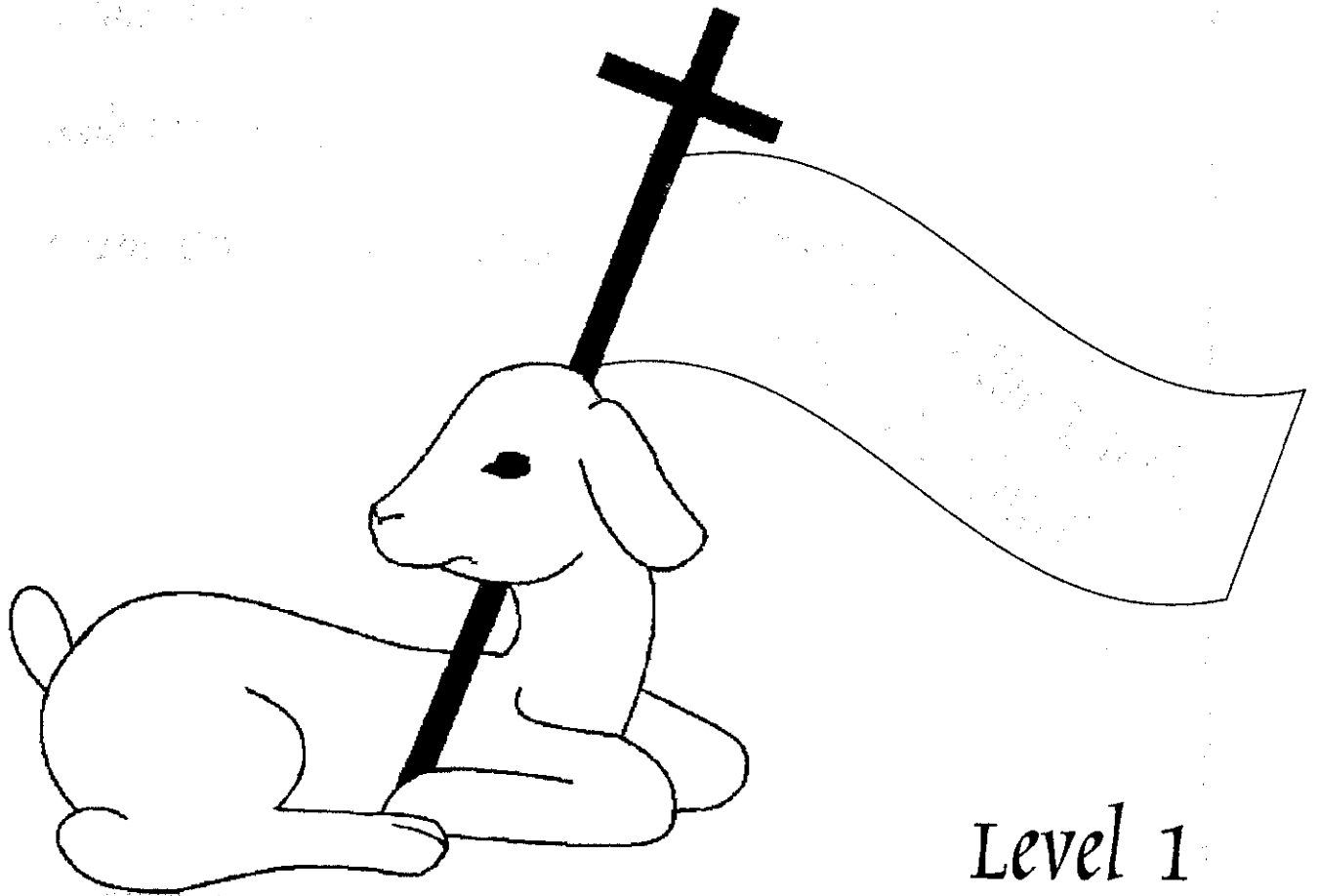


Colors of the Church Year



Level 1

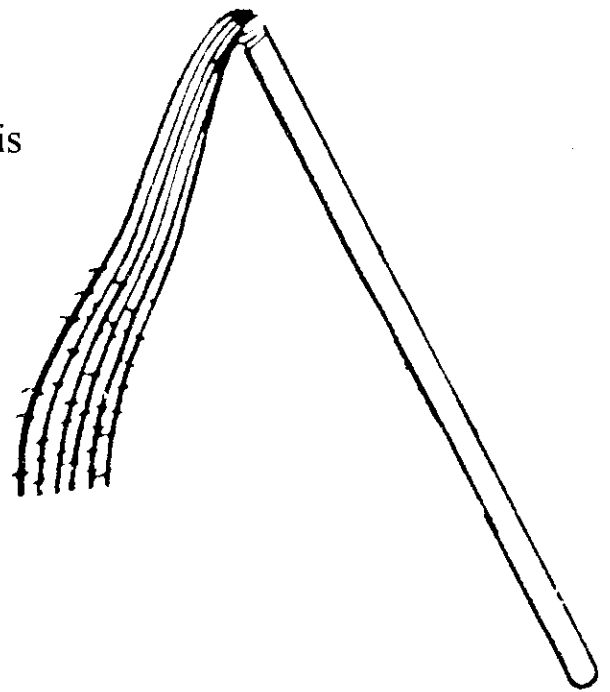
1. THE SOLDIERS MOCK JESUS

Level 1, II

PURPLE: The Color for Suffering and Sorrow

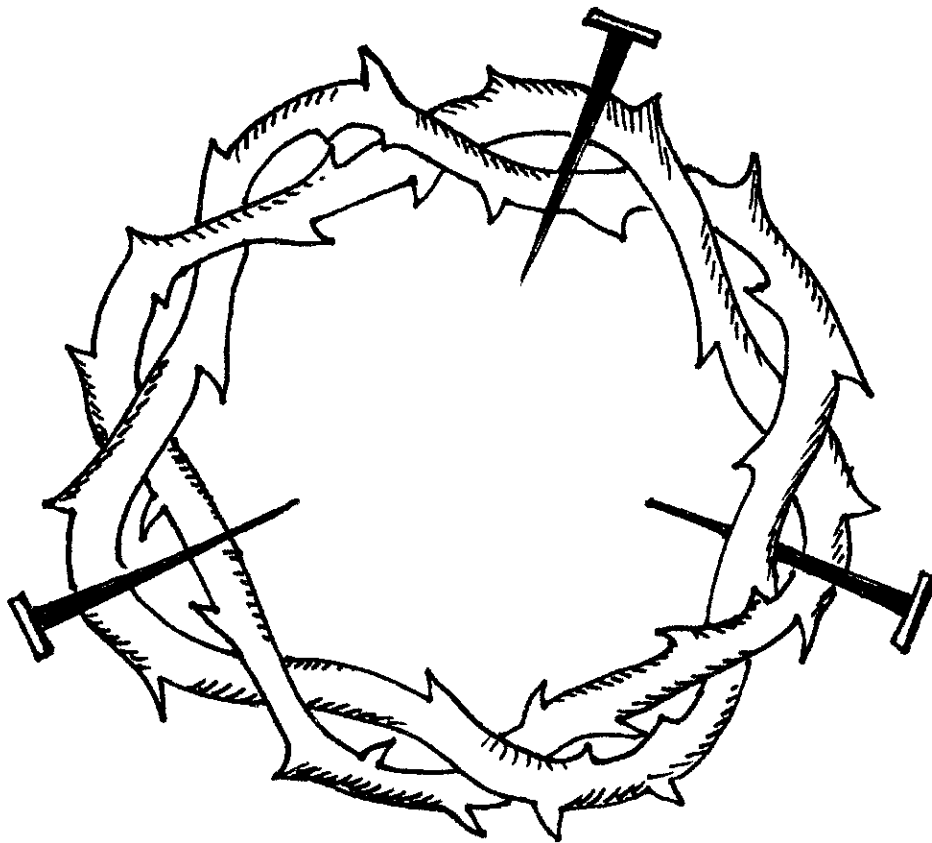
Our first lesson takes place on Good Friday. Thursday night Jesus had been arrested while He was in the Garden of Gethsemane with His disciples. First, He was led to the High Priest's palace and the Jews who hated Him said He must die.

Then Jesus was taken with ropes around His hands to the Roman governor whose name was Pontius Pilate. Only the Roman government had the right to put a prisoner to death. Pontius Pilate thought Jesus was not guilty and wanted to let Him go, but the Jews kept shouting, "Crucify Him, Crucify Him!" So Pilate said Jesus should be hung on a cross to die.



Before Pilate gave Jesus to the Jews, he ordered Jesus to be flogged with a whip. The whip was made of leather strips with sharp pieces of metal or bone attached to the ends. The sharp pieces tore into His back and made Him bleed. After doing this to Jesus, Pilate said the Jews could take Him and kill Him on the cross.

But the soldiers were mean. They wanted to make Jesus suffer even more. They led Jesus away into the palace and called more soldiers to watch what they were going to do to Jesus. They put a purple robe on Him. Then they wove a crown of sharp thorns out of the branches of a bush and pushed it on His head. To make fun of Jesus they called out to Him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Again and again they hit Him on the head with a staff or rod and they spit on Him. Remember Jesus had the crown of thorns on His head, so when they hit His head, it drove the thorns deeper into His scalp. Then the soldiers fell on their knees and bowed before Jesus, only they were making fun of Him and not really worshipping Him.



