

# In the Divine Liturgy We Remember

**Objective:** The students will be able to respond with three events of salvation when asked, "What do we remember in the Divine Liturgy?"

## **For the Catechist**

Special times and events mark our calendars. We want to show that these times above all others are important and meaningful in our lives; anniversaries, birthdays, celebrations, and holidays are some examples. Through remembering the high points and celebrating them, we see how the events have affected our lives.

Children know that they are part of a family. Within the Church their family belongs to a larger group, the people of God, who come to pray together to God and to care for each other. There are special events the people of God celebrate. Often termed the events of salvation history, these events are not only historical; they are also outside of history and find their context in eternity. They have eternal meaning for us.

The Christian faith understands "remembering" in the same way as the Jewish faith. Remembering means to re-live or re-present (to make present again). When we celebrate the feast days, we re-live them. We recognize their importance for our lives as if they were happening with us present. We step into eternity when we celebrate these events.

As the people of God, we remember all that Jesus did for us in the Divine Liturgy. In every Divine Liturgy we pray to God the Father for all the good He has done for us. We recall everything God has done from creation to the fullness of life in God in His future kingdom. The greatest of God's works was the gift of His Son for the life of the world. Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, ascension and second coming are all remembered.

In the prayer following the words of institution ("Take, eat. . ."), the priest says,

"Remembering, therefore, this salutary

## **Lesson Plan Overview**

**Opening:** "We Praise You"

**Introduction:** Review of previous lessons. Tell stories about a person in your life, and include events in their life. **Need:** Photos of the person in your story. Visual aids of salvation events of Christ (provided).

**Read Text Aloud:** Have students read text aloud.

### **Activity Tracks:**

Choose a basic, group, or craft activity to reinforce the lesson (detailed on the pages that follow).

- *Basic:* We Praise You
- *Group:* "Jesus" Chalkboard Crossword
- *Craft :* As Church We Remember

**Closing:** "Let Our Mouths be Filled"

## **Come Bless the Lord Icon Packets:**

Packet I: Mystical Supper, Holy Shroud, Harrowing of Hades, Ascension

Packet II:

## **Teaching Pic:**

#DL 16 Anaphora

command, and all that was done in our behalf: the cross, the tomb, the Resurrection on the third day, the Ascension into heaven, the sitting at the right hand, the second and glorious coming again—We offer to You, Yours of Your own, in behalf of all and for all."

## ***Background Reading***

*(Direct quotations from the sources noted.)*

### **The Holy Spirit Guides Our Worship**

"It is particularly in the Divine Liturgy that the gift of the Holy Spirit given in baptism and chrismation is renewed. At the epiclesis we invoke the Father to send the Spirit anew upon us and upon our offering" (*LLI* 75).

"Nowhere is the Spirit more the source of holiness for the Church than in the liturgical assembly. When the Church comes together in Christ for worship, the Spirit works to make present the kingdom of God on earth. By the grace of the Spirit, the worship assembly most fully expresses what it means to be Church: a people one in Christ, standing before the Father in the communion of the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit, our liturgical gathering would simply be ourselves meeting for prayer. With the Spirit, it is the very life of God made present and realized" (*WEF* 53).

### **Remembering the Saving Acts of Jesus Christ**

". . . There is very little variety in the order of service, especially after the Little Entrance. There is little variety in the design of the Eucharist because there is but one focus for our celebration. In the words of the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, we are ". . . remembering His cross, His tomb, His resurrection on the third day, His enthronement at Your right hand, His second and glorious coming . . ." In short, we are commemorating the entire saving mystery of Christ Who was sacrificed for us once for all" (*LW* 69).

