

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

*The following readings may be used only when the celebration of the liturgy of the word for the children is held in a place apart from the main assembly.*

### FIRST READING

### A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Romans 8:31, 38-39

**B**rothers and sisters:  
What can we say about all this?  
If God is on our side, can anyone be against us?

*Nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ.*

I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love—  
not life or death, not angels or spirits,  
not the present or the future,  
and not powers above or powers below.  
Nothing in all creation can separate us  
from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!

**The word of the Lord.**

### Responsori

*Psalm 10*

**Verse before the Gospel** *R. Glory and praise to you,  
Lord Jesus Christ.*

*See Matthew 17:5*

*From the shining cloud  
the Father's voice is heard:  
This is my beloved Son, hear him.*

*R. Glory and praise to you,  
Lord Jesus Christ.*

**GOSPEL**    **✦ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark**

Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him  
and went up on a high mountain,  
where they could be alone.  
There in front of the disciples,  
Jesus was completely changed.  
And his clothes became much whiter  
than any bleach on earth could make them.  
Then Moses and Elijah were there talking with Jesus.

*This is my beloved Son.*

Peter said to Jesus, "Teacher, it is good for us to be here!  
Let us make three shelters,  
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."  
But Peter and the others were terribly frightened,  
and he did not know what he was talking about.

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The shadow of a cloud passed over and covered them.  
From the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, and I love him.  
Listen to what he says!"  
At once the disciples looked around,  
but they saw only Jesus.

As Jesus and his disciples were coming down the mountain,  
he told them not to say a word about what they had seen,  
until the Son of Man had been raised from death.  
So they kept it to themselves.  
But they wondered what he meant by the words  
"raised from death."

**The gospel of the Lord.**

February 28, 2021

Second Sunday of Lent

## Today's Readings

Romans 8:31, 38–39  
Psalm 103:1–2, 8 and 11  
Mark 9:2–10

Pay Attention to Jesus

## Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a violet cloth place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a crucifix

## Suggested Music

See page 64 for more information.

**Gathering:** "Saying Yes" (*Seeds* CD-2, Track #8) or "CHOICES" (*Promise & Good News* CD-1, Track #16)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Glory and Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ" (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #23)

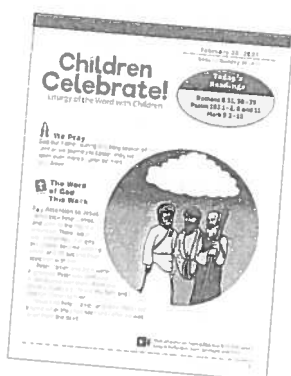
# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Preparation

### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies at the start of the session.



## Prepare with Prayer

The LORD is merciful! He is kind and patient, and his love never fails. (Psalm 103:8)

## Scripture Background

In today's First Reading, Saint Paul speaks of the love of God that is irrevocably ours through Christ Jesus. Then in today's Gospel, three disciples see a clear and visible sign of that love literally shining in the face and body of Christ.

Events on the mountaintop resemble those that occurred at Jesus' baptism, when he first began his public life. As before, the Father is heard in a voice from a cloud, but this time the Holy Spirit is present not in a dove but in the power that transfigures Jesus' body. It is the same power that later will raise Jesus from the dead.

Mark makes it a point to mention that the Transfiguration occurred soon after Jesus had upset all his disciples, especially Peter, with prophecies of his coming Death. The vision of Jesus transfigured is meant to foreshadow coming encounters with the resurrected Lord, although Peter, James, and John will understand this only in hindsight.

That is why Jesus asks them not to talk about what they have seen on the mountain until after they have seen him risen from the dead. Only then will they (and the entire Christian community) be able to assign the correct meaning to the day's wonderful events.

## Children's Connections

Today's Homily consists of reviewing the Gospel by using a reproduction of the masterpiece by Fra Angelico, the *Transfiguration*. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* notes that sacred art is meant for "evoking and glorifying, in faith and adoration, the transcendent mystery of God — the surpassing invisible beauty of truth and love visible in Christ, who 'reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature,' in whom 'the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily'" (No. 2502).

Certainly few Gospel stories convey more "transcendent mystery" than that of the Transfiguration. For this reason alone, engaging the children's imaginations rather than their reasoning powers might be the best way to present this Gospel. Albert Einstein was speaking of life in general when he said that imagination is more important than knowledge, but a good case can be made for its importance to the spiritual life in particular.

