



For Families with Children

REFLECTIONS on PRAYER



Dear Families,

Lent is a time of remembering Jesus, reflecting if our lives conform to his teachings, and repenting, or intentionally turning our lives toward God. Often people “give something up” during Lent as a way to remember the sacrificial love of Jesus or to remove distractions that keep them from turning toward God. Others add a new practice, such as prayer, Bible reading or service, to draw them closer to God. This Lent, I invite you to remember Jesus’ time spent in prayer and to imitate him by making time in your own family for intentional time with God.

Included in this packet are short devotionals for Ash Wednesday, the 6 Sundays of Lent, and Easter Sunday. Each devotional includes a scripture, an activity and a prayer. In addition, there are optional coloring sheets and activity pages at the end of the packet that are included for each week’s devotional.

As your family observes the Lenten season, I invite you to add a new prayer practice to your daily routine. Here are some simple examples you can choose from:

- Morning Prayer: Greet God in prayer as you wake up each day. Stretch up and say, “Good morning, God!” Stretch your arms out, and say, “Help me to show my love for you in how I love others today.” Then hug yourself and say, “Be with me and guide me. Thank you for loving me. Amen.”
- Driving to School: Ask your children to name something that they are looking forward to at school. Ask them to name something or someone that they might be worried about. Lift these prayers to God.
- Afterschool: Ask your young child to draw a picture for God. Or turn on some praise music and sing songs to God.
- Dinner Time: Say a blessing over your food. Share the day’s highs and lows with one another. Give thanks for your blessings. Ask for forgiveness or guidance where needed.
- Bedtime: Say the Lord’s Prayer together. Think about people in your life who might need help or encouragement. Ask God’s blessings, comfort, peace, and healing to be with them.

Visit our Lent page to learn how you can connect with learning, fellowship, and worship opportunities at Manchaca UMC this Lent: manchacaumc.org/Lent.

Blessings,
Ms. Kim

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• ASH WEDNESDAY •

BACKGROUND

Ash Wednesday is the day in the church year where we mark the beginning of the season of Lent. During this season, we are all invited to remember Jesus and to reflect on the things in our lives that may be keeping us from fully loving God and others. We are invited to repent - to turn our hearts and lives back to God. Our theme for this Lenten season's devotional is prayer. We'll be learning from the life and teachings of Jesus and when, how and why he prayed and modeling our prayer life accordingly!

Beginning around the 11th century, the Ash Wednesday service became a way for Christians to physically mark and remember the beginning of the season.

Historically, during the service, ashes are prepared from the palm fronds used during the Palm Sunday of the prior year as a way to point toward the Gospel message of the upcoming Easter. The ashes are mixed with oil and placed with the sign of the cross on the foreheads of the service participants and the words, "From dust you have come and to dust you will return," are shared with each person. This can be a startling statement to hear. However, the purpose is not to alarm but to remind us that we have been created by God and that it is God who holds us in life and in death.



Consider beginning your Lent journey by coming to the 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday service at Manchaca UMC to receive ashes. Prior to the service you can stop by the labyrinth for a time of family prayer or you can use the paper finger labyrinth provided at the end of this packet. Color this labyrinth together and keep it in a special location. Any family member can use it anytime during Lent when you want to spend some time with God.

ASH WEDNESDAY ACTIVITY: The Labyrinth Prayer

Christians have used labyrinths as a means to have a multi-sensory expression of prayer and contemplation. Labyrinths look like a maze but are different from a maze in the sense that it is not meant to be confusing, but rather to provide space and time to reflect and pray while traveling the path.

You may use the labyrinth at the church before or after the Ash Wednesday service, or you may use the paper finger labyrinth provided. If you are using the paper labyrinth, you might invite the youngest in the family to trace the path from the opening to the middle and another child to trace the back out. If you have more than two children, you can repeat the activity until all children have had a turn to trace the path in or out.

Assign family members who can read the different parts below as you move through the labyrinth.