## ***The Lesson Plan***

### ***Opening***

[Gather at the icon corner.] *Let's begin our class with "We Praise You." We praise God for allowing us to belong to His people. We also praise God for all He has done for us. Our lesson today will be about remembering what God has done for us. Let's pray now.*

### ***Introduction***

[Ahead of time, you may wish to hide the visual aids around the classroom for the children to find.] *Last week we learned that we are God's people. We are called Christians. When did we receive that name? (At Baptism) What is the name of the other mystery we received with Baptism? (Chrismation) Because of your baptism and chrismation, you are now called a Christian. Because of your baptism and chrismation you now belong to the Church. You are a member of the Church. Together we are God's people. Last week we learned about God's people. Do you remember the name of the man who led God's people out of slavery? (Moses) God gave Moses the Ten*

*Commandments so His people would know how to live as God wanted. Since they were now God's people, they were in a special relationship with God.*

*Do you remember how we spoke about relationships last week? We looked at photos and labeled people by name, or by "mom" or "dad"? Because we are Christians, we have a special relationship with God. What can we call God? (Our Father) It is our privilege to call God "Father." We also learned that we have a responsibility—something we must do because of that relationship. Does anyone remember what that is? (To stay close to God) How do you think we can do that? [Allow responses.] (Praying, going to church)*

*We come to church to stay close to God. What are some of the things we do at church? I know you learned these in preschool and kindergarten. (We pray, sing, light candles, see icons, smell incense, receive Holy Communion, receive blessed bread.) We worship God when we do these things. We thank God for all His blessings. And we do one more thing.*

*Let me tell you about my \_\_\_\_\_. [In your story you are showing the students how a person's life can be very meaningful. You are preparing the students to understand how Jesus' life was meaningful and how the remembrance of some events is almost like "being there again." Tell about a person who gave much to you through their life, perhaps a parent. As you tell the story, show photos of that person. The photos are to prepare the students to understand icons of salvation history.] Conclude with the following: When I remember some of these special times I shared with \_\_\_\_\_, it's almost like \_\_\_\_\_ was with me again or that I was reliving those times.*

*Do any of you have memories so special that when you think of them, it's almost like reliving the event? [Allow responses.]*

*Before I told my story, I asked how we stay close to God, for that is our responsibility. And you told me we come to church. At church we do many things. One thing we do that's very important is remember. We remember the life of Jesus and all He did for us. [If you have hidden icons, ask the children (singly or in teams) to find them now. Children can hold them up as you speak.] Let's look at some icons that tell us about the events in the life of Jesus. [Name icons as you show them; then place them where they are still visible (on table or blackboard or have children hold them). Present them in this order: Nativity, Cross, Resurrection, Ascension, Last Supper.] Jesus also taught us about God. We think about Jesus as our teacher when we think about the Sermon on the Mount. In everything He did, Jesus, our Lord, gave His life for us.*

*Each Divine Liturgy we especially remember two events: [Show Resurrection and Mystical Supper.] Every Sunday we celebrate the fact that Jesus rose from the dead. Every Divine Liturgy we remember Jesus' words, "Take, eat..." and we share Holy Communion. When we share Holy Communion, think about being at the Last Supper and having Jesus say those words to you.*

*When we come to Divine Liturgy, we come to remember all that God has done for us. Let me say that again. When we come to Divine Liturgy, we come to remember all that God has done for us. Now, who can name the events shown on these icons? [Review icons.] Who can name two without looking?*

*We're ready for our lesson.*

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In the Divine Liturgy  
We Remember



When the Divine Liturgy begins, we hear, "Blessed is the kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever." We sing, "Amen!"

Because we are Christians, we live in the kingdom of God. Jesus is Lord of the kingdom. Jesus is our Lord. When we worship, we remember Jesus. We are thankful for all Jesus did for us.

Have you ever thought about all Jesus did for us?

66 Read What I've Learned 2 East 1: We belong to the Church

## Reading of Text

*As the children read aloud, help them interact with the text using the comments or questions below which are keyed to the text phrases (in bold type).*

### [After Reading Title]

*Look at the photo. Do you know what part of the Divine Liturgy this is? (The beginning) Can you hear in your memory what Father is saying? ("Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.") We sing "Amen!" Do you know what "Amen" means? It means, "Yes, it is so." Why do we say the kingdom is blessed? Let's find out.*

### Have you ever thought about all Jesus did for us?

*Think about some of the icons we looked at earlier. Can you remember their names—they will help you remember what Jesus has done for us. [Allow responses.]*

There is a prayer in the Divine Liturgy that helps us remember. Here are the words.



