

Teach

OBJECTIVE

celebrate Easter.

INTRODUCE

children: What do you see when you hear the word Easter?

children look at the pictures on page 169 of their books. Ask them to list some of the things in the pictures. What do you see at Easter?

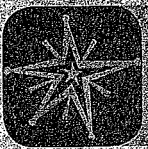
EXPLORE

Read the text at the top of the page aloud to the children.

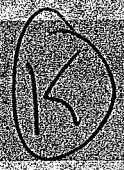
Ask the children to identify the items in the pictures that help us to understand Easter and to understand that Easter is an important day for the people of Jesus.

Tell the children that since Jesus, the Son of God, loved us so much, he came to earth to live with us. Ask them to list the wonderful things they see. Tell the children that Jesus was raised to new life after he died.

Tell the children that the pictures shown on this page remind us of new life. Make a connection by talking about the pictures with the children. (This is a difficult concept for children. Talking about it will prepare for the catechesis of the children and the meaning of the Paschal Lamb.)

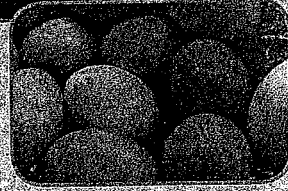


Easter

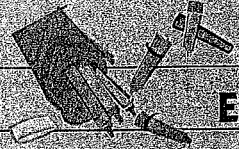


At Easter we see signs of new life. We remember that Jesus is alive. At Easter the Church sings, "for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free."

Roman Missal



169



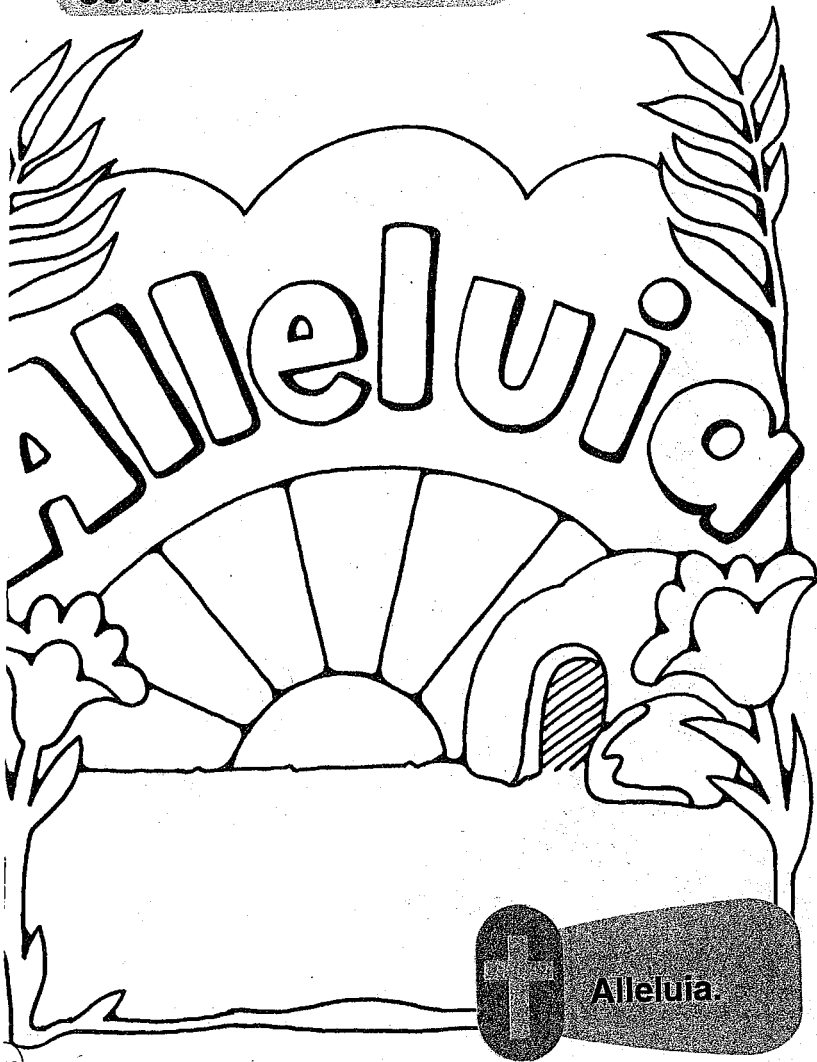
Bright Ideas

Easter Eggs

From ancient times the egg has been a religious symbol of the gift of life, a symbol of joy and happiness associated with the renewal of life in nature. Eggs were colored to represent the sunlight and bright colors of spring. The origins of Christians coloring eggs as part of the celebration is unknown. There are many ethnic customs and traditions associated with Easter eggs. For example, Greek Christian children customarily tap red-colored eggs together. One child says, "Christ is risen." The other replies, "Truly, he is risen." Distribute egg shapes made of various materials and a variety of brightly colored markers and paints. Have the children color the egg shapes to make Easter eggs. Display the finished Easter eggs in the classroom throughout the fifty days of the Easter season.

Our Easter prayer is Alleluia.
We tell God that he is wonderful.

Color the Alleluia picture.



Apply

INTEGRATE

- Read aloud the text at the top of page 170 of the child's book.
- Ask: Who has heard the word *Alleluia* said or sung in church?
- Explain that the word *Alleluia* means "Praise God." Emphasize that it is a very special word that our church family uses to thank God for his love for us. Tell the children that *Alleluia* is a very happy word.
- Invite the children to trace the letters of the word *Alleluia* on page 170 with their fingers. Then have them color the picture.

CELEBRATION

- Have the children complete the activity in the "Signs of Easter and New Life" box at the bottom of this guide page.
- Play a recording of a lively version of the singing of Alleluia and have the children process around the room, holding the signs of new life that they made.
- Lead the children in praising God, using this or a similar prayer:

LEADER: Thank you, God, for the beautiful colors and sounds of spring.

CHILDREN: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

LEADER: Thank you, God, for sending us Jesus.

CHILDREN: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

LEADER: Thank you, God, for the gift of our Baptism.

CHILDREN: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

LEADER: God our Father, Easter is a time of happiness and joy. May Jesus help us live as your children.

ALL: Amen.

Signs of Easter and New Life

There are many signs of new life in nature that the children are familiar with, such as tulips, daffodils, lilies, eggs, butterflies, baby chicks, and the bright sun. Provide construction paper and have the children draw or paste on the construction paper signs of spring and new life that they have cut out from a magazine. Have the children use brightly colored crepe paper to decorate their signs of new life. Mount these pictures on craft sticks. Invite the children to stand and raise their pictures during the prayer celebration as everyone together says, "Alleluia."