

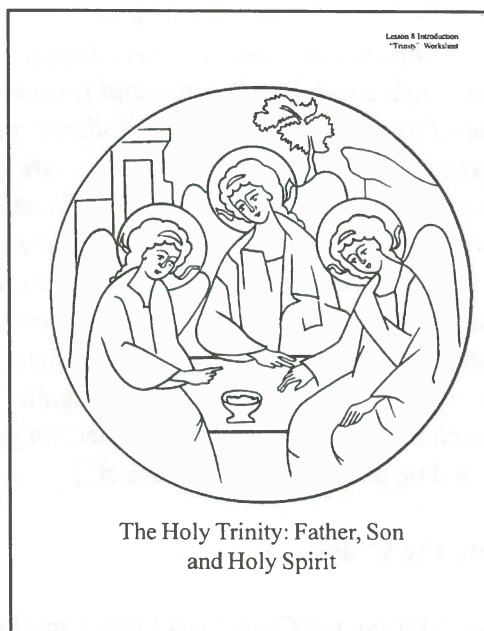
I'm Thankful for God

My Notes and Lesson Preparations . . .

Objective: Children will be able to identify the cross and make the sign of the cross.

Opening Prayer: [Have the children stand in front of the icon.] *When we give ourselves back to God in church, we are worshipping God. We can use the words, "To You, O Lord." Do you remember what we did when we said that prayer?* [Raise your hands and arms up.] *Let's stand, face the icon, raise our hands and arms and say it together.*

Introduction: [Hold up a cross.] *Who is this who died on the cross? Where do you see crosses? (In church, on necklaces) A few weeks ago we learned about ways that we worship. One way was making the sign of the cross. Today we are going to learn about making the sign of the cross, and we're going to learn a little more about God. What do we say when we make the sign of the cross? (In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit) That's why we hold three of our fingers together [Demonstrate.] The first is for the Father, the second for God's Son, Jesus, and the third for the Holy Spirit. God is three persons. Here is how one iconographer showed the Holy Trinity. [Show visual aid.] Let's try holding our three fingers together and saying what we say when we make the sign of the cross, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." We place our other two fingers together to remind us that Jesus was both God and man [Demonstrate.] Let's try it. Now, watch me when I make the sign of the cross. I touch my forehead, chest, right shoulder and left shoulder. Let's try it. I have something to help you remember which shoulder you touch first. I'm going to put a sticker on your right shoulders [place stickers]. Now let's stand, and I'll help you practice making your sign of the cross. [You may wish to demonstrate facing the children and touching your left shoulder first—reversing the order—as they will mirror your actions.]*



ACTIVITY OPTIONS

Choose one of the following:

1. Cross Necklace

Materials: Cross pattern worksheet copied onto heavier paper (choose either simple or 3-bar cross), scissors, glue, glitter, hole punch, yarn

Let's review. Who died on the cross? (Jesus) Does anyone know what happened three days later? (He rose from the dead. That's called His Resurrection.) When Jesus died on the cross it was a sad day; but when he rose again, everyone was very happy. Now the cross reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection. Those of us who are Christians, followers of Jesus Christ, often wear a cross. Today we are going to make a cross to wear because we are Christians, followers of Jesus Christ. [Have them cover the cross with glue. Then have them sprinkle glitter on the cross. A good way to do this is for them to place the cross on a paper plate before applying the glitter. The plate catches the excess, and it can be used over again. Finally, punch a hole in the top, thread a piece of yarn through it, and tie it around the child's neck.]



2. "Making the Cross"

Materials: "Making the Cross" worksheet, markers or crayons.

Today we learned how to make the sign of the cross. Whenever we make the sign of the cross, we think of the Trinity because we say, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." This coloring sheet will remind you of what we learned today. [Hold up worksheet.] Why are the fingers held this way? (The person is about to make the sign of the cross.) Let's read this little rhyme. Then in this little box, I'll write your name because it says the following: [Read box.]

3. God We Thank You for Yourself

God has given us many good things. He gave us His Son Jesus Christ who makes us a church family. We can sing a song to thank God for all He is and all

Lesson 8 Activity 2
"Cross Pattern" Worksheet

When I make the sign of the cross,
I see and hear it:

A hand making the sign of the cross, with the index and middle fingers extended and the thumb and ring fingers bent. A cross is drawn to the left of the hand.

Today in class
I learned how to make
the sign of the cross.

