

**THINK** and **LOOK** ahead

• STEP BY STEP •

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B

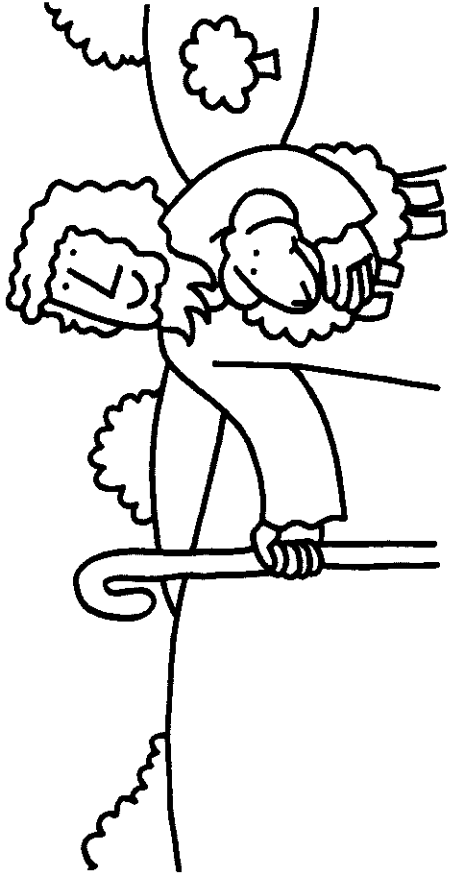
# Jesus appears again!

LUKE 24:35-48

*What is Jesus often called?*



THE GOOD  
Shepherd



Jesus ate some fish so that the  
disciples would believe that they  
had not seen a ghost!

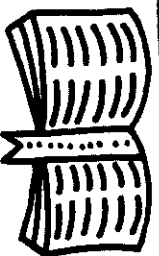
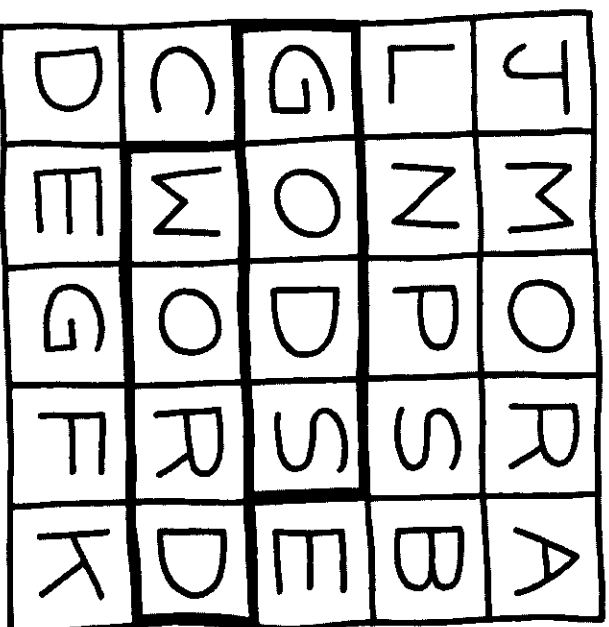
How many fish can you find hidden in this picture?  
Circle the number



Jesus helped them to understand God's word.