Standing at the beginning of the labyrinth:

Reader 1: The season of Lent offers us a time to remember Jesus, to reflect on our lives, and turn toward God. It's a time to consider how we love God and love others and what keeps us from these things.

Reader 2: Some people "give something up" for Lent in order to focus more time and attention on matters of faith. Others add something, like more time in prayer or reading the Bible. As we walk the labyrinth, we can think about what God might be asking of us during this Lent season.

Prayer before you begin:

Leader: Loving God, be with us as we journey toward you this Lenten season. Open our hearts and minds to your love and presence in our lives.

All: Amen.

Walk slowly through the labyrinth to the center. When you arrive at the center, pause for everyone to arrive. Linger for a moment. Gather in a circle and hold hands together.

Prayer in the Center::

Leader: God of Mercy, sometimes we do not love you with our whole hearts. Sometimes we fail to love others as you love us. And yet your forgiveness and grace is bigger than

we can even imagine. During this Lent season, turn our hearts toward you and help us be agents of your love in the world. Amen.

Reader: As we walk back out, let us remember that God is always with us. Let us think about ways that we can share God's love with others this Lent season.

Walk slowly from the center of the labyrinth back out to the exit.

Prayer after exiting.

Leader: Dear God,

As we journey through this season of Lent, teach us how to give,
so that we can joyfully respond when you call us to serve and help others.

Teach us how to pray,
so that we can be closer to you in all that we do throughout the day.

Teach us how to let go,
so nothing can stand in the way of our connection with you.

Teach us how to prepare,
so we can be ready to receive your love, wisdom, and blessing.

Help us to remember that in all ways we belong to you,

All: Amen

Optional Further Discussion:

Is there something you'd like to give up or add to your life during the season of Lent?
Is there something your family would like to do together? (perhaps commit to a service project, this weekly devotional, a daily prayer time, etc.)

Optional: As a family, color in your Finger Labyrinth and keep it a special location so that any family member can use it at any time that they want to have some prayer time with God this Lenten season.



• WEEK 1 •

JESUS PRAYED ALONE

SCRIPTURE: MARK 1:35

In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.

REFLECTION

Did you know that each of our four gospels, the books of the Bible that tell the story of Jesus' life, tell us that Jesus spent time alone with God in prayer!

From the time he was baptized through his resurrection, Jesus was often surrounded by crowds of people - people of all walks of life, people wanting to be with him, people challenging him, and people wanting something from him. He didn't have a home, so wherever he went and wherever he stayed, he was with different people daily. Our passage in Mark reminds us that Jesus made it a priority to spend time alone with God in prayer, especially in the busiest times of his life. By connecting with God in this way, Jesus shows us one way to pray.

Our lives are busy, too! It can be difficult to find time alone. Whether it is cleaning the dishes, doing the laundry, attending after-school activities, or volunteering in your faith community, each activity, while important, can make it challenging to make quiet time with God. (*Talk about the activities that fill your days.*)

When we spend time alone with God in prayer, we create a unique space to connect with the Creator. This time allows us to reflect on the very real things of our lives, such as the joy of learning something new at school, sadness when someone doesn't want to be our friend, anger when you have a fight with a brother or sister, or fear about a big decision you might need to make. By making time to be alone with God, we learn to love God and others just as Jesus did.

DISCUSSION

- Why do you think Jesus made time to pray to God? Why was prayer time important for Jesus? Why might it be important for us to pray?
- Do you enjoy spending time alone? What about it is nice? What about it is difficult?
- Have you prayed to God silently or out loud by yourself? If you have, what it is like? If you never have, what do you think it would be like?
- What does being alone with God look like for you? What does it feel like?

ACTIVITY: Create a Prayer Space

This week we invite you to create a prayer space in your home. No matter the size of your home, we encourage you to take a look around and find a room, a corner, or a spot that you can designate as a special place for prayer. It might be a chair or place where you place some floor pillows or blankets. It might be a coffee table that you gather around.

