

God Promises to Send a Savior

Objective: Students will be able to 1) define the word promise and 2) state that Jesus' coming fulfills God's promise to send us a Savior.

For the Catechist

The Grade 4 book, *God's Promise Is Fulfilled*, teaches that God's promise to be with His people is fulfilled through Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit. From the Bible, we learn about God's promises, and this year the children will learn to read passages from the Bible. That is the reason the children receive the New Testament in the first unit of this book. Throughout the year they will use their New Testament to read the Word of God.

Children at this level are ready to work independently; therefore, the format for reading each lesson might change. In the previous grades, the text for each lesson was to be read aloud to help the children at all reading levels. This year some of the lessons might require parts of the text to be read silently. Most lessons refer to New Testament passages that could be read as a group. Reading aloud together helps the children focus and concentrate on each word. The ideal goal is to encourage the children to want to go home to read the passage with their family.

By the end of the first unit, the children will know how to find Bible passages. Activities in Lessons 3, 4, and 5 teach the children how to understand the notations for passages. These lessons also emphasize the need for the children to learn how to be silent and how to meditate on the Word of God. Many prayer activities include meditative reflections.

In "Our Church Year," Unit 7, the children will learn how each feast day helps us recall the events that show us God keeps His promise. Two lessons in Unit 6, "The Encounter with Christ in the Temple" and "Transfiguration," further explain how God's promise to be with His people is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Lesson Plan Overview

Opening: Heavenly King

For all prayers in the opening and closing of each lesson, consult "Liturgical Texts for Jurisdictions" included in Part 2 (page 55) of this Teacher Manual for Grade 4. Use the approved wording for your jurisdiction.

Introduction: First day introductions and discussion of promises. **Need:** Heart name tags and pencils.

Read Text Aloud: Have the students volunteer to read the text aloud or have the students read sections silently.

Activity Tracks:

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

- *Basic:* Jesus Is Our Savior
- *Group:* "God's Promise" Banners
- *Craft:* "Psalms and Church Songs" Booklet Cover

Closing: The Nicene Creed

Icon Packets:

Come Bless the Lord:
The Holy Trinity
Nativity of Christ

Teaching Pics

Nativity of Christ (F3)

Songs and Psalms. Psalms and Church songs are included as prayers in this Grade 4 book. They are added as prayer pages at the end of the lessons in this Teacher Manual. These pages can be added to a "Psalms and Church Songs" booklet that is part of a craft activity. Last year some children made a prayer booklet as part of a craft; therefore, they will be familiar with this activity. These booklets help the children become prayerful people.

Background Reading

(Direct quotations from the sources noted)

Deification

"The doctrine that the fulfillment of humanity is to become '*partakers of the divine nature*' (2 Pt 1:4). It is the central theme of Byzantine anthropology" (SBH 86).

Theosis

"The greatest gift of God to us is the gift of sharing His very life. We have been made '*partakers of the divine nature*' (2 Pt 1:4): a process begun in us at our christening. When we live a life of faith, this relationship is deepened, furthering the process of our divinization or theosis. This movement continues in us through life and death, and will not be complete until the resurrection of all mankind on the last day. Then our risen bodies as well as our spirits will share in the resurrection life and partake in glory. '*We know we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is*' (1 Jn 3:2).

"We have been brought to experience God's self revelation and to become sharers in His very nature. This is our glory and our joy. This is also the core of the Christian message, the Good News we proclaim at our christening and reaffirm whenever we confess the Nicene Creed. This is the heart of our faith and the source of our confident assurance and trust in God who will complete what He has begun in us as He leads us to a greater and greater intimacy with Him" (DC 11).

God's Promise to Be with Us

"God's dwelling among us forever—this was His aim in the original creation, an aim frustrated by sin. The Son of God comes into the world to undo the fall of Adam. He succeeds, and the result is the coming of the Spirit. What Christ's work prepared for begins to happen. As far as this life is concerned, the Spirit's presence is the completion of God's plan for us. As St. Athanasius said, '*God became man so that we might receive the Holy Spirit*'" (WEF 47).

