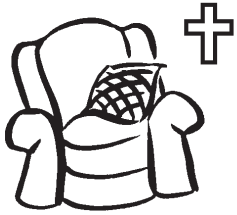


Send

A place of prayer

Jesus taught us to find a place to pray quietly. Color in the cross by each picture that shows a place where you can pray.



Have an older person in your family help you make a prayer corner in your home.



Dear Jesus, I'm glad I can pray in quiet and noisy places. You always hear my prayers. Amen



4. Pray

This week

Find time to talk to God every day.

Kids Celebrate

Ash Wednesday



gather

Welcome to worship. Today is Ash Wednesday, the first day of the church season called Lent. Lent lasts 40 days (not counting Sundays). What changes do you see in your worship space?

Can you find shoes for a journey at the top of this page? Draw your shoes inside this footprint.



Some people call Lent a journey or a trip. The end of the trip is Easter! Follow the footprints to find out what four things people do on their 40-day Lenten journey.



1. Listen to stories about Jesus

Hear & Celebrate

Jesus, our teacher

Matthew 6:1-6

Jesus was a teacher. He taught people how to follow God's word. One of Jesus' teachings was to give to people in need. What can you give? _____



Five things you can give are hidden in the picture on this page.

Circle a cereal box, a coin, a pair of shoes, a can of food, and a shirt.



2. Give

The cross

On Ash Wednesday people may receive a cross of ashes on their foreheads. The ashes remind us that we are sorry for the bad things we do. The cross reminds us of our baptism and of Jesus, who died for us.

Every day during Lent, make the sign of the cross to remind you that you are a baptized child of God.

God be in my head.
(Touch forehead)

God be in my heart.
(Touch chest)

God be on my left.
(Touch left shoulder)

God be on my right.
(Touch right shoulder)



3. Worship

A Poetic Prayer

An important part of the season of Lent is being prayerful. What special prayers do you hear during the Ash Wednesday service? How are they different from the ones during Sunday worship? While some prayers are like casual conversations, others are more formal, like poems. Try writing a poem prayer below by filling in the blanks. Bonus: can you make it rhyme?

Dear _____ ,
we come to you with open
_____,
As we begin this new church season, we
_____.
Help us to

and show us the
_____,
even in times when
_____.
Thank you, dear Jesus, for

in my life, What you did on this cross was
_____.
Come Lord Jesus, in this season of
_____,
Fill us with

during difficult
_____.



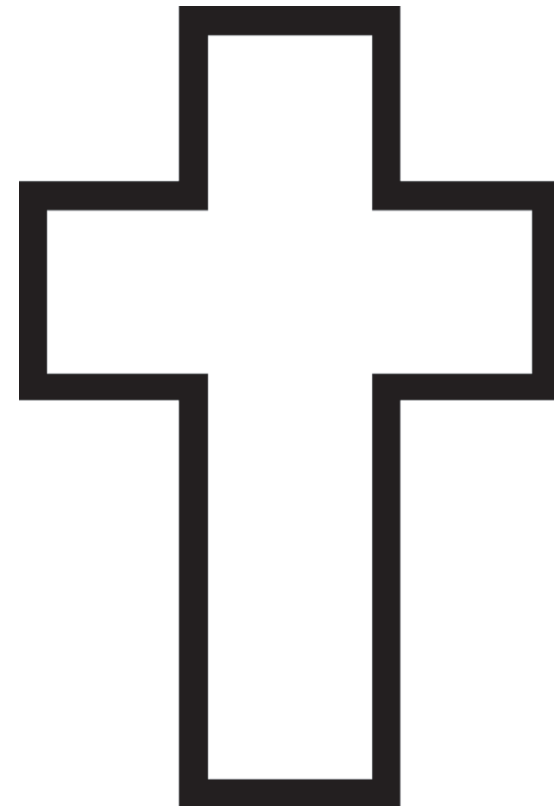
READER

Ash Wednesday

- Today is **Ash Wednesday**.
- On Ash Wednesday, a **cross of ashes** is marked on our forehead.
- The ashes remind us that we are sinners but also that **we are God's**.

Bring it to the Cross

Lent is an important time to think about who we are as followers of Jesus. This means thinking about all the good things we want to do in the name of Jesus. It also means recognizing that we mess up sometimes. Think about times you've done something wrong. Draw or write about them in the cross. The great news is that no matter what, we have a God who LOVES us and forgives us, and will do anything to show us that.



"For you are dust, and to dust you shall return."



On Ash Wednesday we hear these words:
You are dust, and to dust you will return.

What does that mean!? It means that as humans, we come from the earth, and one day, we will die and return to the earth. God lives forever, but we live for just a short time. Think about the things that you want to do with your life while you are here on earth. What are your goals? What are your dreams? Draw or write about them in these dust clouds.

What job do you want to have?

What skill do you want to learn?

How will you change the world?

What is important to you?

Praying in Private

As good as it is to share God's love with others, it is important not to show off your faith. In other words, when you pray or give to the needy, do it to honor God, not to brag in front of others. Try to figure out today's memory verse by solving this very private, secretive language!

Υ	♃	♈	♁	♆	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
☉	♃	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁	♁
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
□	△	π	♁	☾	☾				
U	V	W	X	Y	Z				
☉	♀	♁	♁	☾	☾	♁	☾	*	☾
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
☾	♁	○	♀	♁	♀				
;	:	.	-	"	!				

♁☾☾□♁ ♁Υ*♁☾♁☾ π♁☾
 ♁☾☾♁ π♁Υ* ♁♁☾☾☾ ♁☾☾☾
 ♁☾♁♁☾*☾ π♁♁☾☾ ☾☾πΥ☾☾
 ☾☾☾☾

♀♁Υ*♁♁☾π ♁♁♁



Look around the room. What do you see on people's foreheads? We receive the symbol of the cross on our forehead today, to remind us that we belong to God. We also get a cross on our foreheads during our baptism.

Draw a cross of water on the baby's forehead. Then make a cross of ashes on the woman's forehead below, reminding us that the cross of Christ never goes away.



PRE-READER

Ash Wednesday

- Today is **Ash Wednesday**.
- Ash Wednesday is the beginning of **Lent**.
- During Lent, we reflect on the lengths Jesus went to show how much **he loves us**.

Jesus went to great lengths to show his love. Practice drawing lengths by drawing a big cross, a medium cross, and a small cross. Then color them in!

**BIG
CROSS**

**MEDIUM
CROSS**

**SMALL
CROSS**



Jesus is glad when you take time to pray.

While it is good to tell others about Jesus, it is also important for us to practice our faith in private.

Draw a room around each image so the people are praying in private.