When they were all done making fun of Jesus, they took off the purple robe and put on His own clothes and led Him away to be crucified.

Purple is the color for Lent. Purple reminds us of the kingly robe Jesus was dressed in. It also reminds us of the suffering and pain that Jesus had to endure. Jesus suffered because of our sins. Therefore, purple also reminds us of the godly sorrow we should have over our many sins.

I. **Purple** - the color for suffering and sorrow



2. JESUS' CRUCIFIXION

Level I, II

BLACK: The Color for Sin and its Curse

In our last lesson we found out that Jesus was sentenced by Pilate to be hung on a wooden cross until He died. The crucifixion took place outside the walls of the city on a hill called Calvary.

It was also known as Golgotha, which means "The Place of the Skull." On the way to the hill the soldiers made Jesus carry the heavy wooden cross until He fell down under its heavy weight.

It was 9 o'clock in the morning when the soldiers nailed Jesus' hands and feet to the cross and set Him up on the hill to die. Jesus was placed in the middle of two criminals who were also being crucified, only they deserved to die. Jesus was holy and innocent and was dying to pay for our sins, not His own.

At 12 o'clock noon something very strange happened. The sun stopped shining in the sky and black darkness came over the whole world and lasted until 3 o'clock that afternoon. Then Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" God the Father was punishing Jesus for all the sins that we and all the people in the world have done. Jesus had to suffer hell so that we wouldn't have to. It hurt Him to be on the cross and have nails in His hands and feet, but it hurt even more to have His Father leave Him for those three hours of darkness.

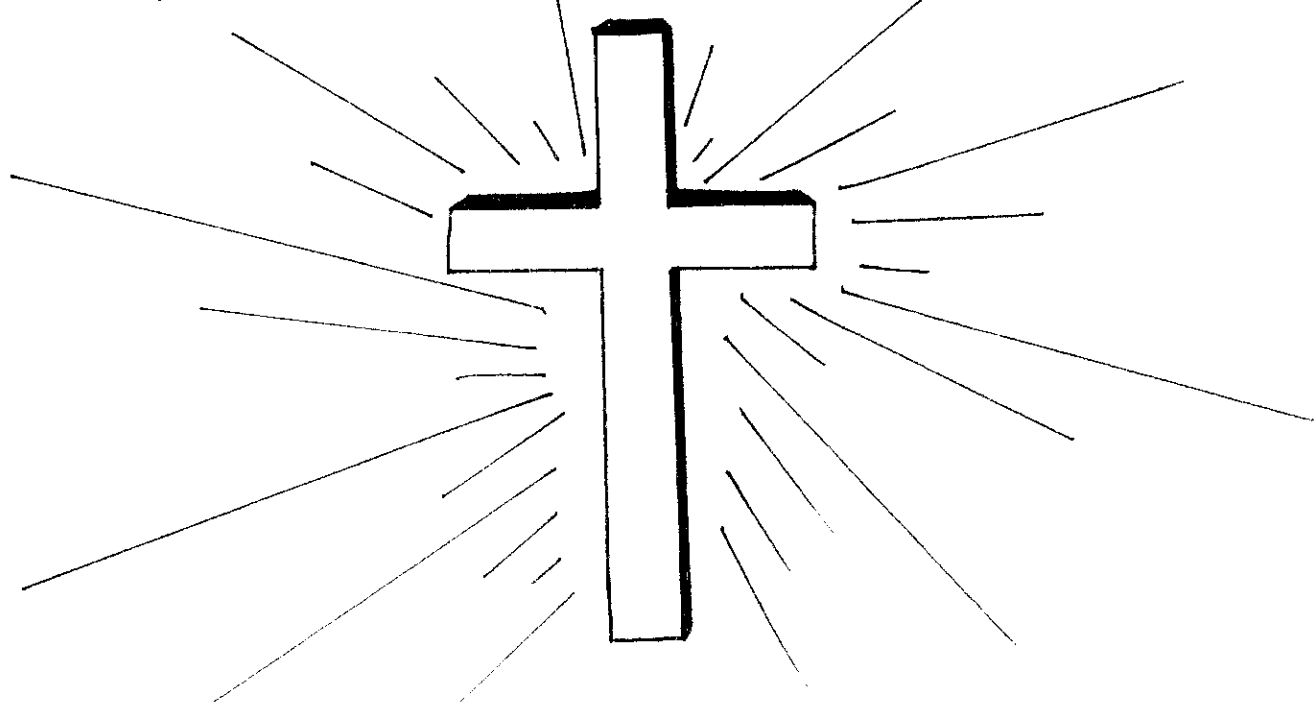
After Jesus had suffered for so long He called out, "I am thirsty." The soldiers soaked a sponge with some wine vinegar and put it on a long stick and lifted it up to Jesus' lips. When He had sucked some of the wine vinegar Jesus said, "It is finished." This meant that He had done everything that needed to be done to save us from our sins. He then called out in a loud

voice, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Then He bowed His head and died.

