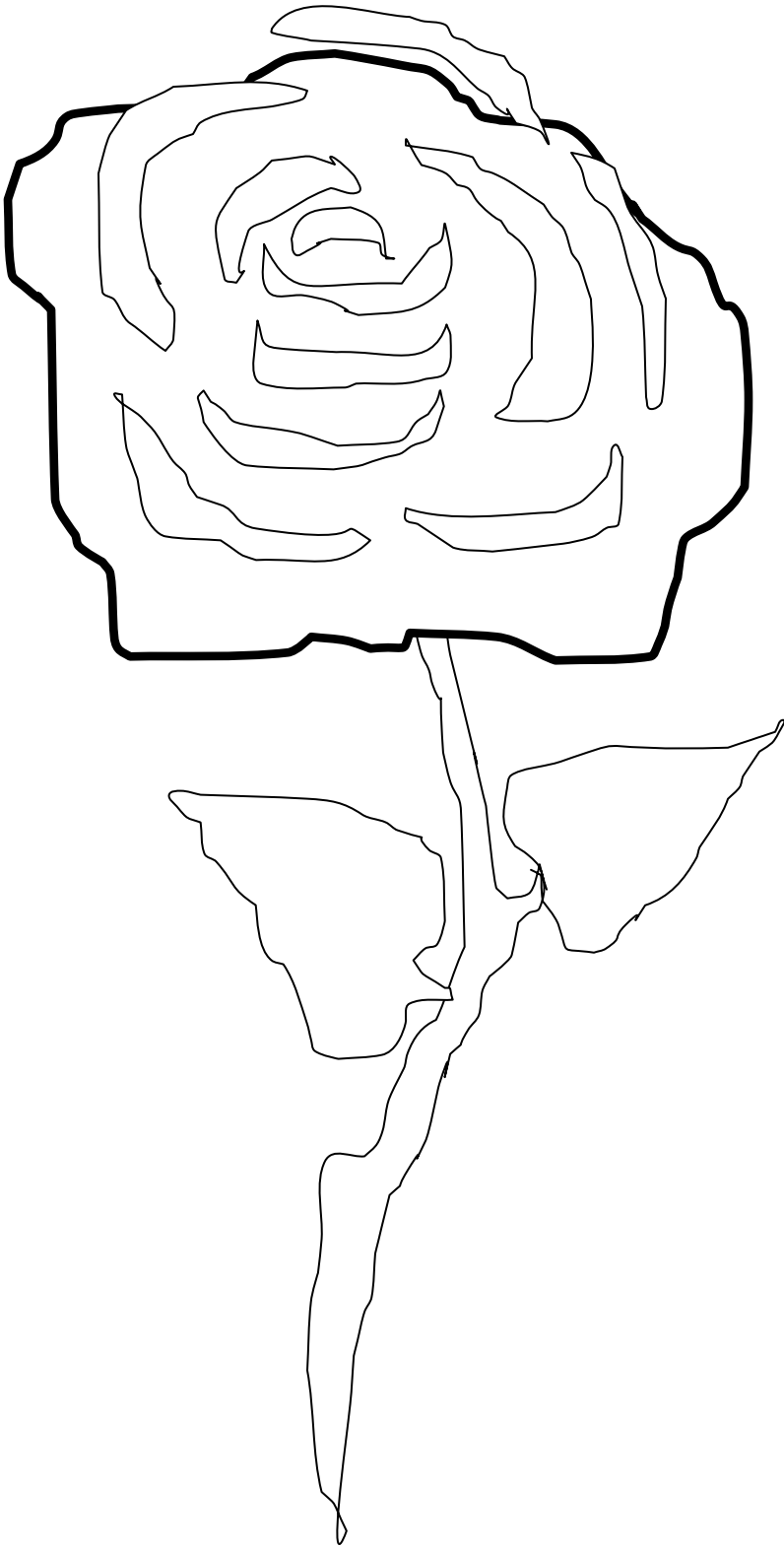
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One, two, three, four, five
Jesus loves you
And that's no jive.
He bore five wounds
To save us from our sins
They were really big nails
And not little pins
Go Jesus!
Go, fight, win!