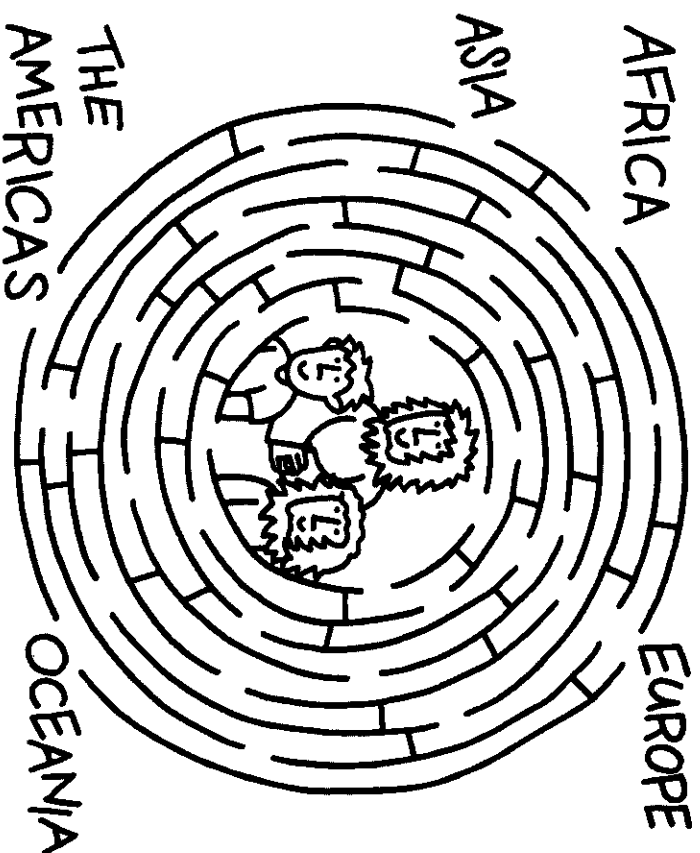
Find these words in the puzzle

**GOD'S WORD**



Jesus sent them out to share God's message with the world!

Can you help these disciples to find their way to different parts of the world?



**THINK** and **LOOK** ahead

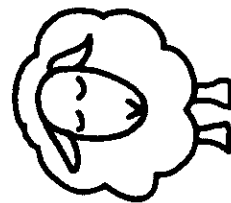
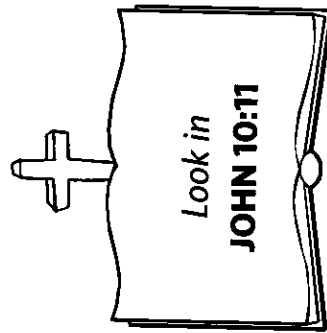
FOOTPRINTS IN FAITH

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B

# Christ's witnesses

LUKE 24:35-48

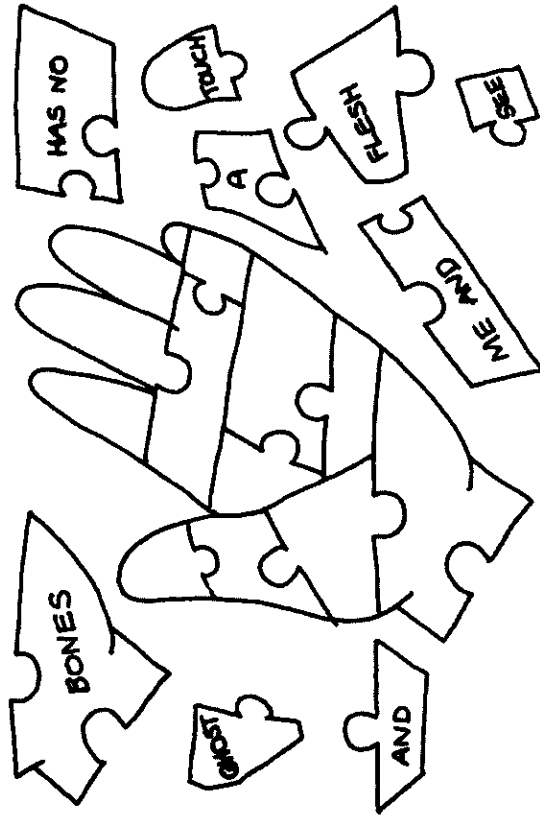
How does Jesus describe himself  
in next week's gospel?



The disciples thought that they had seen a ghost!

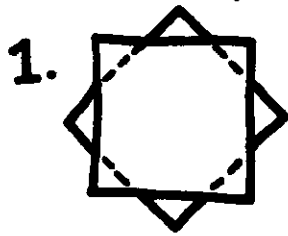
*What did Jesus say to them?*

Fit the pieces in the puzzle to find  
what Jesus said in Luke 24:39





Tissue paper

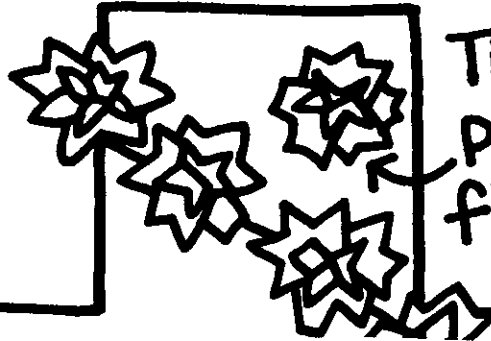


Twist in middle and attach with sticky tape.