*Remembering, therefore, this salutary command and all that was done in our behalf: the cross, the tomb, the Resurrection on the third day, the Ascension into heaven,*



*the sitting at the right hand, the second and glorious coming again—  
We offer to You, Yours of Your own, in behalf of all and for all.*

Did you see the word "remembering"? We remember all that Jesus did for our salvation. We remember that Jesus saved us from eternal death.

After the prayer, we sing praise to God. The hymn begins: "We praise . . . ." Do you know the rest of the words by heart?

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### We remember that Jesus saved us from eternal death.

*Did you see the word "remembering"? Let's point to it. Let's find the word "thanks" and point to it. We remember, and we give thanks for all God has done for our salvation, so that we might be saved from eternal death. [If your parish priest says this prayer aloud, tell the children to listen for this prayer. You may wish to have a Divine Liturgy book to show them the page number where the prayer will be said.]*

**Do you know the rest of the words by heart?** [As this has been the prayer for the last few weeks, some should know the words by heart. Allow responses.]

**It is a blessed kingdom that we live in.**

[The bold and italicized word is refers to the words that we hear every Sunday at the beginning of the Divine Liturgy: "Blessed is the kingdom . . . ."]

**And we thank God for Jesus.**

*Remember that when you come to worship, you are saying "thank You" to God for Jesus. It is very important to remember all that God has done for us and to be thankful. It is good to come to worship.*

[Direct attention to the photo.]

*Look at the photo. Do you recognize the book? It is the Divine Liturgy book. [Have your own parish copy ready, and xeroxed copies of the page where the remembering phrase is. The prayer is said directly before the hymn "We praise You, we bless You . . ." If the hymn isn't on the same page, copy the page where it appears. This will be used in the Basic activity.] See if you can follow the Divine Liturgy and wait for this section. Remember to sing "We praise You..."*

**Let's review:** *Look at the title to our lesson. We learned one reason why we come to Divine Liturgy. What is that reason? (To remember) What do we remember? (All that Jesus has done for us)*

**Activity Tracks**

**Basic:** We Praise You

*Today we learned that we praise God for all He has done for our salvation. Can you fill in the words of this prayer? I have it copied for you if you need it. [Use the appropriate wording for your jurisdiction.]*



Jesus brought the kingdom of God. We are God's people. We belong to the kingdom of God. We belong to the Church.

Jesus did so much for us. It is a blessed kingdom that we live in.

When we worship in church, we stay close to God. We remember Jesus. We remember all that Jesus did for us. And we thank God for Jesus.

*We Remember and We Praise*

We praise \_\_\_\_\_

We bless \_\_\_\_\_

We \_\_\_\_\_

O Lord, and we  
 pray to \_\_\_\_\_,  
 our God.