Deification and the Incarnation

"Deification is impossible without the Incarnation. 'The Word was made flesh and He lived among us' (Jn 1,14), so that we may have life to the full. The Word became flesh so that we might share in the divine life. As St. Athanasius has written, '*He became a human being so that the body may be sanctified and transformed together with the soul*' (St. Athanasius, *On the Incarnation of the Word*, 50). Our bodies, which are an essential element of who we are, are created in the likeness and made of God. From the moment of creation a human being was an image of God. Their likeness is related to the divine adoption of humanity (sonship). Accepting Christ in faith may be regarded as a process of development of the divine likeness. Image and likeness are both the goal and task of a human being" (UCD 36).

The Lesson Plan

Opening

[Welcome the children with the traditional greeting for your jurisdiction. Place the Holy Trinity icon on the icon table.] *Let's gather in the icon corner for our opening prayer, "Heavenly King."* [Give prayer page (at the end of this lesson in this teacher manual) for your jurisdiction.] *Let's pray.* [All prayers throughout this book should begin with the Sign of the Cross. Remind the students to bow and make the Sign of the Cross with respect.] *Who knows the name of this icon? (The Holy Trinity) Very good. Who is the Holy Trinity inviting to be united with them through prayer? (All of us)*

Introduction

[On each desk have a construction paper heart and pencil.] *Welcome to class today. I am very happy to see you. On the paper heart on your desk, write your name on one side. Let's think of what a heart means? (Life, blood, love) Hearts are very important, and you are very important too. That is why you put your name on the heart.*

Some people put their hands on their hearts when they make a pledge to someone. What does pledge mean? (A promise or agreement) What are some pledges we make? (Pledge of Allegiance, Boy Scout or Girl Scout pledge) We promise to follow the rules of the group. In return, our country or any group we pledge to promises to take care of us as a member.

All of us are members of our Church. When did we become members? (When we were baptized) Most of us had our godparents say "Yes " to Jesus for us. Can you think of any promises they made for us? (We would follow Jesus; we would learn to live and love as Jesus did.) Today we are going to think about a promise we can make to Jesus. Let's think about something special we can promise Jesus we will do often. Does anyone have any ideas? (Pray, go to church every week, be nice to Mom and Dad) Turn your hearts to the side without your name. Now write, "Jesus, I promise..."

When you are done, place the side with your name on it on your desk. At the end of class, we will place our hearts on the icon table. Each week when we pray, we will think about our promises to Jesus. God wanted to be one with us. He promised to send us a Savior who would unite us to God. That is a very big promise that we are going to learn more about this year. Let's start by looking at the title on the book we are using this year.

1

God Promises to Send a Savior



The word **promise** means "an agreement to do or not to do something." When we promise to help our parents, our parents trust that we will keep our promise. When our parents promise to help us with our homework, we trust that they will help us. We know we can believe promises made by people who love us.

Promises can be broken for many reasons. We are disappointed when a promise to go somewhere or to buy something is not kept. We disappoint other people when we do not keep our promise to help or to listen or to do a chore. Even though at times promises are not kept, we need to remember to keep loving each other. Our love is more important than any object or activity.

Sometimes we have to wait for promises to be fulfilled. **Fulfilled** means "to carry out something promised." We learn to wait patiently for promises that are important. Sometimes we wait with other people for something important. Together we help each other remember to be patient and to trust the people we love.

2

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).

God's Promise Is Fulfilled.

Let's read the name of our book for this year. (God's Promise Is Fulfilled) What does fulfilled mean? Let's see what the first lesson says it means.

Our love is more important than any object or activity.

What does the word promise mean? ("An agreement to do or not to do something") Did you ever promise anything? Let's share. How do we feel when a promise is not kept? What is most important? (Our love)

Together we help each other remember to be patient and to trust the people we love.

What does fulfilled mean? (To carry out something promised)

God also makes promises to us. We know God loves us. We believe and trust God will keep His promises. This year we will learn about some of the promises God made to His people. We will learn to read about these promises in the Bible.