Wherever your space is, invite each person to bring something to the space that will help focus on God. Maybe it is a stuffed animal, a cross, a candle, a blanket, something from nature like a rock or a flower or a shell, a picture of a loved one that shared God's love with them, a Bible, etc.

Together make a sign that says: PRAYER SPACE or color the one provided at the end of this packet. You might bring a blank spiral notebook, journal or paper for writing down prayers or the finger labyrinth. Make the space unique to your family's prayer needs and desires. You can use this space to gather each Sunday for your family devotional time and family members can also use it separately to pray on their own. You could also use it daily to pray over highs and lows as a family.

PRAYER

Invite someone to lead this prayer:

God who hears us, Thank you for your son, Jesus. Thank you for his life.

Thank you that he shows us how to be connected to you.

Help me to learn how to be alone with you to talk with you, to laugh with you,
To cry with you, to question with you, to grow with you.

Bless me with time, space, and ability to meet with you one-on-one this week and every week.

All: Amen.



• WEEK 2 •
JESUS PRAYED DURING
SPECIAL TIMES

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 3:21-22

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

REFLECTION

During the season of Lent, we remember the life of Jesus. Jesus was born a baby - just like us. He was a little boy and grew up in a family. He lived his life in ways that are very familiar to us. He ate, slept, and traveled. He was happy, sad, tired, excited, and sometimes cranky. He worshiped God with other people. He talked to God in everyday moments, and he prayed during specific and special times.

Our scripture passage this week comes from the Gospel of Luke. John (who we know as John the Baptist) is baptizing people in a river. Baptism is a sign of repentance, or turning toward God. In Luke, the people are going into the water to show their need to be cleansed by God and forgiven. So why was Jesus being baptized if he didn't need forgiveness? For us! By being baptized, Jesus participates in this human event *with us* and shows us that baptism is a way to connect with God. Jesus prayed during his baptism, and we see that God spoke to let everyone know God was listening.

Why is it important for us to pray during special times? Think of some important times in your life. Maybe it was the birth of a child or sibling. Maybe it was your very first day of school. Maybe it was learning a new skill that took a long time to practice. What are some of the emotions or big feelings that you felt? Did you want to share them with others? Through the story of Jesus' baptism, Jesus shows us that God hears us and wants to connect with us during special times as well. God is with us in everyday moments and in the big moments in life.

DISCUSSION

- Have you attended or participated in a baptism service? What did you like about it? What do you remember about it (images, sounds, words)? If applicable, share photos of your baptism or your child's baptism.
- What are some special times or events in your life where people pray? Why do you think prayer happens during these times?
- Brainstorm with your family special times that you could pray together. You will select one of these in this week's activity to create a prayer to mark a special event in your family.

ACTIVITY

This week, you and your family are invited to create a prayer to mark a special time or event in your family's life. Perhaps it is a milestone birthday, or anticipating the start of a new school, or something as simple as a prayer that blesses the beginning of each week. Think of images, words, feelings, or phrases that are special to your family and incorporate them into the prayer you can write on the "A Prayer For..." activity page provided at the end of this packet.

Note: Prayers can be expressed in drawings as well as words!

Optional Extension: Make a copy of the "A Prayer For..." page and write/draw more prayer for people in your life with upcoming birthdays, milestones, or special events. Send them in the mail as a special way of sharing your love with them.

PRAYER

Invite someone to lead this prayer:

Dear Lord,

We thank you for each chapter of our lives. We thank you for the everyday happenings and we thank you for the big moments.

Thank you for giving us language to speak words of connection, thanks, and love to you that we can remember our whole lives.

All: Amen.



• WEEK 3 •

JESUS PRAYED WHEN HE NEEDED HELP

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 6:12-13

Now during those days Jesus went to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles.

REFLECTION

Our lives are filled with choices every day! What choices did you make today? (*what to wear, what to eat, who to play with, what to say, etc.*) Jesus, like all of us, made many decisions during his life. Some of them were easy and some were difficult. The Bible has many stories that show us that with decisions big and small, Jesus spent a lot of his time in prayer with God.