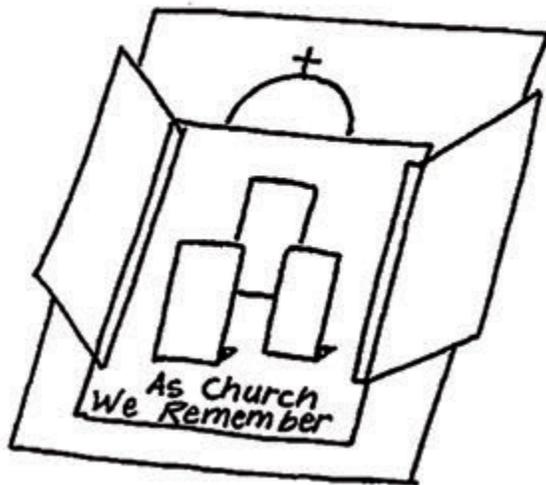


**Group:** "Jesus" Chalkboard Crossword

*Today we have thought about the many things God has done for our salvation. I think we know enough about Jesus now to try a chalkboard crossword. This is how it works. I'll divide you into teams. The first team places a word on the board, any word that has something to do with Jesus or our salvation. The next team has to think of another word about Jesus, and they can place it on the board if it shares a letter with the first word or "crosses" the first word. The next team continues adding words to our crossword game. If we get stuck, we'll start a new game. [You may alter the game by giving a point to a team when it places a word. The team that is stumped "passes" and does not receive a point but the crossword continues.]*

**Craft:** As Church We Remember

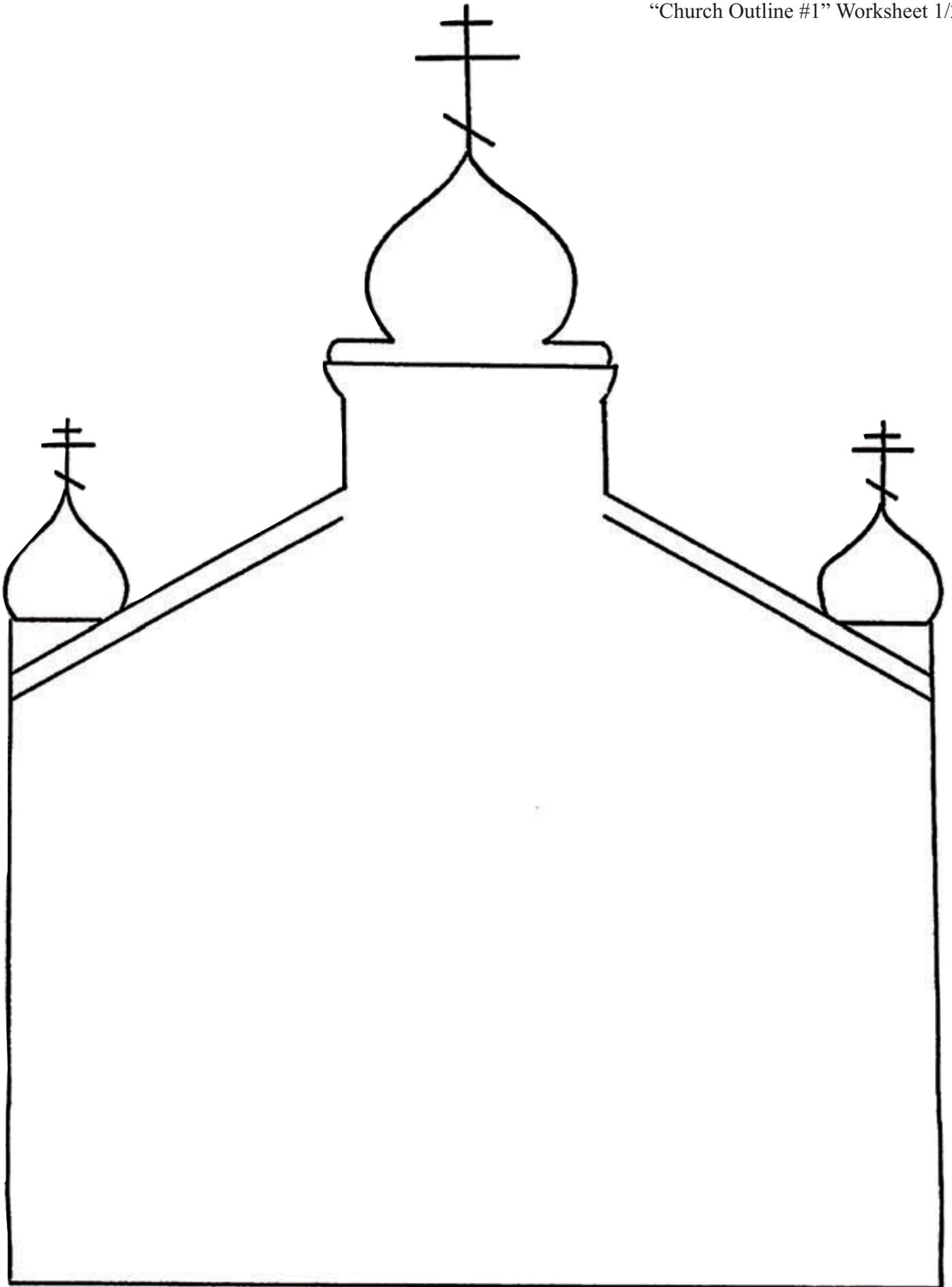
*Materials:* Church Outline worksheet (choose one of the two designs), Salvation icons, scissors, markers, glue stick