In the Bible we read stories about many people who have trusted God. Also, we read about the ways God keeps His promises to His people.




For many years God promised to send a special leader to save His people. This special leader is called a Savior. God always keeps His promise. He sent us Jesus to save us from sin and grant us eternal life.

3

Also, we read about the way God keeps His promises to His people.

What is the name of the prophet we see on the picture? (Prophet Isaiah) The prophets told the people about God's promises.

He sent us Jesus to save us from our sins and grant us eternal life.

What did God promise? (To send us a Savior) [The first promise of a Redeemer for fallen mankind appears in Genesis 3:5] From what did Jesus save us? (Our sins, eternal death) Through Jesus' death and resurrection we are saved from eternal death and granted eternal life.

...which means "God is with us."

What does Emmanuel mean? (God is with us.) Who is sent to save us from our sins? (Jesus) Jesus is our Savior.

... we state that we believe God's promise is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

What is the Creed? (A statement of what our Church believes) Every time we say the Creed we remember all that God has done for us. When are some times we say the Creed? (In church, at baptisms, during our prayers at home)

Words to Remember: [Read the words together, and use them to introduce the lesson, summarize the objectives identified at the beginning of this lesson plan, and/or review throughout the year.]

[At the end of each lesson in this Teacher Manual are worksheets with the words and definitions that can be copied onto heavier paper to be used as flashcards. In some lessons extra cards are included for any additional words you might want to add.]

Let's review: What is God's promise? (To send us a Savior) How is it fulfilled in Jesus? (Jesus saves us from our sins and unites us to God.)

Activity Tracks

Basic: Jesus Is Our Savior

[This worksheet is in the student text.]

Today we learned that promises are important to keep. God promised to send us a Savior and He did. Who is our Savior? (Jesus) Let's find the words that tell us from what Jesus will save us. Now let's write a thank you letter to God thanking Him for sending us Jesus.

Let us read from the Bible how God's promise of a Savior was fulfilled when Jesus was born.



Note this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us." (Matthew 1:18-23)

In this Bible reading, we hear how God's angel reminds Joseph that God had promised a Savior hundreds of years before. God tells Joseph that Jesus is the Promised One Who will save us from our sins. We know that through Jesus' death and resurrection, we are saved from eternal death and granted eternal life. Jesus fulfills God's promise to be one with His people.

We remember what God has done for us every time we pray the Creed, a statement of what our Church believes. We say the Creed at baptisms, at the Divine Liturgy, and in our own prayers at home. When we say the Creed, we state that we believe God's promise is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Words to Remember:

Retrospect: Promised to marry.

Promise: An agreement to do or not to do something.

Fulfill: To carry out something promised.

Savior: A special leader who saves people. Jesus is our Savior Who saves us from our sins and grants us eternal life.

The Divine Liturgy: A public worship during which we praise and thank God, listen to the Word of God in the readings from the Bible, thank God for the gift of His Son, offer the Holy Gifts, and receive Holy Communion.

The Creed: The statement of what our Church believes.

4

Jesus Is Our Savior

I. Find the words that will complete the scriptural passage in the middle of this page. Start by placing your pencil on a letter on the top line. Then read the letters diagonally down and to the right until you find the word to fill in the passage. Write the letters on the blanks below the puzzle to complete the Scripture. Each word begins with a letter on the top line of the puzzle.

H	W	S	H	P	F	T	S	R	J	X
M	E	I	A	I	E	R	H	I	D	P
Y	R	G	L	V	S	O	O	E	N	K
Z	O	P	V	L	E	T	P	M	I	S
U	R	P	T	Z	I	K	R	L	Q	R
B	N	L	U	S	P	E	U	O	E	W

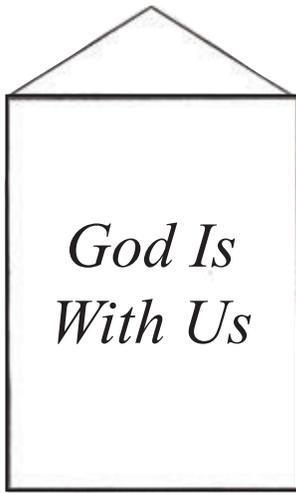
"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because
**HE WILL SAVE HIS
PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.**" (Matthew 1:21)