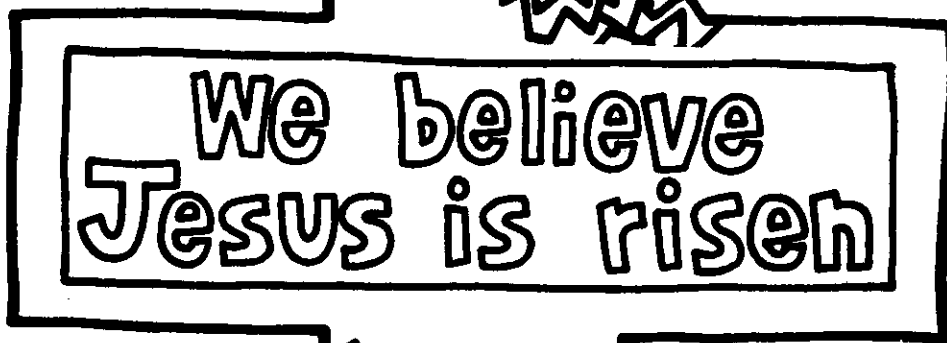
Thread flowers onto string—

garland

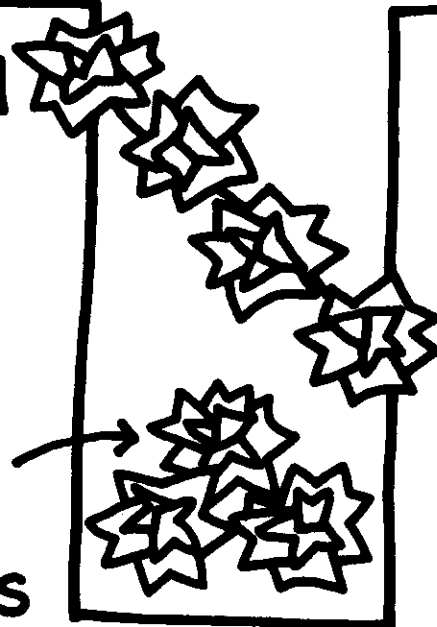


Tissue paper flower

4.



garland



Tissue paper flowers

## Third Sunday of Easter

### Christ's witnesses

#### INTRODUCTION

Jesus told his apostles to go out and tell the world that he had died and risen to new life.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Read these words:

The time is coming  
when there will be no night,  
and no one will need lamps  
or the light from the sun,  
because the Lord God will be  
our light for evermore. (Revelation 22:5)

#### SORRY

In a moment of silence, let us ask for God's forgiveness for all the times when we have offended others by our words or actions. Sing together Sorry Song 2.

#### GLORIA

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1.

#### GOSPEL (LUKE 24:35-48)

The disciples who had met Jesus on the road to Emmaus were telling the others what had happened, when suddenly Jesus appeared among them. At first they were terrified, because they thought that they had seen a ghost!

Then Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you," and seeing that they were still scared, he added, "Do not be afraid. Why do you doubt what you can see? Please, look at my wounds and see that I am not a ghost. Touch me, a ghost has no flesh or bones as I have!" They were overjoyed but still filled with disbelief. Then Jesus asked them for something to eat, and they watched as he ate some grilled fish.

Then he began to explain the scriptures to them, so that finally, they understood what scripture had said about the Messiah suffering and rising after three days. Jesus said to them, "You are

my witnesses because you have seen all these things happen."

#### DISCUSSION

How would you feel if you saw a ghost? How did Jesus calm and reassure his terrified disciples? He appeared saying the words, "Peace be with you," and told them not to be afraid. Then he showed them his wounds to convince them that he really had risen from the dead.