Check your public or parish library for a book containing a color reproduction of Fra Angelico's *Transfiguration*, or go to [artunframed.com](http://artunframed.com) and search for the painting. Don't feel limited to using only this painting and no other. Jesus' transfiguration long has been a favorite subject of icon painters in the Orthodox tradition. With just a little adaptation, it would be possible to use one of these great works as the basis for your homily.

## The Children's Leaflet

The children's leaflet for this week helps them recognize the light of Jesus in others through a summary of the Scripture story, prayer, and a creative activity.

If you haven't already done so, distribute copies of the leaflet. If time permits, read with the children the summary of this week's Gospel. Point out the artwork about Jesus and ask the children what Jesus is doing in the picture.

## More About ...

### *Transfiguration by Fra Angelico*

Fra Angelico was a Dominican friar who lived in fifteenth-century Italy. The *Transfiguration* was a fresco he painted on the wall of cell 6 in Florence's Convent of San Marco. Unlike the works commissioned by wealthy patrons, his convent frescoes were painted in subdued colors with little decorative detail.

The *Transfiguration* is meant simply to inspire meditation on the deeper spiritual meaning of the Gospel story it illustrates, which mentions Christ, Moses, Elijah, Peter, James, and John. Yet in the heavenly world, where past, present, and future are all one eternal now, the painter imagines two additional saints as part of the scene: Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and Saint Dominic, the great thirteenth-century founder of the Dominican order.

Christ brilliantly clothed in white and enshrined in an oval of pure white light is the painting's indisputable center. The effect is to invite viewers to fall on their knees before the Lord and make him their center, too.

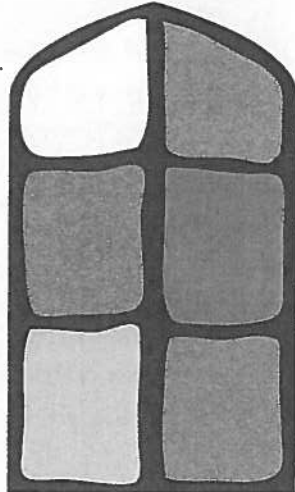
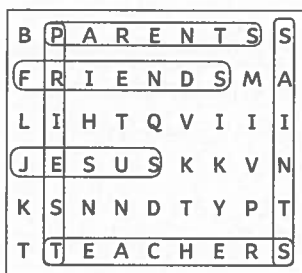
**Activity**

Families are asked to explore ways to help others in need. Children have a Word Search activity that helps complete a stained-glass window.

WORD BANK: Saints Parents Friends Teachers Priest Jesus

**CLUES**

1. He came to share God's love and save you.
2. This person teaches you about God.
3. They lived holy lives and are role models.
4. These people love and care for you.
5. This person hears your confession.
6. These people are your age.



**The Liturgy of the Word**

**Gathering**

As the children enter the worship area, sing or play the suggested recording or another appropriate selection.

**Opening Prayer**

While facing the children, hold the crucifix high.

**Leader:** Please look at the crucifix as we begin our prayer. Each time I end a thought with the words, "and so we say," please respond, "Thank you, Jesus."

**Leader:** During this holy season of Lent, we remember how you showed us God's love to the very end of your life, and so we say,

**Children:** Thank you, Jesus.

**Leader:** We celebrate that you are with us here today, and so we say,

**Children:** Thank you, Jesus.

**Leader:** We believe that we will see you in your glory, and so we say,

**Children:** Thank you, Jesus.

Return the crucifix to the table and ask the children to be seated. Light the candle and begin the First Reading.

**First Reading**

**Leader:** Have you ever heard the song "Me and My Shadow"? It talks about how our shadows accompany us wherever we go, but that's true only if the sun keeps shining. No sun, no shadow! So what is one thing that never, ever leaves us? You'll hear the answer to that question in today's First Reading.

Read *Romans 8:31, 38–39*. Then say, "The Word of the Lord."

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm**

The Psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning, sing or announce the response.

**Leader:** The Lord is kind and merciful.

**Children:** The Lord is kind and merciful.

**Leader:** Read *Psalm 103:1–2, 8 and 11*.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Gospel Acclamation, proceed to the Proclamation of the Gospel.