In our passage this week, we learn one place Jesus prayed was in the mountains. This time, he spent the whole evening in the mountains, praying to God. The writer wants us to know that Jesus was about to do something really important and before he could do that important thing, he needed to talk to God about it. That important thing was choosing twelve people who would join him while he taught and healed people.

Why do you think this was a big decision? One reason is the disciples became important parts of Jesus' story and were the first Christians who spread Jesus' message of love and hope to others in the world. Prayer like this gives us time to think about big choices, ask God for wisdom, and help guide us to a decision.

Just as Jesus asked for God's guidance while making decisions, Jesus invites us to do the same. Think of all the decisions we need to make in one day, one week, or one year. Some of these decisions like wearing shoes outside or looking both ways before we cross the street are decisions that eventually don't require a lot of thought. But there are many others that take up a lot of space in our brains. Some decisions we make are

difficult or complicated or maybe even scary. Jesus teaches us that God wants to hear from us and wants to guide us as we face the important moments of our lives.

DISCUSSION

- How do you make decisions? Do you make them quickly or does it take you a lot of time to make up your mind?
- What is something that you need help to do? Do you like to ask for help?
- Think of a decision or a choice you need to make in the near future. Do you feel comfortable talking to God about it? What would help you talk to God about it?

ACTIVITY

This week, take some time as a family to create a prayer box. You can use a shoe box or something of similar size. You might wrap it up with construction paper or wrapping paper. Let everyone decorate the box with drawings and symbols of things that remind them about God. Color the “Prayers” sign provided at the end of this packet and glue it onto the box.

For the rest of the season of Lent, write or draw prayers on pieces of paper. Four squares are included on the activity page to get you started. You can write prayers that involve a decision or difficulty you are facing. You can also include prayers of thanksgiving, or prayers for others. Collect your prayers in the box. After Easter, open up the box and look at the prayers and reflect on how God was with you and guided you during the season of Lent.

PRAYER

Invite someone to lead this prayer:

Dear God, You are one who walks with us and remains with us
You help us with the everyday And with the unexpected.
Help us learn to turn to you, to lean on you, to draw wisdom from you
So we can grow in faith and confidence each day.

All: Amen.



• WEEK 4 •
**JESUS PRAYED WITH A
THANKFUL HEART**

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 14:19-21

Then Jesus ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

REFLECTION

At the beginning of this story, Jesus is with a large crowd. This crowd had been learning from and listening to Jesus for most of the day, and it was dinner time. But there was a problem. They were far away from any town, and there definitely wasn't a fast food restaurant on the road or a delivery person who could come to the rescue. The only food available included five loaves of bread and two fish. Certainly not enough food to feed Jesus and his disciples, let alone many people. How did Jesus respond to this situation?

He didn't complain or try to find a quick fix. Instead, Jesus takes the meal and blesses it (in other words, he thanks God for the food). And what happens? After thanking God, God provides more than enough food for all the people. What a miracle!

What was Jesus trying to teach the crowd then and teach us today? Sometimes we can be so focused on the things we don't have that we forget to give God thanks for the things we do have! Giving thanks to God helps us appreciate the goodness of God's blessings and helps us feel happier and more connected to others. This week, Jesus reminds us of the importance of giving thanks to God and remembering how thankfulness can spread to people around us.

DISCUSSION

- Imagine you were one of the people in the crowd with Jesus that day and it was dinner time. What are some things you would have thought or said?
- What are some things that you are thankful for?
- Take a little time to think about last week. Who were some people who were helpful to you? What is one moment when you felt thankful?

ACTIVITY

This week, we invite your family to practice thankfulness together. As a family color the “Thank You!” prayer sheet provided at the end of this packet. Write down or draw some of the things for which you are most thankful. Hang your poster somewhere where it will remind you to say a prayer of Thanksgiving every day.

Optional Extension: Make copies of the “Thank You” page and use it to write thank you notes or drawings for people who have been kind or helpful to you this week. Send it in the mail or deliver it in person.