At that moment the curtain hanging in the temple between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies ripped into two pieces, from the top to the bottom. It was a very thick and heavy curtain. Another strange thing happened when Jesus died. The earth shook and rocks split apart — there was an earthquake! Not only that, but the graves of many believers broke open and they were alive again. After Jesus rose on Easter, these people went into Jerusalem and showed themselves alive to many people!

The captain in charge of the soldiers and the soldiers watching Jesus' on the cross became terrified at the sight of the earthquake and the other things that happened at Jesus' crucifixion. The captain exclaimed, "Surely He was the Son of God." When all the people who had gathered to see Jesus die, saw those things, they beat on their chests and went to their homes.

The day that Jesus died on the cross is called Good Friday. But sometimes it is also called Black Friday. This was because of the total darkness God sent for those hours when Jesus suffered for the world's sins. Jesus paid the full price, which was enduring the torments of hell, so that we wouldn't have to. There will never be another Black Friday, for Jesus finished all the work of paying for all sins in our place. We can look forward to the LIGHT of Heaven, since He took care of the black of sin and hell.



II. **Black** - the color for sin and its curse



3. THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

Level I, II

WHITE: The Color for Purity and Life

Very early on Sunday morning, two women named Mary came to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. Remember He died on Friday! Then he was laid to rest in a cave-like grave. In front of it a big stone had been placed. There had been no time on Friday to give Jesus a proper burial, so the women got up at dawn on Easter Sunday to do it.

There was a great earthquake that morning because an angel of the Lord came down from heaven to roll back the stone from Jesus' tomb. After rolling the stone away the angel sat on it. Did the angel let Jesus out of the grave? No, he rolled it away to let everyone see that Jesus had already risen and was no longer in the grave!



He is risen

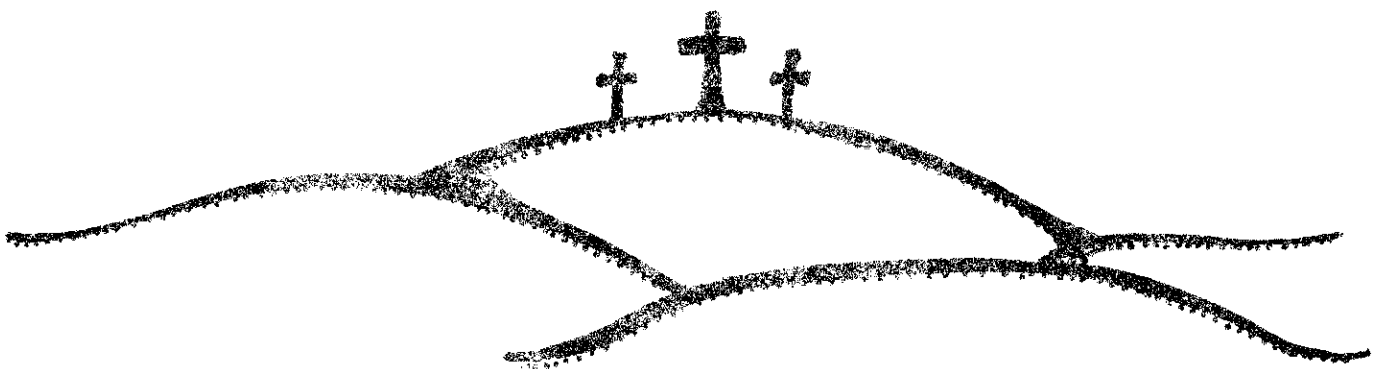


The angel's appearance was like lightning, which means he was full of bright glory and was holy. His clothes were white as snow. The guards who were watching the grave (so that no one would steal the body of Jesus and say that He had risen) were so afraid of the angel that they shook and fainted. ("became like dead men.")