Mural Items





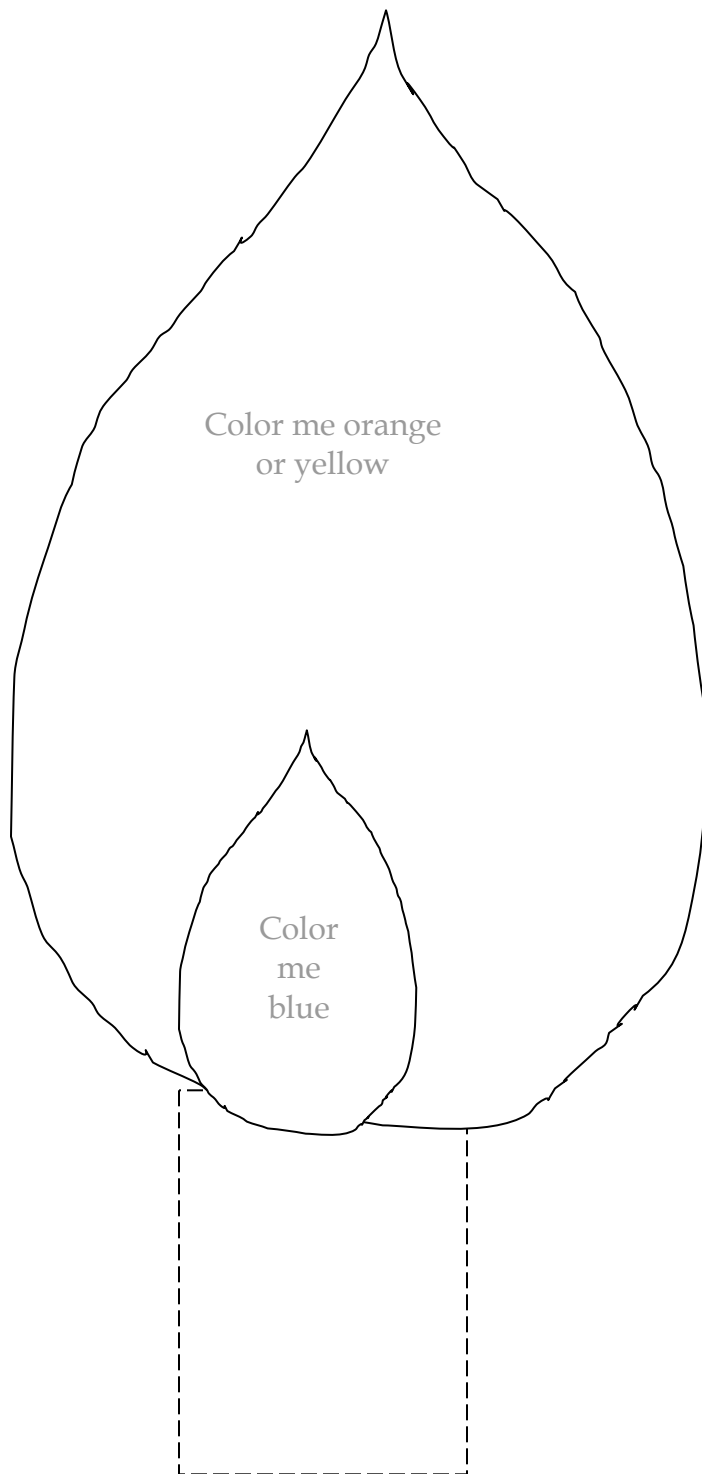


Fire—Symbol of the Paschal Mystery

Discussion Questions

1. How is the sin that your table decided to address a sign of death in your school/community? In other words, what kinds of things have died or have been pushed aside as a result of this sin being present?
2. Who has been hurt as a result of this sin being present?
3. What, if anything, is being done about this problem?
4. What are some simple things that everyone can do to make the problem better?

Easter Candle Flame



- After you have finished putting the symbols on your Easter candle, color and cut out the flame on this page.
- Glue the rectangular section on the bottom to the inside top of the poster board cylinder.
- Reinforce the flame by taping a small plastic straw or a craft stick to the back of the flame.

Easter Vigil Reading—Exodus

The setting of our drama is the Exodus journey of the Israelites who were rescued from slavery in Egypt by God through Moses. Moses is now leading the people through the desert on the way to the Promised Land. Moses and the people have been following the presence of God revealed to them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. They now approach the Red Sea with the Egyptian army in hot pursuit. They begin to panic and cry out to God that they would have rather stayed in Egypt as slaves rather than die at the hands of the Egyptian army on the beaches of the Red Sea.

A Reading from Exodus Chapter 14:15-31, 15:1

Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.’

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, ‘Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.’