PRAYER

Invite someone to lead this prayer:

Dear Jesus,

This week we want to simply say: Thank you.

Thank you for leading us Teaching us

Blessing us, being with us, forgiving us, loving us.

Help us to practice thankfulness toward you and others today, this week, this month, Until it becomes as natural to us as our breath.

With thankful hearts, we pray,

All: Amen.



• WEEK 5 •
JESUS TAUGHT OTHERS
TO PRAY

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 11:1-4

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.

REFLECTION

What is your first memory of prayer? Was it praying in church? Was it praying a blessing before meal? Or saying a bedtime prayer with your family? More likely than not, your first experience with prayer involved at least one other person; a parent, grandparent, pastor, or friend. When we pray with the caring people in our lives, together we learn ways to connect with God.

In our story from Luke this week, Jesus was praying. This time, the Bible tells us that Jesus' disciples must have been watching him pray. The disciples saw that Jesus had a special relationship with God and they asked Jesus to help them learn to pray. They wanted to know how to pray in a way that God would feel near to them.

Jesus responds by teaching them what we now know as “The Lord’s Prayer.” What does the prayer include? This prayer teaches us to say happy and joyful things to God (called praise) and to say out loud that we know that God takes care of us. The prayer also teaches us to ask God to give us the things we need, teaches us to say sorry for our mistakes and to forgive others who might do mean things to us. Finally, the prayer teaches us to ask God to be with us in good and hard times.

Why do you think the Lord’s Prayer continues to be important for us today? Think of the many things we learn to do over the course of our lives. We learn how to walk,

talk, dress ourselves, read, play games, and so much more. With any of these activities, we had others help us learn how to do each thing. The same is true with prayer.

Jesus provided us with one way to pray. After learning the basics from our family of faith, we are able to find new ways to pray to God through music, art, song, dance, poetry, and ways we haven't even discovered yet. Whatever way we pray, we know that God is always with us, and God is always listening.

DISCUSSION

- How did you learn to pray? When was the first time you prayed out loud? When was the first time you prayed by yourself?
- Is prayer something that is easy for you? Why or why not?
- Who are some people in your life who help you pray?

ACTIVITY

This week we invite you to make a Lord's Prayer booklet and try to memorize the Lord's Prayer by the end of the week. First, take several pieces of paper. Color and cut out each phrase of the prayer from the activity page. Then take one phrase and glue it onto one of your papers. Repeat until you have glued all the phrases to the different pages. Then as a family, use your creativity to draw/paste/cut/craft a visual picture of what you think the phrase looks like and means to you. When you are done with all of the pages, take a stapler or other kind of fastener (like string) and make the pages into a booklet. Each evening read and pray the booklet together.

PRAYER

Say this prayer as an echo prayer. A leader says one line, and then everyone repeats that line. Continue until you have finished the prayer. You may use the one printed here, or say a version Lord's Prayer that you are most familiar with. Practice saying it every night this week.

Loving God,

Who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Amen.



• WEEK 6 •

JESUS PRAYED IN COMMUNITY

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 19:37-38

As Jesus was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the king, who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!”

REFLECTION

This Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week in the Christian faith. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and includes the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples, Jesus' death on Friday and his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Palm Sunday is a special Sunday where we tell the story of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. Crowds of people welcomed and celebrated Jesus and shouted, "Hosanna!" They laid palm leaves and clothes on the path as Jesus passed by. This story might surprise us after learning over the past couple of weeks that Jesus liked to pray to God in small groups or by himself. Palm Sunday is different. It is a great example of Jesus in the mix of things, surrounded by many people praying joyfully out loud.

What makes this passage especially helpful for our lives is that it is a vivid picture of what prayer can be like in a large group. Sometimes, we might think that prayer is something we can only do quietly, with our heads bowed and eyes closed. Our Palm Sunday story tells us something very different. Palm Sunday is a parade of prayer, with bright colors, sounds, and smells. This story invites us to think of ways that we can approach God together as God's family, filled with joy and energy, in a way that encourages and lifts each of us up in our own faith journeys.