Even after showing the disciples his wounds, did they really believe what they were seeing? Although they were overjoyed to see Jesus again, they were totally dumfounded to find that he was really alive. So Jesus ate a piece of fish to convince them that he was real and not a ghost.

What did Jesus mean when he told the disciples that they were his witnesses? The disciples had seen and heard for themselves all the marvelous things that Jesus had done. He would send them out to give evidence, or proof, of this by the way they lived, the miracles they would perform in his name, and the things they would teach.

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." We may not have seen all these things with our own eyes but we believe. Each of us can be a witness for Christ by living God's way, as Jesus showed us. When we become members of the Christian family, we are called to follow Christ and be a witness for him every day of our lives.

#### ACTIVITY

On a large sheet of paper, draw a representative map of the world (it does not need to be accurate), or if available, use a large map of the world. Copy the various modes of transportation that the apostles might have used. After coloring, help the children to add them to the map, with large red arrows pointing in various directions. Add the caption, "Witnesses to the world."

#### CREED

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, send us your spirit  
to give us the strength  
to live as you taught us.  
Help us to bear witness to you  
by our actions and our words.



# Third Sunday of Easter

## Focus

A Bible open at today's Gospel, with a crucifix and candle arranged next to it.

## Introduction

The disciples had witnessed many of the marvellous miracles that Jesus had performed, and they believed that he was indeed the Messiah or Saviour promised by God. Yet it seemed incredible even to them that Jesus could have come back to life from the dead. What would it take to convince them that Jesus had indeed risen from the tomb and was very much alive? In today's Gospel we'll find out!

## Gloria

## Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and sing Acclamation 3.

## Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St Luke (24:35-48)  
(See page 380.)

## Reflection

*Why were the disciples afraid when Jesus first appeared among them?*

They thought that they had seen a ghost because Jesus had appeared so suddenly and without any warning. They were still in a state of shock and disbelief as they listened to the accounts of the disciples who had met Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

*Why should they think that Jesus was a ghost?*

The followers of Jesus had seen him being crucified and put to death. Surely the only explanation for the person standing in front of them was that he was a ghost. After all, how could someone come back to life?

*Jesus tried to reassure them by offering his peace. How can we exchange a sign of peace with one another?*

There are many different symbolic gestures that serve to share Christ's peace. These include a simple handshake, a warm smile, a few kind words of welcome, or a gentle kiss. These signs can vary from country to country and region to region, depending on what is acceptable according to local or cultural tradition.

*When Jesus saw their hearts were filled with doubt (just like Thomas last week), how did he convince them to believe that he was alive?*

He offered to let them touch him and his wounds, and then he ate a piece of grilled fish in front of them as a gesture of his reality.

*Why did Jesus spend time explaining the Scriptures and all that had happened to his disciples?*

He wanted them to understand his heavenly Father's plan of salvation for his people. Everything had come to pass according to God's will, so that his beloved Son could destroy sin by dying on the cross, and raise us to

new and everlasting life by his glorious resurrection. Jesus commanded his disciples to go out to the world and share this Good News with all people. In order to do this, they needed to understand and believe in everything they had witnessed, so that others might believe and choose to follow Christ.

## Activity

The fish was an early Christian symbol. This wasn't because many of the first disciples were fishermen, but because the Greek word for fish is made up of the first letter of each word of the Greek phrase, 'Jesus Christ, God's Son, Saviour'.

Photocopy the fish symbols and help the children to create witness badges by decorating them before taping them to a safety pin. Alternatively, glue them on to a clothes peg to use for everyday purposes at home.

## Intercessions

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray to our heavenly Father:

We pray for the Church and all her people;  
may we share Christ's Gospel by our living example.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for peacemakers in our world;  
may they work to heal injustice and reconcile differences.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are filled with doubt  
and uncertainty;  
may they find faith in the risen Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died;  
may they rise to everlasting peace and joy with Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening,  
in the silence of our hearts  
let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

*Silence*

Loving Father,  
you sent your beloved Son  
to transform our world with love.  
May we bear witness to that love in our everyday lives.  
We make our prayers through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**