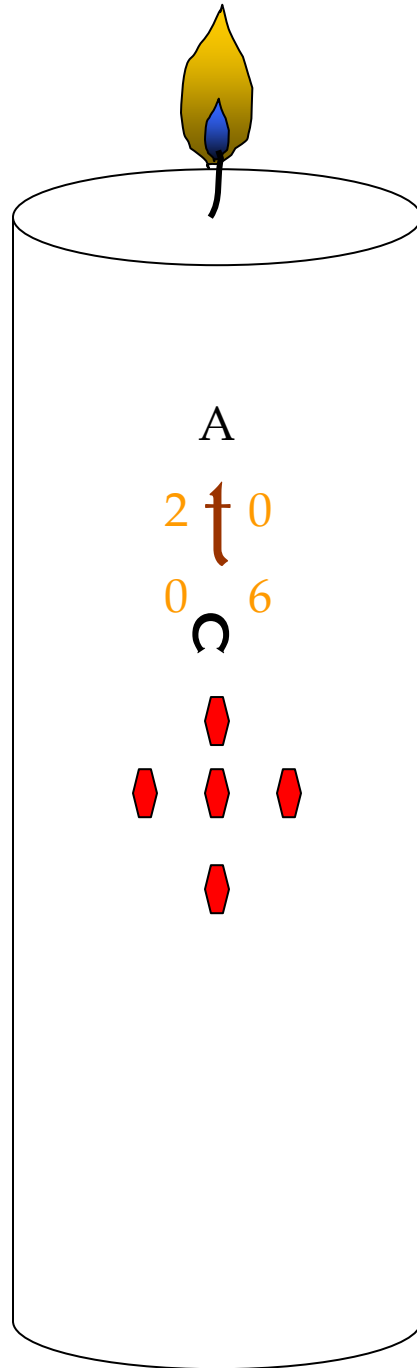
Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.’ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh

that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:
'I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

Easter Candle Symbols (Adults)



Easter Candle—White

(Whole Group Format)

Instructions

1. Introduce yourself to your table group and invite each person at your table to do the same.
2. Take a few minutes to look at the *Easter Candle Symbols II* handout and identify each symbol on the candle, the color white, the cross, the Alpha and the Omega, and the five wounds of Christ.
3. Distribute Bibles to each person at your table and help participants locate passages as you read and discuss them.
4. After your discussion is finished and the table groups have been reorganized, introduce yourself to your new table group and invite each person at your table to do the same.
5. Ask each person to share what they heard and learned in the first table group. People may take notes on the *Easter Candle Symbols II* handout.
6. After everyone has had an opportunity to speak, lead the participants through the Preparation of the Candle ritual that they will see at the Easter Vigil liturgy. You can find this ritual in the Sacramentary under Part One of the Easter Vigil section. You may want to do the motions of the priest as you recite the prayer of the Preparation of the Candle.

Daniel 7:9-10

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

The book of Daniel was written at a time when Israel was suffering terrible persecutions at the hands of the Greek empire. The Israelites placed their hope in God as one who would judge their persecutors.

Discussion Questions

- What is the context of the scene presented in this reading? *The context is a courtroom scene.*
- What do you think the white hair and the white clothing of the Ancient One symbolize? *The white hair symbolizes wisdom, and the white clothing symbolizes purity, truth, right judgment, etc. A white garment can have many meanings.*
- Where else in the scripture do you recall hearing about someone wearing a dazzling white garment? *See Mark 9:3 (the Transfiguration), Matthew 28:3 (the angel at the empty tomb), and Revelation 7:14 (the early Christian martyrs).*
- Describe a white-haired person in our community whom you admire.
- The Easter candle is always a white candle, and white is the liturgical color of Easter. What kind of wisdom does the feast of Easter speak to you?

Revelation 19:11-16

Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse! Its rider is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems; and he has a name inscribed that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, wearing fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron; he will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name inscribed, "King of kings and Lord of lords."

It was a common practice in the ancient world for kings to ride on white horses after a military victory. White is a symbol of victory.

The book of Revelation was written at a time when Christians in the first century were suffering terrible persecutions under the Roman emperor. This highly symbolic book was a source of hope for the suffering Christians.

Discussion Questions

- White horses are mentioned twice in this reading. What kind of victory do the horses symbolize? *The white horses are a resurrection symbol of the victory of Christ over the power of evil and death.*
- Can you think of any heroes in television shows or movies who ride white horses? What kind of heroes are they?
- Where do you see the Easter victory of Christ present in our community?
- What does the Easter victory of Christ mean to you personally?