DISCUSSION

- Does your faith community recognize Palm Sunday? Maundy Thursday? Good Friday? Holy Saturday? What are some of your memories from these services?

- Do you find it easy or challenging to pray out loud around other people? What could help you feel more comfortable praying around friends and your family?
- What are some of your family's traditions during Holy Week? If your family does not have traditions surrounding this week, what could be one that you create together?

ACTIVITY

To prepare for Holy Week and Easter, we invite you to make a Prayer Cross.

Depending on your preference and level of craftiness, take two pieces of wood, cardboard, posterboard, or plastic strips and fashion them into a cross. You could also color the cross provided at the end of this packet. Lay your cross on the kitchen table, coffee table, in your prayer area (from week 1), or in another common area.

During the week, gather as a family (at dinner time or bedtime), write prayers on sticky notes, and then fill the cross with your sticky-note prayers. Include prayers of praise and thanksgiving, prayers of lament or sadness, prayers for yourself, and prayers for others. Make it a goal to fill the entire surface of the cross with prayers. We will return to this cross on Easter Sunday.

PRAYER

Invite someone to lead this prayer:

Dearest Jesus,

Your Holy Week is filled with so many emotions.

From the pure joy of a Sunday celebration to the loneliness of your final Friday,
We take this journey with you, remembering to be mindful of the seriousness of your
choice and recognizing the boundlessness of your grace and love.

Help us to be prepared and present for all you will reveal to us this week.

All: Amen.



• WEEK 7 •
CHRIST IS RISEN!
PEACE BE WITH YOU!

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 20:18-22

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

REFLECTION

At long last, Easter Sunday is here! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! The Gospel of John tells us that Mary Magdalene saw and spoke with Jesus on Easter morning. She was so excited that she rushed to the disciples to deliver the good news. But what do we learn? Even after sharing that good news, the disciples are still hidden away in a locked room, afraid. Have you ever had this happen to you? You are excited about a new discovery or happy event in your life, and you want to share it with everyone? But when you do, others aren't excited with you, or it doesn't change their mood or mind.

This is what we see in today's story. Mary excitedly shared her good news, but the disciples just couldn't believe it. Jesus recognized this and met them where they were at. Now, Jesus could have scolded them or been disappointed with the disciples. Hadn't they learned anything? But instead, Jesus said, "Peace." He let them see him, his wounds, his whole self. And again, he said, "Peace be with you." Jesus wanted the disciples to know that they could come to him when they felt bad and alone and that he would help them.

This is what Christ offers us today! Through his resurrection, he offers us help, hope, peace, and purpose. Jesus gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit, who is the one who helps us in our daily lives and our big events. We can celebrate like Mary and doubt like the disciples and Jesus will meet us where we are and work with us there. This is the good news that Jesus gives to us.

DISCUSSION

- Imagine you are in the room with the disciples and Mary comes to share the good news about Jesus? How do you think you would react?
- What does peace mean for you? What does peace look like?
- The Gospel of John says that Jesus gave the disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit. As disciples of Jesus, how do you see the Holy Spirit helping you?

ACTIVITY

Our church has a tradition of flowering the cross on Easter Sunday. We take the plain wooden cross that has been on display during Lent and fill it with fresh flowers on Easter morning. It is a beautiful visual picture of the new life we have in Jesus.

We invite you to take the cross you created last week and gather the prayers that cover it together. Replace the sticky notes with fresh flowers, artificial flowers or your colored and cut out flowers from the activity page provided to cover the cross and join in the celebration of Jesus' resurrection and a new life in Christ.

**Also remember to open your prayer boxes that you made earlier in the season and celebrate how Christ has journeyed with you to Easter Sunday.*

PRAYER

Invite someone to lead this prayer:

Christ is Risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Thank you, God, for your son. For the new life found in him.