**Proclaim the Gospel**

**Leader:** We can honestly say that God's love for us *shines out* in Jesus, God's Son. Did you know that one time, while Jesus was praying, he really did begin to shine with a wonderful light? Peter, James, and John were there to see it. Here is their story.

The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your Spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** Read *Mark 9:2–10*. Then say, "The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

Tell the group that you'll review the Gospel story by using a copy of a famous painting. For about a minute, let them view Fra Angelico's *Transfiguration* in silence, then have a talk based on these ideas and questions.

- ▶ How does this painting make you feel?
- ▶ What is happening to Jesus in this picture?
- ▶ Where are Peter, James, and John? What are they doing? Why?
- ▶ Where are Moses and Elijah, the ones who suddenly appeared out of nowhere and started talking with Jesus?
- ▶ Do you know who Moses and Elijah were? (Great friends of God in ancient times, long before Peter, James, and John were born.)
- ▶ Notice two other people. They weren't actually present on the mountain that day, but they were Jesus' disciples, too, and later learned the whole story of Jesus' Transfiguration. Can you say that word, *Trans-fig-ur-a-tion*?

In conclusion, suggest that the children try drawing their own version of the Transfiguration when they return home. Add that they could include pictures of themselves and their families present on the mountain with Jesus.

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand as we profess our faith. When I end with the words, "and so we say," please respond, "I believe in the light and love of God." God almighty loved us enough to send us Jesus. And so we say,

**Children:** I believe in the light and love of God.

**Leader:** Jesus Christ loved us enough to give up his life for us. And so we say,

**Children:** I believe in the light and love of God.

**Leader:** After Jesus rose from the dead, he sent us the Holy Spirit to be with us forever. And so we say,

**Children:** I believe in the light and love of God.



## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** (Hold up the candle from the display.) Now let us pray that everyone we know will experience the light of God's love! To each petition, please respond, "Shine on them, O Lord." That the Holy Spirit will guide all those who lead our Church, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Shine on them, O Lord.

**Leader:** That the light of Christ will fill all the homes of our parish, let us pray to the Lord.

**Children:** Shine on them, O Lord.

**Leader:** Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:

Let us pray. God in Heaven, today we have seen that your love shines out in Jesus, your Son. May we not keep this love to ourselves, but pass it on to everyone we meet. So help us, God our Creator, through Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven't already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to watch this week's Gospel Reflection video and complete the Family Corner activities as a family.

February 28, 2021

Second Sunday of Lent

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Romans 8:31, 38–39  
Psalm 103:1–2, 8 and 11  
Mark 9:2–10



## We Pray

God our Father, during this holy season of Lent as we journey to Easter, may we listen even more to your beloved Son. Amen.