Easter Candle—Cross

(Whole Group Format)

Instructions

1. Introduce yourself to your table group and invite each person at your table to do the same.
2. Take a few minutes to look at the *Easter candle Symbols II* handout and identify each symbol on the candle, the color white, the cross, the Alpha and the Omega, and the five wounds of Christ.
3. Distribute Bibles to each person at your table and help participants locate passages as you read and discuss them.
4. After your discussion is finished and the table groups have been reorganized, introduce yourself to your new table group and invite each person at your table to do the same.
5. Ask each person to share what they heard and learned in the first table group. People may take notes on the *Easter candle Symbols II* handout.
6. After everyone has had an opportunity to speak, lead the participants through the Preparation of the Candle ritual that they will see at the Easter Vigil liturgy. You can find this ritual in the Sacramentary under Part One of the Easter Vigil section. You may want to do the motions of the priest as you recite the prayer of the Preparation of the Candle.

Romans 6:3-8

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

Discussion Questions

- What is the connection between Baptism and the death of Christ? *Going under water is a symbol of burial and death, and coming out from under the water is a symbol of life.*
- Share one way in which an old part of you has been “crucified” so that a new part of you could grow and develop.

Mark 15:29-32

Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Christ did not come down from the cross when people challenged him to do that?
- Describe someone you know who has a deep sense of commitment.
- Are you committed to a mission in your life? If so, what is your mission, and how do you stay committed to it?

1 Corinthians 1:18-20

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

Discussion Questions

- How is the wisdom of the cross different from the wisdom of the world?
- Describe a time when you or someone you know was foolish in the eyes of the world for the sake of love?

Easter Candle—Alpha and Omega

(Whole Group Format)

Instructions

1. Introduce yourself to your table group and invite each person at your table to do the same.
2. Take a few minutes to look at the *Easter candle Symbols II* handout and identify each symbol on the candle, the color white, the cross, the Alpha and the Omega, and the five wounds of Christ.
3. Distribute Bibles to each person at your table and help participants locate passages as you read and discuss them.
4. After your discussion is finished and the table groups have been reorganized, introduce yourself to your new table group and invite each person at your table to do the same.
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Revelation 1:7-8

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Discussion Questions

- Alpha and Omega mean beginning and end, but this reading suggests even more than that. God revealed his name to Moses in the book of Exodus as "I Am Who Am." What do you think God meant by that? What does it mean to you that God is, was, and is to come?
- Why do you think we have the current year on the Easter candle in addition to the Alpha and Omega symbols?
- Have you ever watched a good movie with a bad ending? Why are beginnings and endings so important?
- How good are you at greetings and goodbyes?

Revelation 21:5-8

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

Discussion Questions

- What do you think the spring of the water of life means?
- Water is significant both at the beginning of the Bible in the creation stories and at the end of the Bible in the new creation. How does baptismal water mark an ending and a beginning?
- The Easter candle is lit for both baptisms and funerals, and water is used in both rituals. What do you think this means?
- We all have experienced many beginnings and endings in our lives. Describe a beginning and ending of something in your life (a job, a relationship, a project, etc). How was Christ, the Alpha and the Omega, present at the beginning and the ending of this particular something?

Easter Candle—Five Wounds of Christ

(Whole Group Format)

Instructions

1. Introduce yourself to your table group and invite each person at your table to do the same.
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1 Peter 2:20-25

If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Discussion Questions

- Peter said that Christ's wounds have healed us. What do you think he means by that?
- How can we suffer in a Christ-like way?

- Does enduring suffering mean that we should allow people to inflict pain on us or on others? Why or why not?
- Describe a time when endurance was an important value in your life.

John 20:24-29

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Discussion Questions

- Why were the wounds of Christ's crucifixion still present in his body after the resurrection?
- Why is it important for Christians to believe in the reality of Christ's death and resurrection?

Easter Candle—White

(Age Group Format)

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Daniel 7:9-10

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The book of Daniel was written at a time when Israel was suffering terrible persecutions at the hands of the Greek empire. The Israelites placed their hope in God as one who would judge their persecutors.

Discussion Questions

- What is the context of the scene presented in this reading? *The context is a courtroom scene.*
- What do you think the white hair and the white clothing of the Ancient One symbolize? *The white hair symbolizes wisdom, and the white clothing symbolizes purity, truth, right judgment, etc. A white garment can have many meanings.*
- Where else in the scripture do you recall hearing about someone wearing a dazzling white garment? *See Mark 9:3 (the Transfiguration), Matthew 28:3 (the angel at the empty tomb), and Revelation 7:14 (the early Christian martyrs).]*
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Revelation 19:11-16

Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse! Its rider is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems; and he has a name inscribed that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, wearing fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron; he will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name inscribed, "King of kings and Lord of lords."

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Easter Candle—Cross

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Romans 6:3-8

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

Discussion Questions

- What is the connection between Baptism and the death of Christ? *Going under water is a symbol of burial and death, and coming out from under the water is a symbol of life.*
- Share one way in which an old part of you has been “crucified” so that a new part of you could grow and develop.