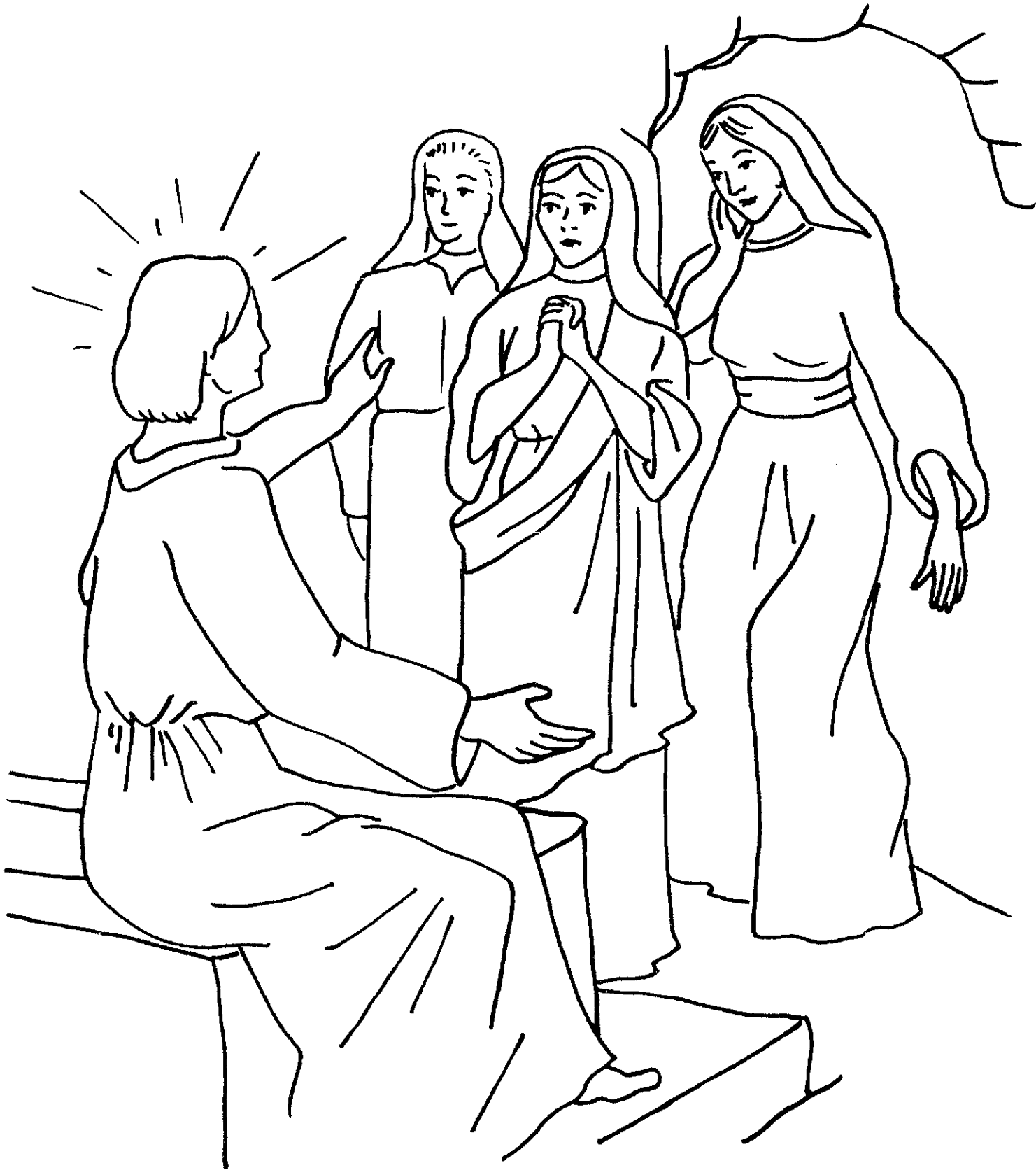
When the women came to the tomb and saw the angel they were frightened also. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him.’”

So the women hurried away from the tomb to do what the angel had told them to do. They were still afraid, but they were also filled with joy and happiness to know that Jesus was alive! They even ran to tell His disciples the great news. But on their way to tell the disciples, suddenly Jesus Himself met them. “Greetings,” He said. They came to Him, clasped His feet, and worshipped Him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see Me.

“We use the color white at Easter because it stands for holiness, which means pure, without sin. It also stands for life. It also reminds us of all things joyful and light. The angel in our lesson was wearing white clothes and his face shone like lightning. We use lilies on our altars at Easter because they are white and remind us of the perfect Son of God who rose with a glorified body and could pass through stone. When all our sins are forgiven we appear white before God, because Jesus has washed away all the black wrongs we do every day!