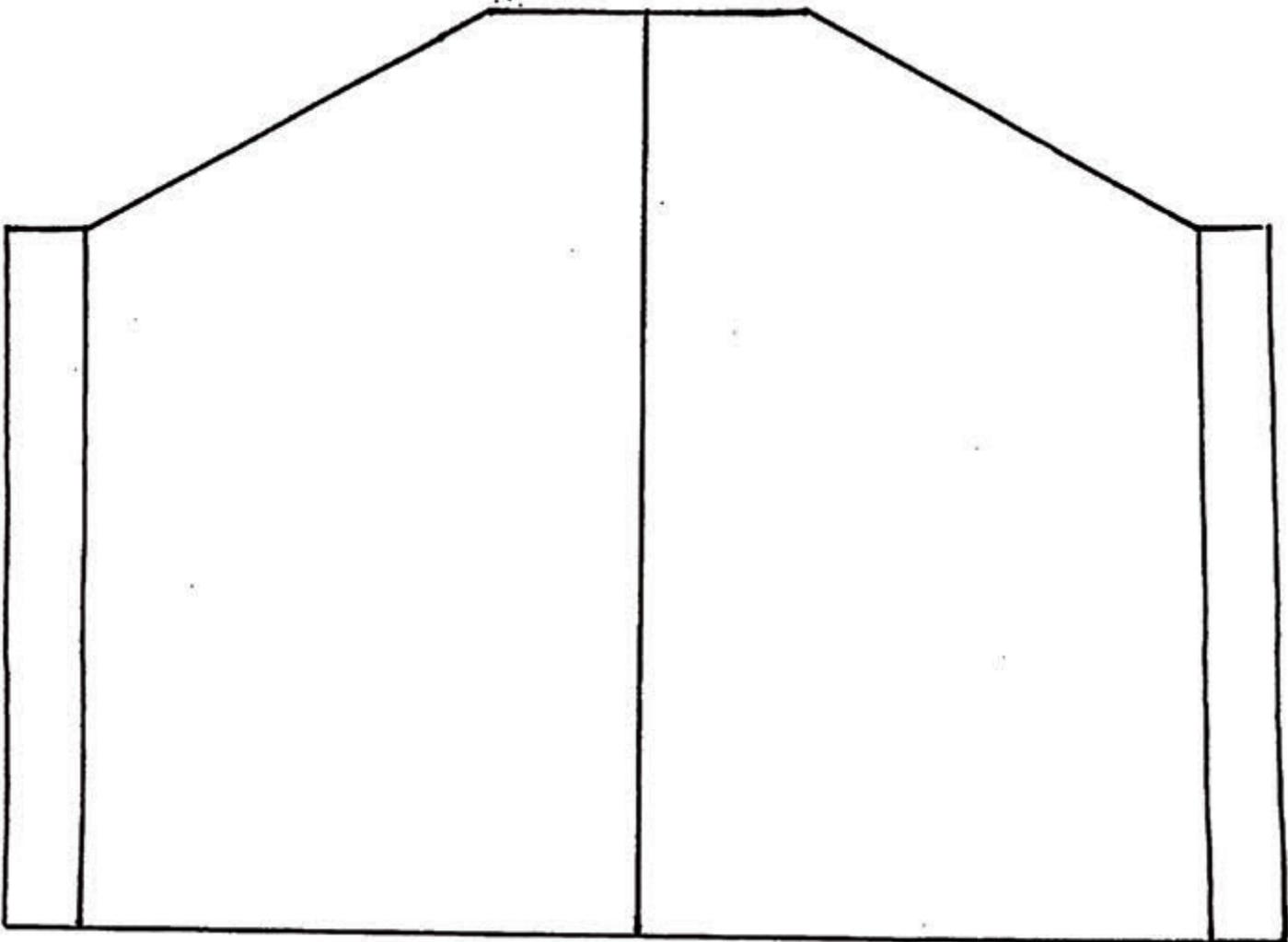