II. Write a thank-you note to God for sending us Jesus to be our Savior.

Dear God,

Love,

5



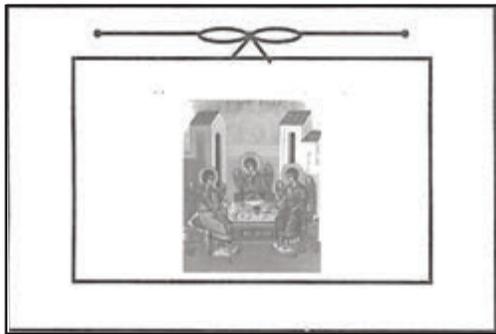
Group: "God's Promise" Banners

Materials: Felt squares (6" x 6") - one for each banner, yarn pieces (10 inches long), construction paper, markers, glue, banner worksheet, stapler

Today we are going to make banners to place around the room. We want people to know we believe God's promise. Some ideas for banners are the following:

*God Is with Us God Sends Us Jesus
Jesus Is Our Savior Jesus Fulfills God's Promise*

[The students can cut out the words from the worksheet or write the words on construction paper.] *Now let's glue the words onto the felt squares. We will staple the ends of the yarn to the two top corners of the felt square. Let's hang our banners around the room.*



Craft: "Psalms and Church Songs" Booklet Cover

Materials: The Holy Trinity icon worksheet, construction paper, yarn (24-inch length per student), glue, hole punch.

[Have sample ready to show children.] *Last year some of you made a prayer booklet. [Ask how many still have their booklets.] This year we are going to make something similar except this time we are going to add Church songs and psalms to our booklet. Then you can read them as prayers whenever you want. [You might want to start the booklets with the two prayers that were distributed today. If you did the booklet last year and the students have them, you would not need to add these prayers to this year's booklet.]*

[Give each child a copy of the cover for their prayer book and a piece of construction paper. This cover will be glued on the construction paper folded in half from the top down.] *Fold one piece of construction paper in half—from the top down. Glue your icon to the front of the cover. Punch two holes [1/2 inch from the top and 2 inches from each side] below the top of the fold. Pull the yarn through the holes and tie in a bow on the front side. This is the cover for your prayer book. On the back of this cover, write your name. Each time we learn a new song or psalm, we will put a copy of it inside our cover.*

Closing

Let's stand and pray "The Creed."

[Use these cards to review words and definitions at the beginning or at the end of class. The words and definitions can be duplicated onto heavier paper on both sides—they are arranged that way— or you can cut them out and paste onto index cards to make your own flashcards.]

Promise

Fulfill

Savior

*Divine
Liturgy*

The Creed

Betrothed

To carry out something promised.

An agreement to do or
not to do something.

A public worship during which
we praise and thank God, listen
to the word of God in the
readings from the Bible, thank
God for the gift of His Son,
offer the Holy Gifts, and receive
Holy Communion

A special leader who saves peo-
ple. Jesus is our Savior who
saves us from our sins and
grants us eternal life.

Promise to marry.

The statement of what our
church believes.

O Heavenly King

O heavenly King, Consoler, Spirit of truth, present in all places and filling all things: the Treasury of blessings and the Giver of life! Come, O Good One, and dwell in us.
Cleanse us of all stain and save our souls

Melkite
Greek
Catholic
Church

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages: Light of light, true God of true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man; who was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried; who rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is enthroned at the right hand of the Father; who will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; and of whose kingdom there shall be no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who together with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified who spoke through the prophets.

In one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I profess one baptism for the remission of sins.

I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Melkite
Greek
Catholic
Church

O Heavenly King

O heavenly King, Consoler, Spirit of truth, who art in all places and fillest all things: Treasury of goodness and Giver of life! Come, and take up Thine abode among us and cleanse us of every stain and save our souls,
O Good One.