God is *Father,*
Son,
and *Holy Spirit*

He gives us. Each time we sing, we'll think of something to thank God for. Our lesson today was about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. First we can thank God for His Son. [Tune: Frere Jacques]

For Your Son:

*God, we thank You.
God, we thank You
For Your Son,
For Your Son.
All of us together
All of us together
Thank You, God
Thank You, God.*

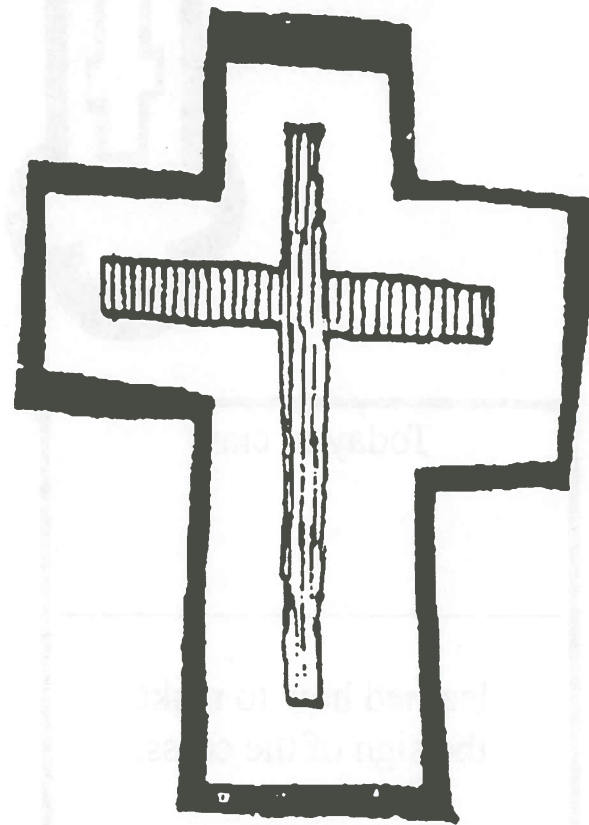
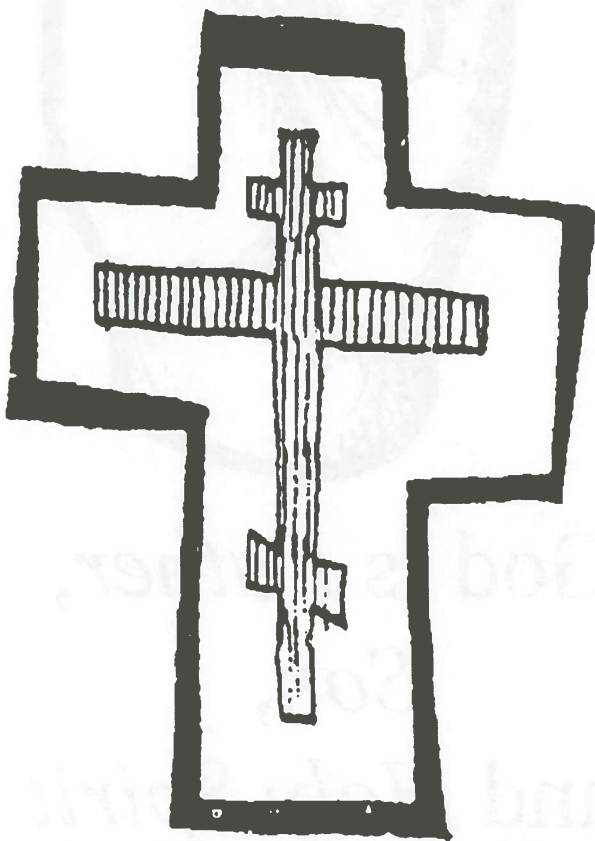
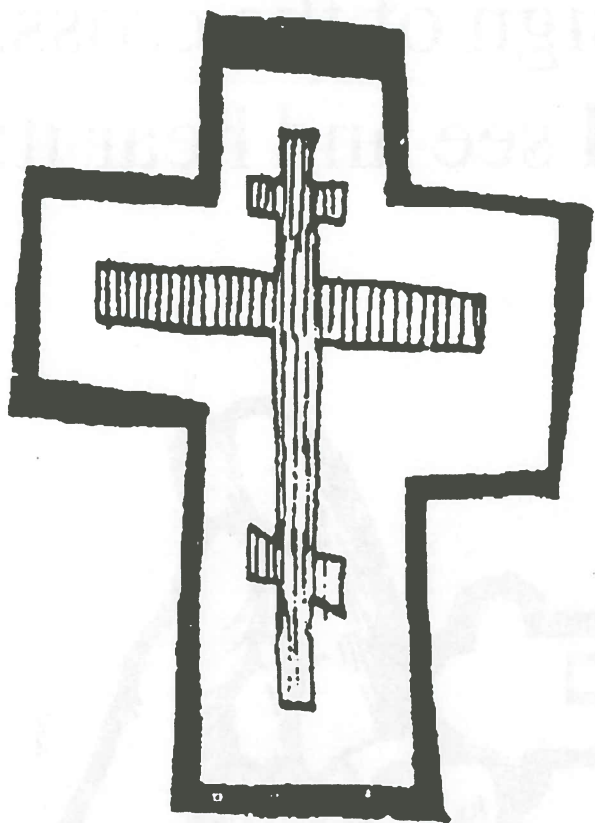
[Have children try to think of phrases to thank God—
for the world, their church, their families]