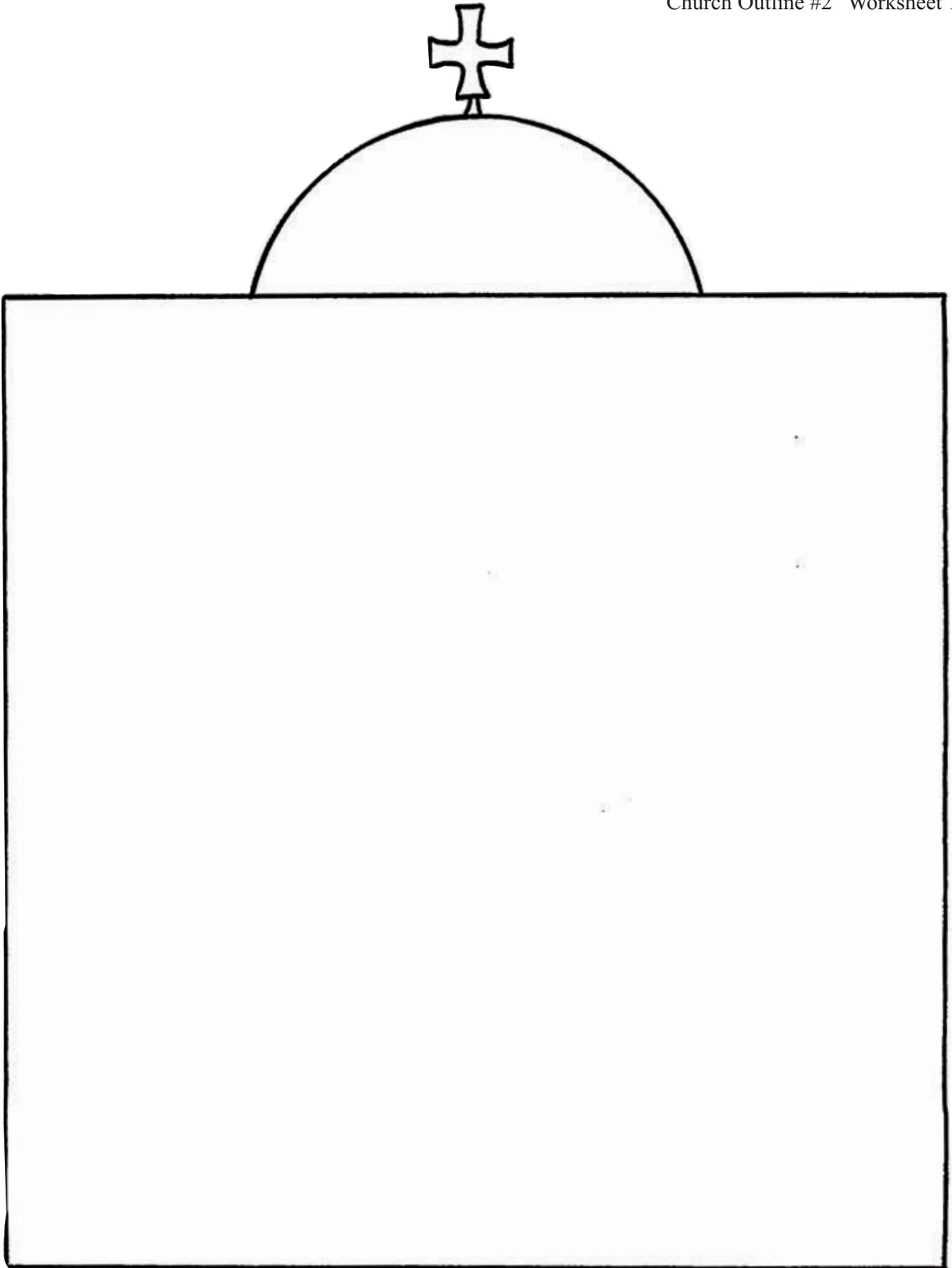
[Have sample ready to show children.]