III. **White** - the color for purity and life

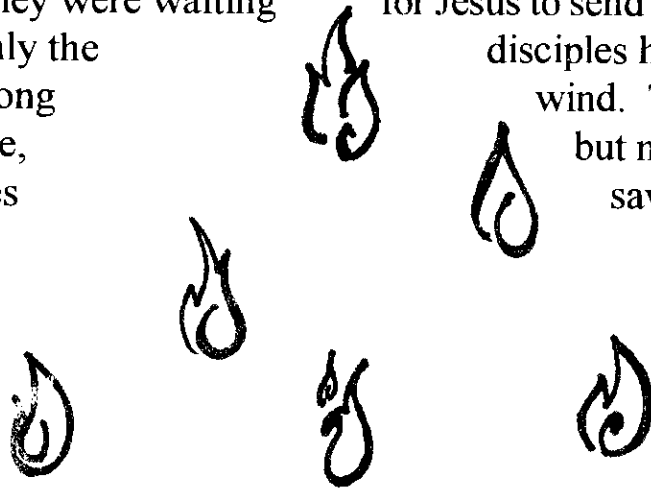


4. PENTECOST

Level I, II

RED: The Color for Fire and Zeal

Ten days after Jesus had gone up into heaven, His disciples were together in Jerusalem. They were waiting for Jesus to send God the Holy Spirit to them. Suddenly the disciples heard the sound like that of a very strong wind. The sound could be heard everywhere, but no one could feel it. Next the disciples saw a little tongue that looked like fire above the head of each disciple. But these little flames did not burn the disciples. Then something even more amazing happened. When the disciples began to talk, they found that they could talk like the people from many faraway places. All these wonderful things happened because Jesus wanted His disciples to know that He had now sent God the Holy Spirit to them as He had promised.



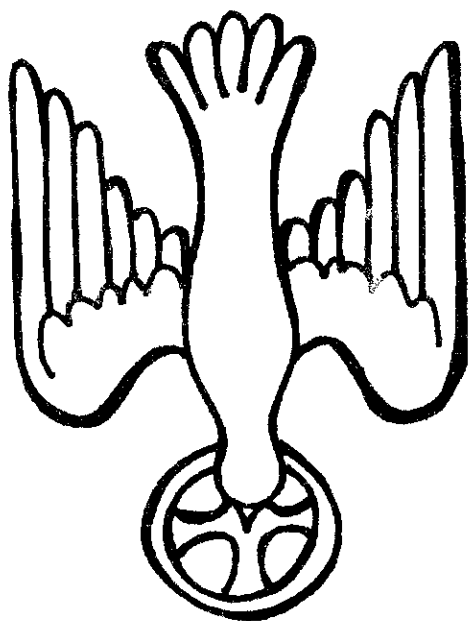
There were many people in Jerusalem at this time. Some of these people came from faraway countries. Not all of them could talk like the people of Jerusalem. When these people heard the sound of the strong wind, they came running to the place where the disciples were. How surprised they were to hear some of the disciples talk like the people from their own faraway homes! "How did these men from this place learn to talk like us?" asked these strangers. "What does this mean?" they asked.

Some of the people laughed at the disciples and made fun of them. "They have had too much wine," they said. Then Peter, one of the disciples, stood up and talked to the people. He said, "The disciples are not talking foolishly. They are teaching about Jesus. Jesus is the One Whom you crucified on the cross. He was dead, but God made Him alive again. Then He went to

heaven. Now Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to us. That is why we can talk like people who live in many faraway places."

That same day many, many people believed and were baptized--about 3,000 of them! God the Holy Spirit put faith into the hearts of all these people. Now they too believed that Jesus was their Savior, and they truly loved Him.

Red is the color for Pentecost because it pictures the red of the flames on the disciples heads, a picture of the Holy Spirit. Red is also a picture for zeal, for someone all "fired up" to do something. The Holy Spirit "fired up" the disciples to go out and to tell others about Jesus. May we be "on fire" for Jesus and tell others that He has died and risen again to be our Savior.



IV. **Red** - the color for fire and zeal



5. THE THRONE IN HEAVEN

Level I, II

GREEN: The Color for Growth in God's Grace

The last book of the New Testament Bible is called Revelation. In it are pictures or visions which Jesus Christ gave to John many years after Jesus had risen to His throne in heaven. Our dear Savior wanted to assure and comfort Christians of all times that Satan and the evil of this world cannot hurt us because Jesus has done everything necessary to bring us to heaven with Him. No matter what happens while we are alive on this earth, God is stronger and can help us through hard times.

One picture which the Lord gave to John showed an open door in heaven. The voice of Jesus, sounding like a trumpet, told John to come and He would show him the future. John was shown a throne in heaven on which sat God the Father. He had the appearance of jasper and carnelian (beautiful gem stones). Around God's throne was a beautiful green rainbow. Surrounding the throne were 24 other thrones on which sat 24 elders dressed in white with gold crowns on their heads. From God's throne came flashes of lightning and rumblings and claps of thunder. Seven blazing lamps were before His throne which God says are His seven spirits. John also saw before God's throne what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

In the center before the throne were four living creatures--one had the face like a lion, the second like an ox, the third like a man, and the fourth like an eagle. Each had 6 wings and was covered with eyes in front and behind. Day and night they never stopped saying: "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, Who was, and is, and is to come."

Whenever the living creatures gave glory, honor, and thanks to God, the 24 elders fell down worshipping God, laying down their crowns before the throne. They praised God with these beautiful words: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they were created and have their being."