Romanian
Greek
Diocese of
Canton

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages: Light of light, true God of true God, begotten, not made, of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who for us men, and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; He was crucified also for us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was buried.

The third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; of whose kingdom there shall be no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who together with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins.

I expect the Resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen

Romanian
Greek
Diocese of
Canton

O Heavenly King

O heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of truth,
You are everywhere present and fill all things: Treasury
of blessings and Giver of life! Come and dwell within us.
Cleanse us of all stain and save our souls,
O gracious Lord.

Ruthenian
Byzantine
Catholic
Metropoli-
tan
Province

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, the only-begotten, born of the Father before all ages. Light of light, true God of true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father, through Whom all things were made.
Who for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven and was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and Mary the Virgin, and became man.
He was also crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried.
And He rose again on the third day, according to the Scriptures.
And He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; and of His kingdom there will be no end.
And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke through the Prophets.
In One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.
I profess one baptism for the remission of sins.
I expect the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Ruthenian
Byzantine
Catholic
Metropoli-
tan
Province

O Heavenly King

Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth,
Who are everywhere present and fill all things,
Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life, come, and dwell
within us; cleanse us of all that defiles us, and,
O Good One, save our souls.

Ukrainian
Catholic
Diocese of
St. Josaphat

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in being with the Father. Through Him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation, He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Ukrainian
Catholic
Synod

O Heavenly King

Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth,
Who are everywhere present and fill all things,
Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life, come, and dwell
within us; cleanse us of all that defiles us, and,
O Good One, save our souls.

Ukrainian
Catholic
Synod

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in being with the Father. Through Him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation, He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