Mark 15:29-32

Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

31 In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Christ did not come down from the cross when people challenged him to do that?
- Describe someone you know who has a deep sense of commitment.
- Are you committed to a mission in your life? If so, what is your mission, and how do you stay committed to it?

1 Corinthians 1:18-20

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

Discussion Questions

- How is the wisdom of the cross different from the wisdom of the world?
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Easter Candle—Alpha and Omega

(Age Group Format)

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Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Discussion Questions

- Alpha and Omega mean beginning and end, but this reading suggests even more than that. God revealed his name to Moses in the book of Exodus as "I Am Who Am." What do you think God meant by that? What does it mean to you that God is, was, and is to come?
- Why do you think we have the current year on the Easter candle in addition to the Alpha and Omega symbols?
- Have you ever watched a good movie with a bad ending? Why are beginnings and endings so important?
- How good are you at greetings and goodbyes?

Revelation 21:5-8

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

Discussion Questions

- What do you think the spring of the water of life means?
- Water is significant both at the beginning of the Bible in the creation stories and at the end of the Bible in the new creation. How does baptismal water mark an ending and a beginning?
- The Easter candle is lit for both baptisms and funerals, and water is used in both rituals. What do you think this means?
- We all have experienced many beginnings and endings in our lives. Describe a beginning and ending of something in your life (a job, a relationship, a project, etc). How was Christ, the Alpha and the Omega, present at the beginning and the ending of this particular something?

Easter Candle—Five Wounds of Christ

(Age Group Format)

Instructions

1. Introduce yourself to your table group and invite each person at your table to do the same.
2. Take a few minutes to look at the *Easter candle Symbols II* handout and identify each symbol on the candle, the color white, the cross, the Alpha and the Omega, and the five wounds of Christ. You will only need to do this for your first group.
3. Distribute Bibles to each person at your table and help participants locate passages as you read and discuss them.
4. After your discussion is finished and the table groups have moved, introduce yourself to your new table group and begin scripture reading and discussions again.

1 Peter 2:20-25

If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Discussion Questions

- Peter said that Christ's wounds have healed us. What do you think he means by that?
- How can we suffer in a Christ-like way?
- Does enduring suffering mean that we should allow people to inflict pain on us or on others? Why or why not?
- Describe a time when endurance was an important value in your life.

John 20:24-29

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Discussion Questions:

- Why were the wounds of Christ's crucifixion still present in his body after the resurrection?
- Why is it important for Christians to believe in the reality of Christ's death and resurrection?

Closing Prayer Service

Preparation

Prepare a space in your all-ages gathering room for youth ministry's dramatic reading of Exodus 14:15-15:1.

Opening

Leader

Lord God, you give us the gift of fire as a symbol of your guiding presence. We will follow our pillar of fire, the Easter candle, in procession when we begin our Easter Vigil celebration. Give us the purity of heart that will allow us to see you dying and rising in that fire as we die to our own sin and rise to new life with you this Easter.

Dramatic Reading of Exodus 14:15-15:1

Introduction before the dramatic reading

Moses and the Israelites escaped slavery in Egypt and are on their way to the Promised Land, but things have gone sour and their past is catching up to them. They are now caught between a rock and a hard place; they can drown in the Red Sea before them, or they can get destroyed by the Egyptian army behind them. Let us pause, watch, and listen as the drama of the Easter reading unfolds before us.

Dramatic Reading

Easter Litany

Response: Save us, Lord Jesus

Reader: Lord Jesus, we celebrate your glory with the Easter color of white. May the radiant joy and purity of your resurrection save us from the darkness of sin.

All: Save us, Lord Jesus

Reader: Lord Jesus, your empty cross reminds us that you have conquered death and the power of sin. We rejoice in the hope of a life on Earth filled with grace and the promise of eternal life.

All: Save us, Lord Jesus

Reader: Lord Jesus, you are the beginning of everything we think, say, and do. You are the end toward which we strive. May we be creative in our beginnings so that we will taste glory at our end.

All: Save us, Lord Jesus

Reader: Lord Jesus, you endured the wounds of crucifixion as a testimony to your commitment to the power of love. May we endure in our loving commitments and fill the world with peace.

All: Save us, Lord Jesus

Closing

Close with the blessing that the priest does during the preparation of the Easter candle at the Easter Vigil liturgy. You can find this ritual in the Sacramentary under Part One of the Easter Vigil section. You may want to do the motions of the priest on one of the poster board Easter candles as you recited the prayer of the Preparation of the Candle.