John also saw thousands upon thousands of angels around the throne and around the living creatures and elders. In a loud voice they sang praises to Jesus the Lamb of God for dying for the sins of the world. They sang, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!" And the whole creation joined in the song of praise.

Green is the color for growing things, like grass and leaves. That's why green is the color for the season of Pentecost/Trinity. We are growing in our understanding of God's grace to us. Our faith and love for Jesus grows more and more as we hear the Good News of the sinless Lamb of God crucified for us.



THE CHURCH YEAR

<p>ADVENT Usually begins the end of November</p>	<p>The dominant thought of Advent is of the Lord's Coming -- 1. His Coming in Flesh 2. His Coming in Grace 3. His Coming in Glory</p>
<p>CHRISTMAS Dec. 25 to first week in January</p>	<p>Our thoughts are drawn to the Father's gift to mankind-His Son in human flesh. We celebrate the Nativity of the Lord Jesus Christ, the One conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary.</p>
<p>EPIPHANY Begins January 6th and follows to Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>Epiphany is the "manifestation" of Christ as the Son of God. The sinless life He lived and the miracles He performed give concrete evidence of His Divine Nature.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">70 60 50 Septuagesima Sexagesima Quinquagesima</p>
<p>LENT Begins Ash Wednesday and follows to Maundy Thursday</p>	<p>The Lenten Season is a time for self-examination in light of the perfect obedience our Savior exhibited as the cross loomed before Him. Our Lord's suffering and death suggest the question: "What made His Crucifixion and Death necessary?" Answer: our sins.</p>
<p>GOOD FRIDAY</p>	<p>The Death of our Savior on Calvary</p>
<p>EASTER From Easter Sunday to Pentecost</p>	<p>This is the Climax of the Church Year -- Easter Sunday. It's a time of Victory for those in Christ-He is risen from the dead. It's a time to rebuild our lives on the grace of Easter by faith which comes by the Holy Spirit thru the Word.</p>
<p>ASCENSION</p>	<p>Christ's Ascension to the throne and His crowning as the King of heaven and earth.</p>
<p>PENTECOST</p>	<p>A reminder of the powerful work of the 3rd person of Trinity-Holy Ghost.</p>
<p>TRINITY</p>	<p>This marks the end of the Church Year's first half. The festivals of the first half commemorate past historic events. This festival is much different in that it expresses a great doctrine--the Church's adoring worship of the Trinity--</p> <p style="text-align: center;">God the Father God the Son (1 God in 3 Persons) God the Holy Ghost</p>
<p>PENTECOST/TRINITY SEASON</p>	<p>The Holy Spirit instructs us in the way of life, the life in Christ, and the God-pleasing fruits of faith.</p>
<p>REFORMATION</p>	<p>Our thoughts are directed to the wonderful grace of God in preserving His truth among us--Luther, Defenders of the Faith.</p>
<p>THANKSGIVING</p>	<p>Our minds are drawn to the great blessings which our gracious Lord has bestowed upon us: physical as well as spiritual. For all those bountiful blessings we praise and thank our God.</p>

— MEMORY VERSES —

Level I and II

1. I Peter 3:18a "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust."
2. Romans 6:23a "For the wages of sin is death."
3. John 14:19b "Because I live, you will live also."
4. I Cor. 12:3b "No one can say that Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit."
5. Psalm 23:2 "He makes me to lie down in green pastures: He leads me beside the still waters."

Level III and IV

1. Isaiah 53:5 "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and by His stripes we are healed."
2. Isaiah 64:6a "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags."
3. Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool."
4. John 16:13a "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth."
5. Revelation 5:12 "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing."

— HYMNS FOR OPENING DEVOTIONS —

Monday—143:2&3 Tuesday—379:4 Wednesday—366:6 Thursday—225 Friday—246:2&3

— FOR MEMORY —

Hymn 344 — *Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs* — The Lutheran Hymnal

1. Come, let us join our cheerful songs
With angels round the throne.
Ten thousand thousand are their tongues,
But all their joys are one.
2. "Worthy the Lamb that died, they cry,
To be exalted thus."
"Worthy the Lamb," our lips reply,
For He was slain for us.
3. Jesus is worthy to receive
Honor and power divine;
And blessings more than we can give
Be, Lord, forever Thine.
4. Let all creation join in one
To bless the sacred name
Of Him that sits upon the throne
And to adore the Lamb. Amen.

— SUGGESTED PRAYER —

O, Lamb of God, Who was slain, but now is alive and on the right hand of God the Father, truly You are worthy to receive our honor and praise and thanks. As we look at the colors of the church year we are reminded of Your great work in saving us, The color purple reminds us of Your bitter sufferings which You endured quietly and patiently. Teach us to see the cause of this suffering - our sins, and to repent of them.