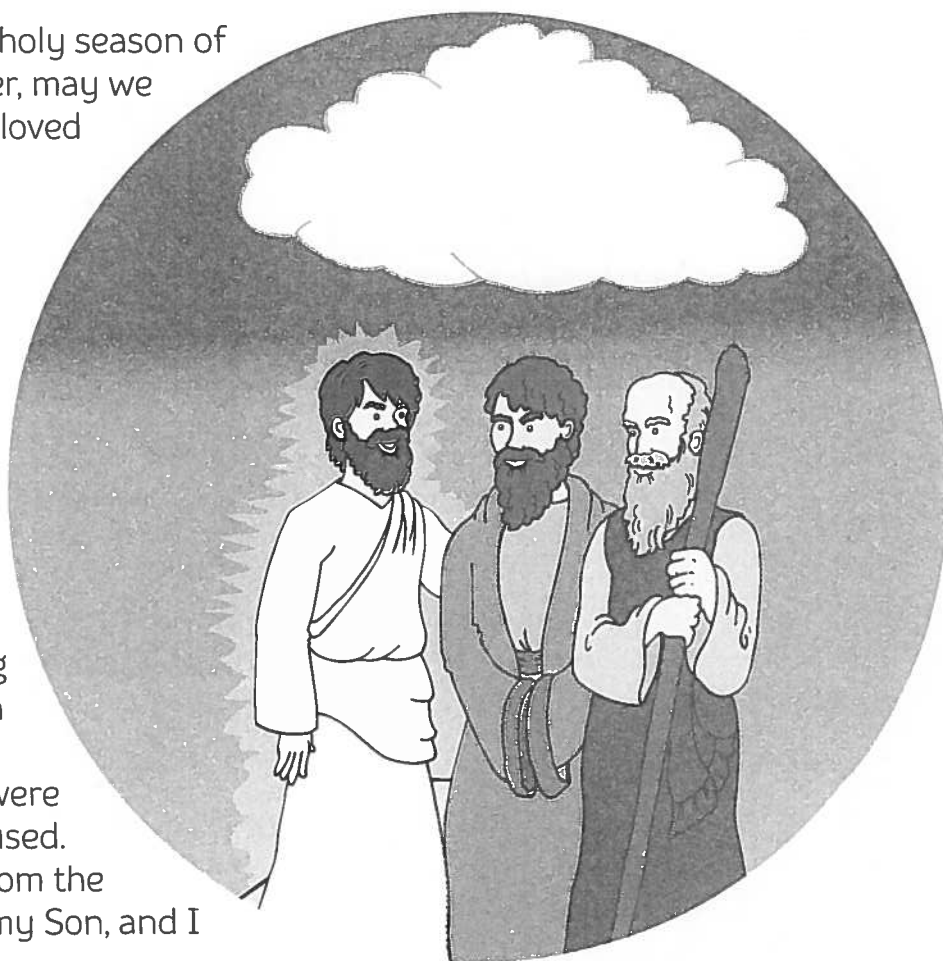
## The Word of God This Week

### Pay Attention to Jesus

Jesus took Peter, James, and John to the top of a mountain. There, Jesus was completely changed. His clothes became dazzling white, and Moses and Elijah appeared with him!

Peter, James, and John were frightened. Peter was confused. A cloud came over them. From the cloud, a voice said, "This is my Son, and I love him. Listen to him!"

Jesus told Peter, James, and John not to tell anyone what they had seen until after he was raised from the dead.



Visit [pflaum.com/spring2021YearB](http://pflaum.com/spring2021YearB) for this week's Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, and more.



Scan here  
for family  
resources.



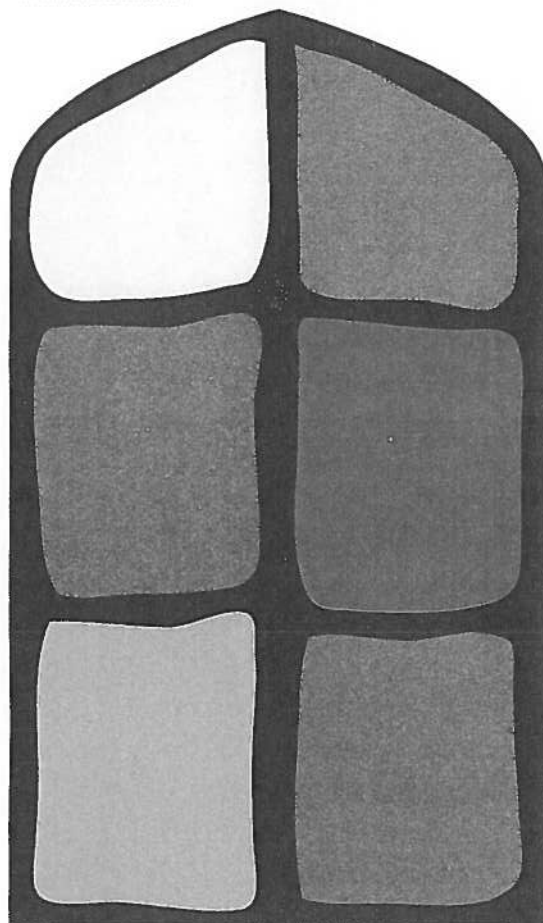
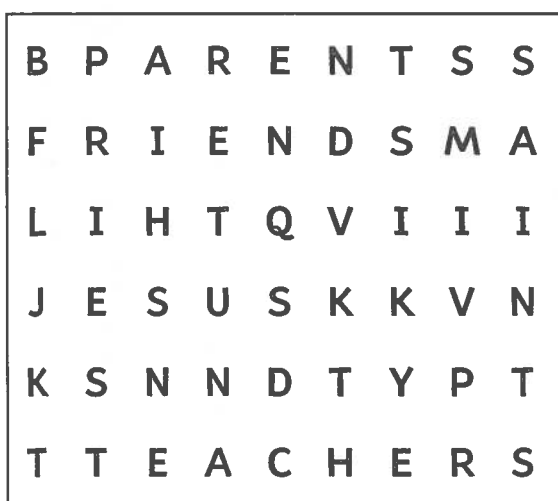
## Activity

Sometimes we need people in our lives to be the light of Jesus for us. Use these clues to name people who are lights of Jesus for you. Check the word bank for hints. Then find all the people you named in the word search. When you've found them all, write each in a space on the stained glass window.