Bible Story: *Today we learned that making the sign of the cross is one way we worship God. We make the sign of the cross on our bodies because Jesus died on a cross. Today we'll read the Bible story about Jesus on the cross.*

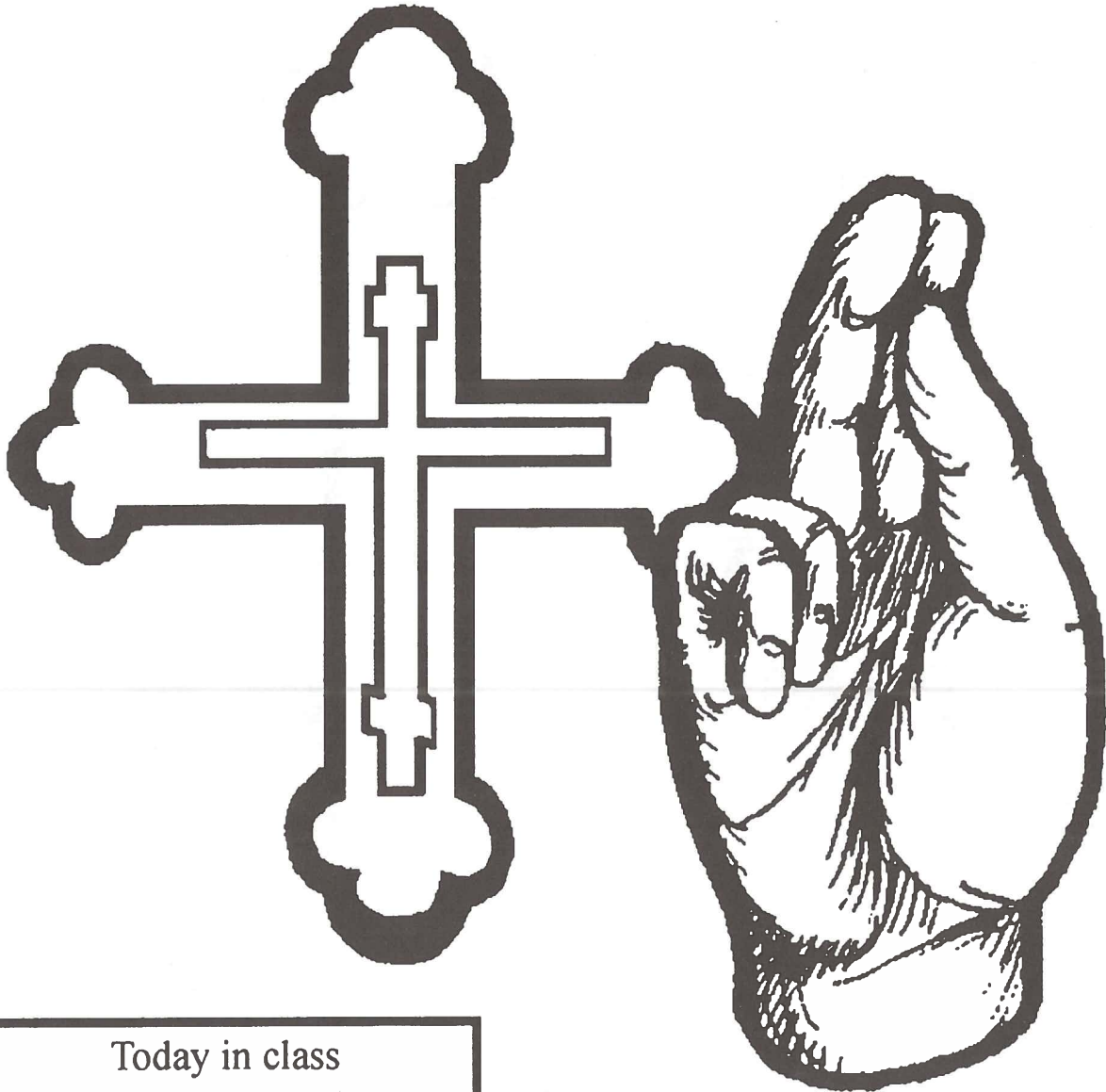
Closing: *Today for our closing prayer we are going to make our sign of the cross. As we do so, we'll say, "Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen." Let's practice just making our cross first. Watch me again. [Demonstrate.] Now, let's practice saying our prayer, "Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen." Now let's do both together.*



The Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit



When I make the sign of the cross,
I see and hear it:

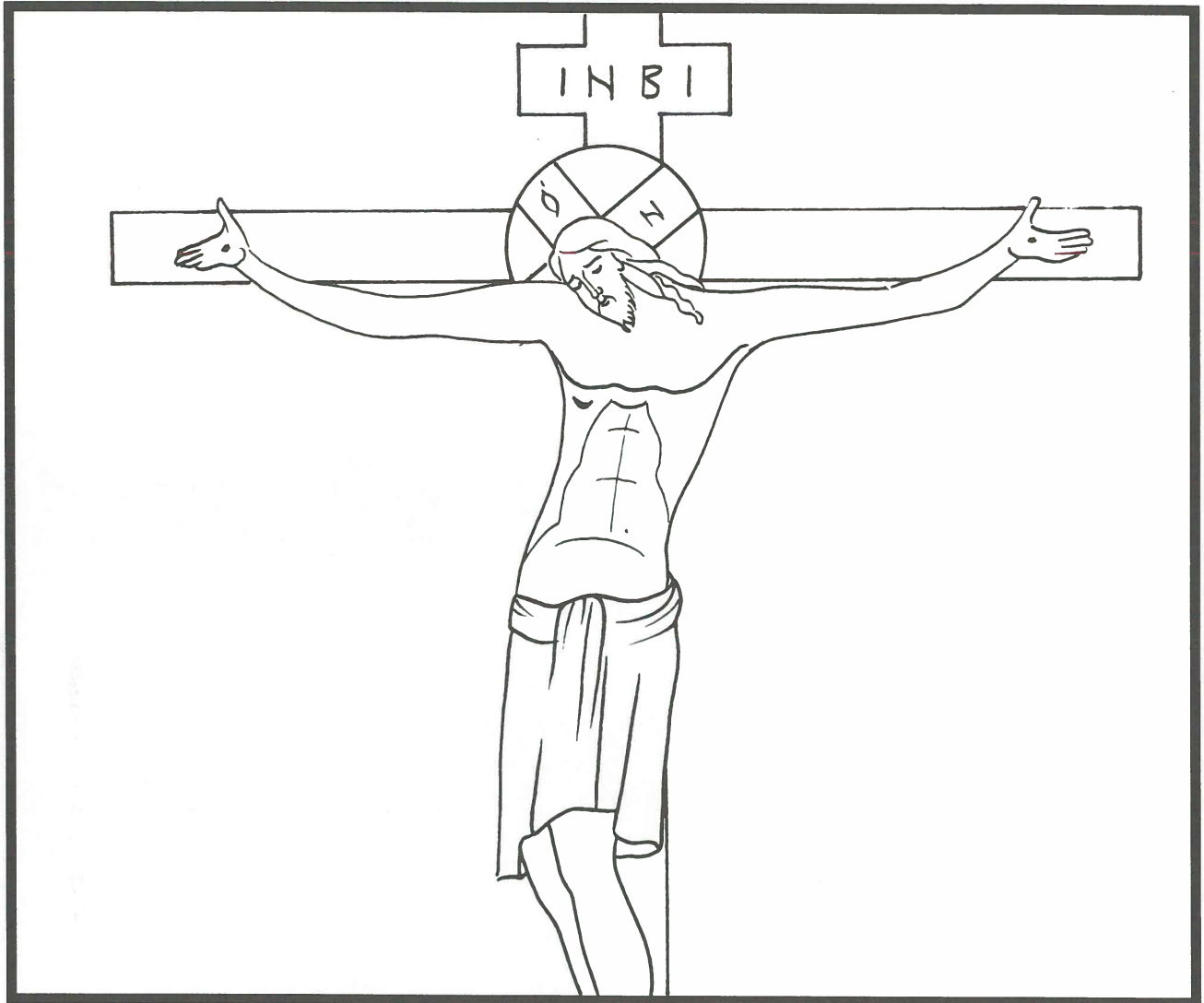


Today in class

learned how to make
the sign of the cross.

God is *Father*,
Son,
and *Holy Spirit*

Glory to God! *Lesson 8: I'm Thankful for God*



Jesus Dies on the Cross

The leaders of the people saw that a great crowd was following Jesus. They were scared that the people would follow Jesus and not them so they had Jesus arrested. Then they made Him carry a cross to a place outside the city. Two thieves carried crosses, too. Jesus was nailed to the cross, and on that cross He died (John 1:35-41).

Today your child learned to identify the cross and make the sign of the cross. Help your child practice this during the Divine Liturgy and at home.