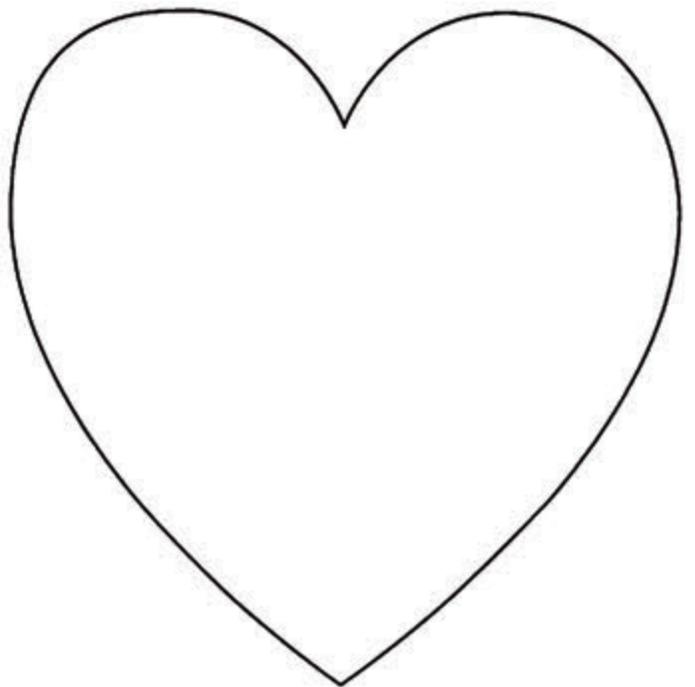
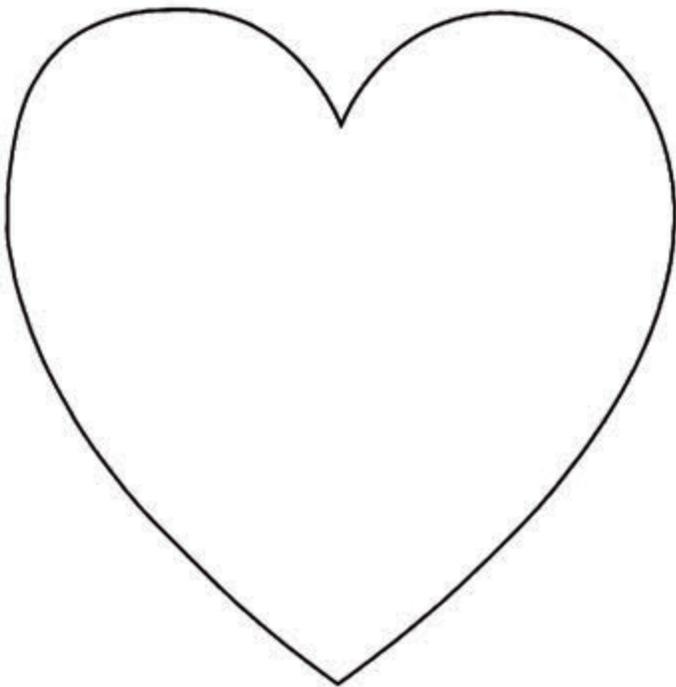
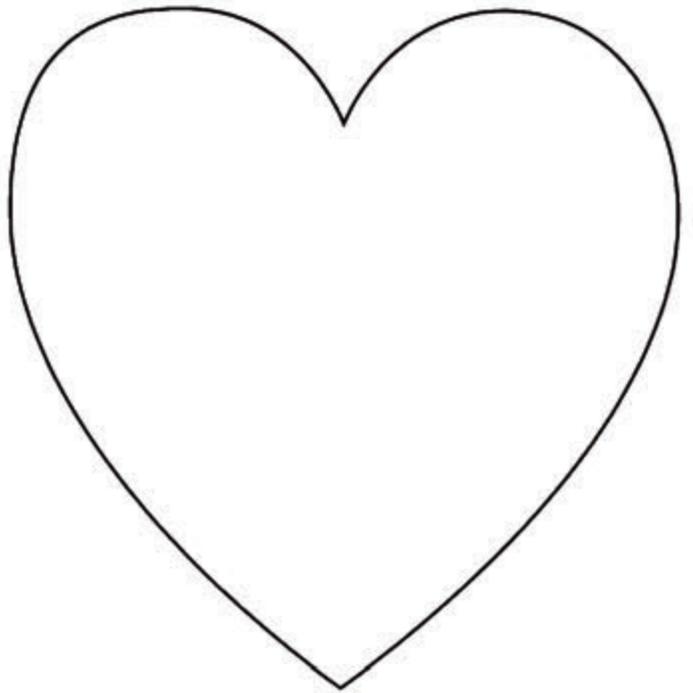
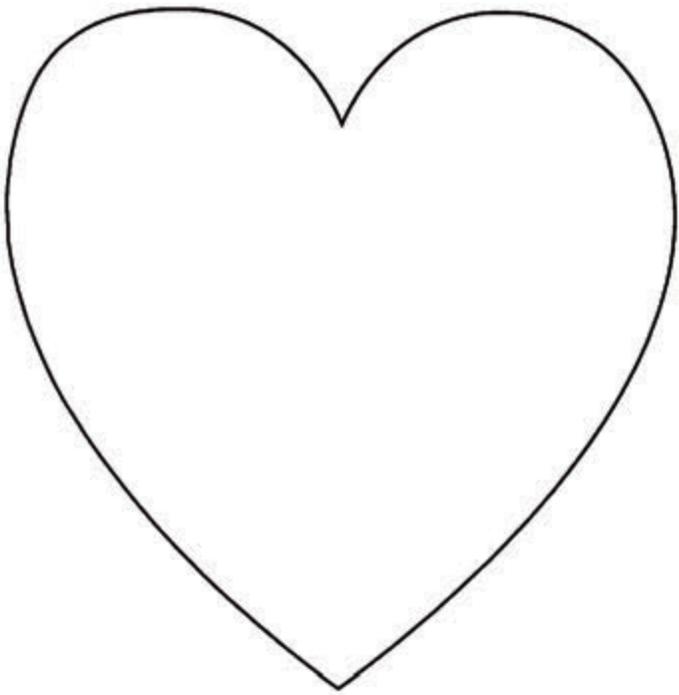
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Ukrainian
Catholic
Synod



God Is With Us

God Sends Us Jesus

Jesus Is Our Savior

*Jesus Fulfills
God's Promise*

Psalms and Church Songs



Psalms and Church Songs