WORD BANK: Saints Parents Friends Teachers Priest Jesus

## CLUES

1. He came to share God's love and save you.
2. This person teaches you about God.
3. They lived holy lives and are role models.
4. These people love and care for you.
5. This person hears your confession.
6. These people are your age.



## Family Corner

### Faith Focus

Jesus being transfigured was a shock to his disciples. It was totally unexpected. They didn't know what to think or do. Most of us can identify with that. When something unexpected occurs or change happens, it can be difficult. We often need someone to be "light to us" and provide help and support. Sometimes we may be called to be "light to others." We must provide the help and support they need.

### Family Activity

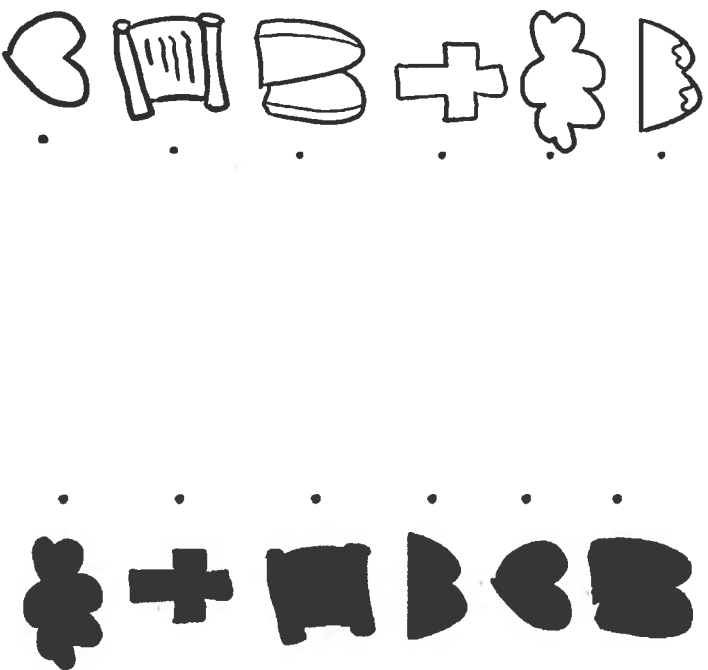
When a family has had a serious, unexpected event, they often hear, "How can I help?" Most overwhelmed people, however, don't even know what to ask for.

Decide what you think would help and just do it. Offer to care for the young children in the family. Prepare a meal for them. Clean their house. Pray with your family for them. And, if your family is on the receiving end, allow others to help you.

# GROWING WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE B

## PUZZLE

Find the matching shadow:

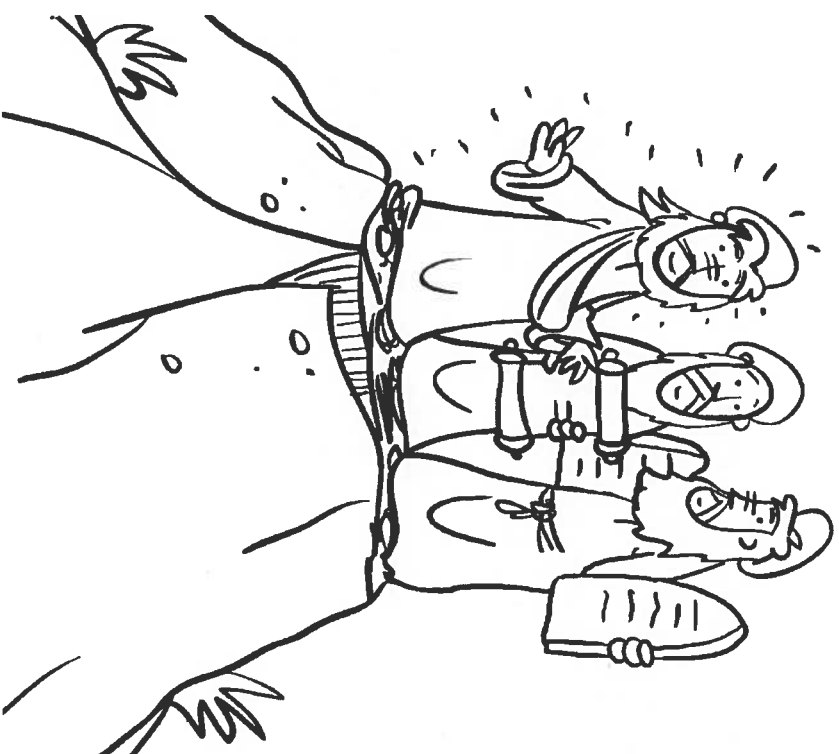


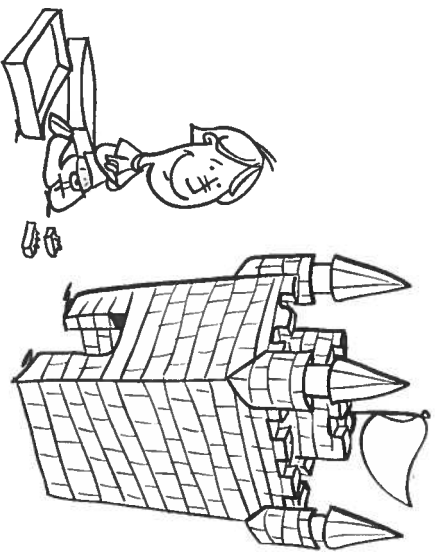
## MISSION

Make some lemonade with your family. Then add food coloring to completely change the way it looks. As you mix the ingredients together, talk about how Jesus was completely changed.

## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.





## GOSPEL

Start with a pile of blocks. Add your imagination and you can build a castle or a city. You can change that pile of blocks to look completely different and wonderful. In today's Gospel, Jesus was completely changed. He started out looking like an ordinary man. Then, right in front of Peter, James and John, something happened. Jesus glowed brightly like the sun. Even his clothes became bright white. Talk about changing into something different and wonderful! God let Peter, James and John see Jesus as he looks now in heaven.

## PRAYER

God, I can hardly wait to see Jesus glowing in heaven.



## DRAW

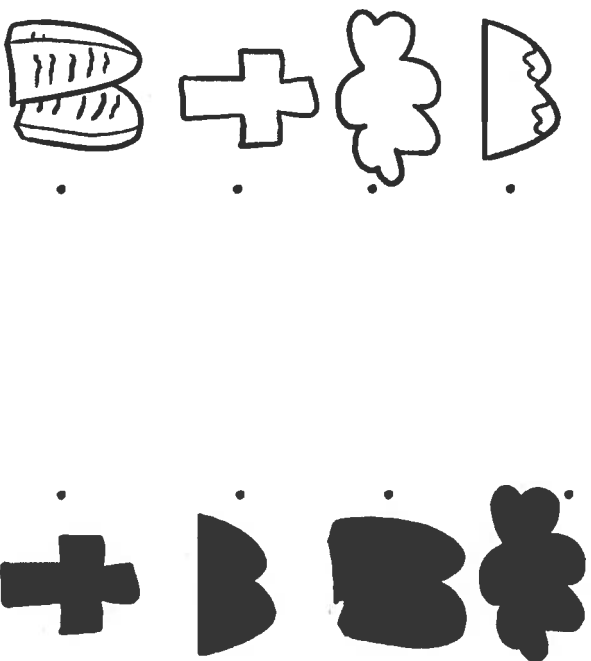
Draw a picture of yourself with Jesus, glowing in heaven.

# GROWING WITH THE *Gospel*

CYCLE B

## PUZZLE

Find the matching shadows:



## MISSION

I will tell my family and friends about God's love and forgiveness.

## COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.





## **GOSPEL**

Peter, James, and John saw Jesus with dazzling white light shining from all parts of his clothes. They saw Moses and Elijah talking with him. Jesus asked the apostles not to tell anyone yet. They wanted to tell very much. This secret was hard for them to keep. After Jesus was raised from the dead, they told everyone they knew. Jesus can make your soul dazzling white with forgiveness. It is not a secret. You can tell everyone.

## **PRAYER**

Jesus, help me tell others about you.

## **DRAW**

Draw Jesus, Moses, and Elijah in a tent of their own.