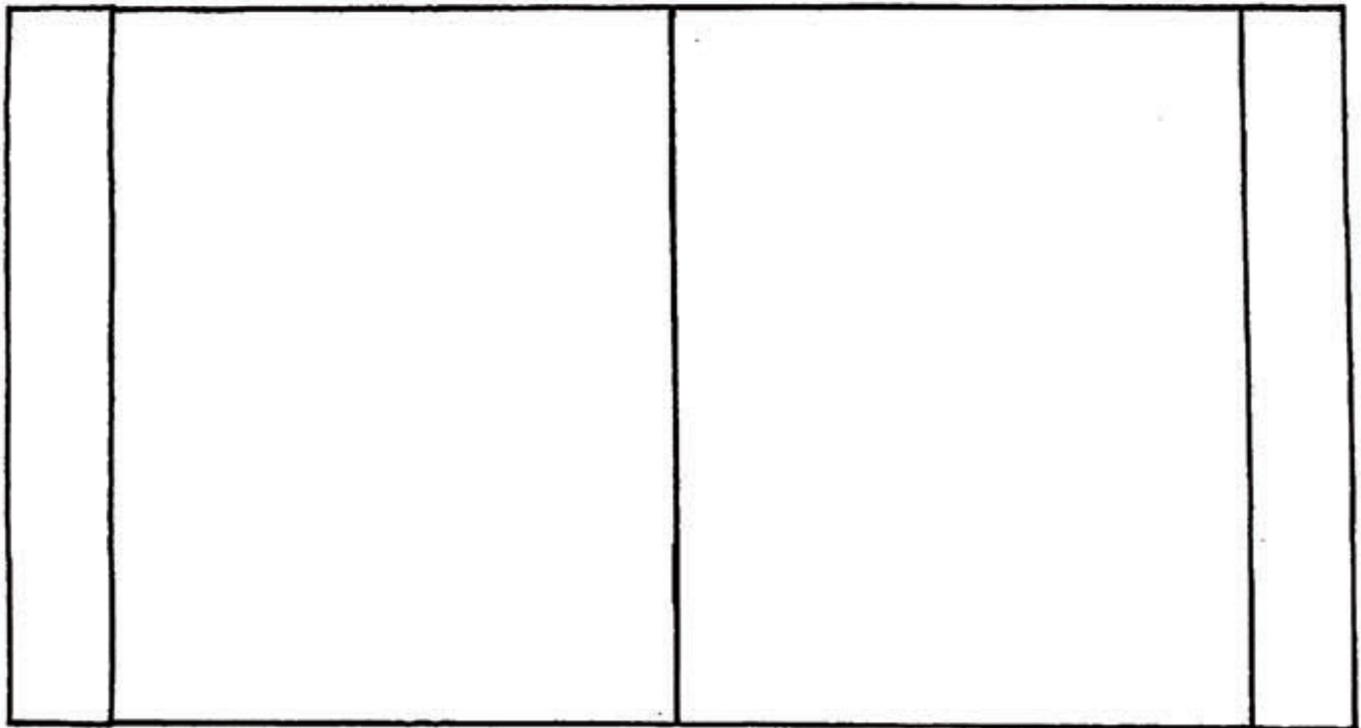
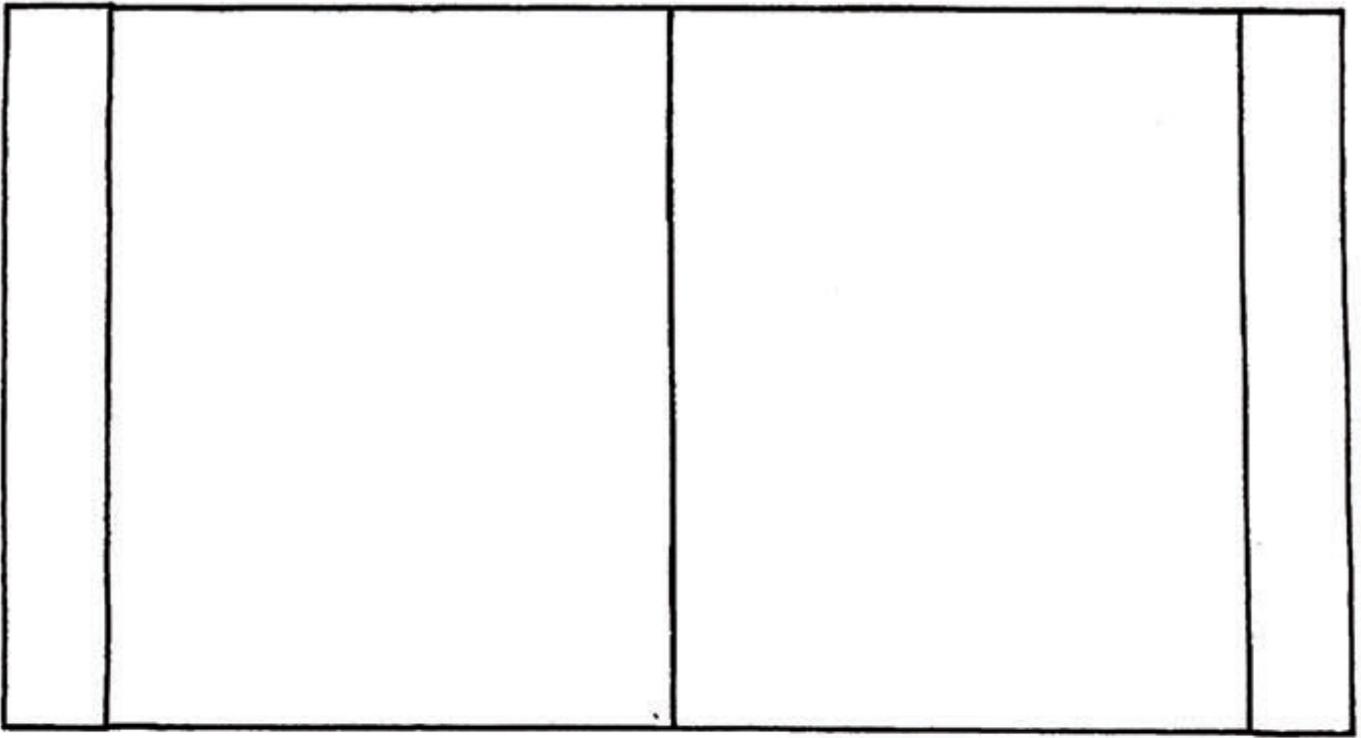
*Today we learned that as Church, as the people of God, we remember all God has done for our salvation. Our project today will help us remember that. We have a church ready to receive three icons that show what God has done for our salvation. We have the icon of the cross, the tomb (which is represented by the burial shroud), and the Resurrection icon. You can color these, cut them out and place them so they stand up when you open your church drawing.*

**Closing:** Our closing prayer, "Let Our Mouths Be Filled," reminds us again that we are so thankful to God for all He has done that our mouths are filled with praise to Him. Let's pray now.











Fold here and glue tab to church outline so icon will stand up