The color black reminds us of Your painful death, yet we rejoice that Your death has removed the curse of sin from us and has rescued us from the blackness of eternal death in hell.

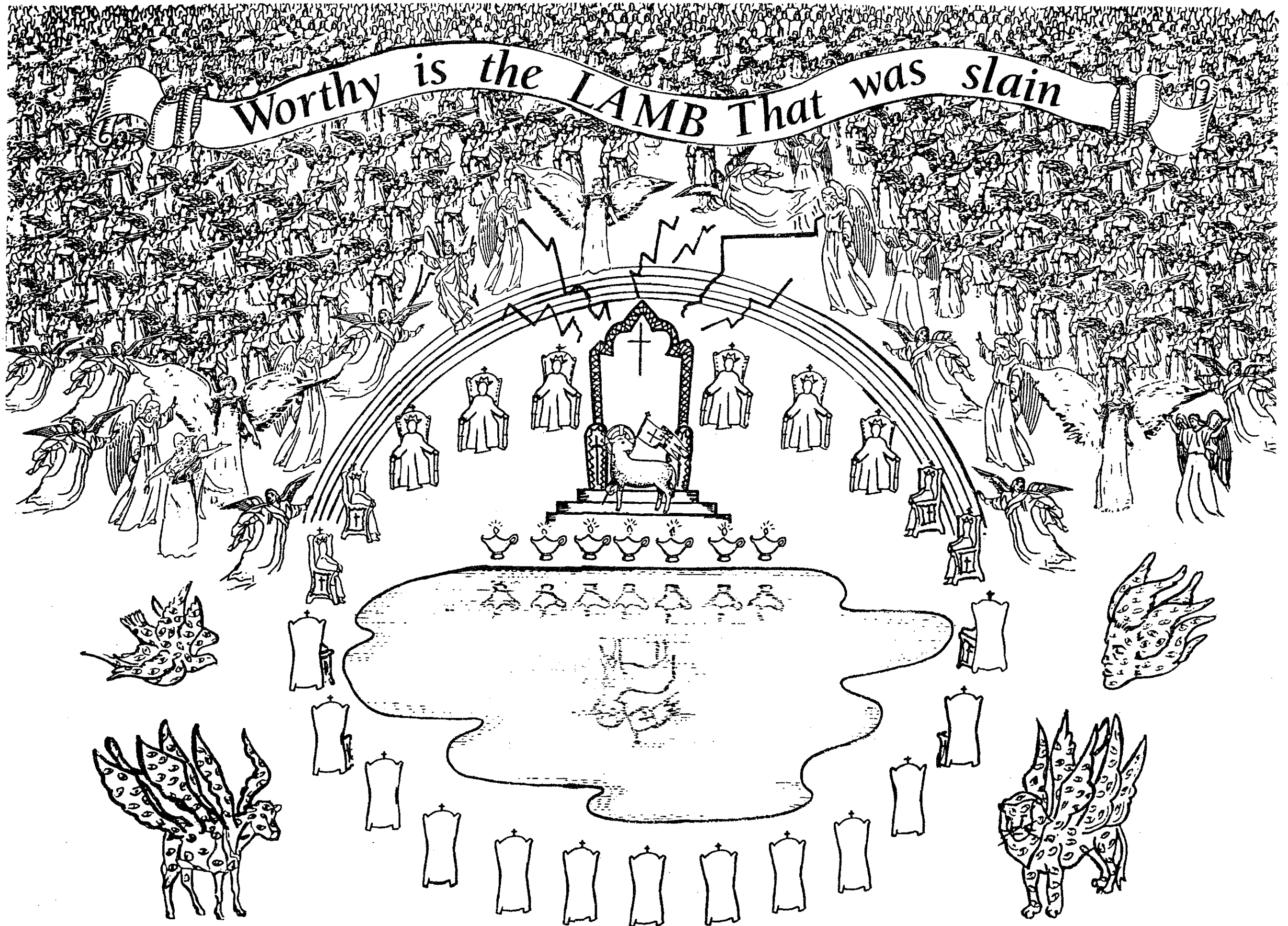
The color white reminds us of the life and holiness Your Resurrection has brought to us.

The color red reminds us of Pentecost and the precious gift of the Holy Ghost who brings us to faith, sanctifies us, and fills our heart with the love of God.

The color green reminds us that our life here on earth is rooted for growth in the Word of God. Grant that we may there remain until You come to take us to the eternal life of heaven.

O, precious Savior Jesus Christ, make the salvation purchased for us on the cross secure in our hearts and lead us to appreciate Your life, death, and resurrection that with all creation we may join in the praise of Your most glorious name, by which we also dare to pray...

Our Father, Who art in heaven...



Worthy is the LAMB That was slain