For the new hope found in him. For the gift of the Holy Spirit,

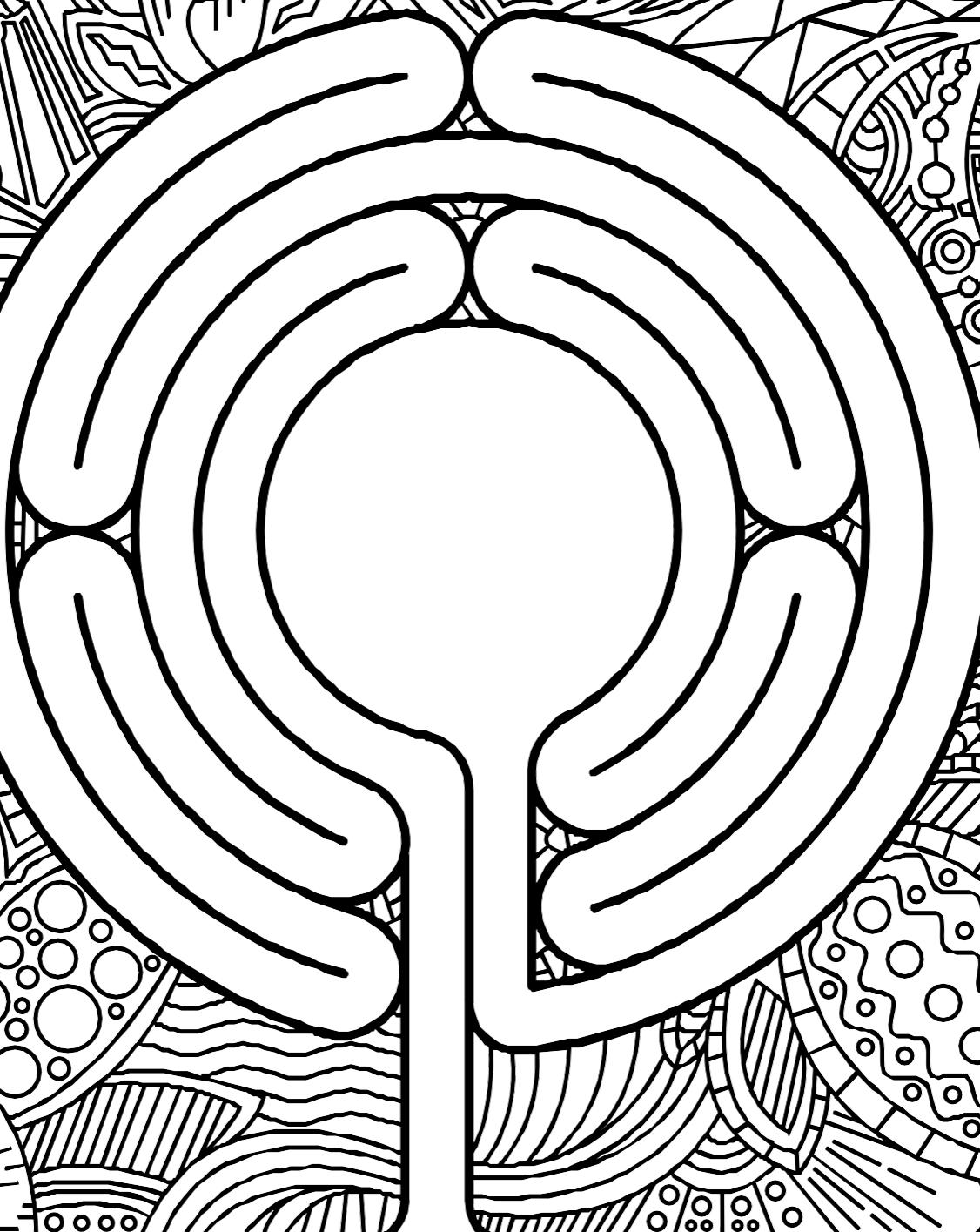
Who guides us and encourages us to be a people of Peace and Purpose

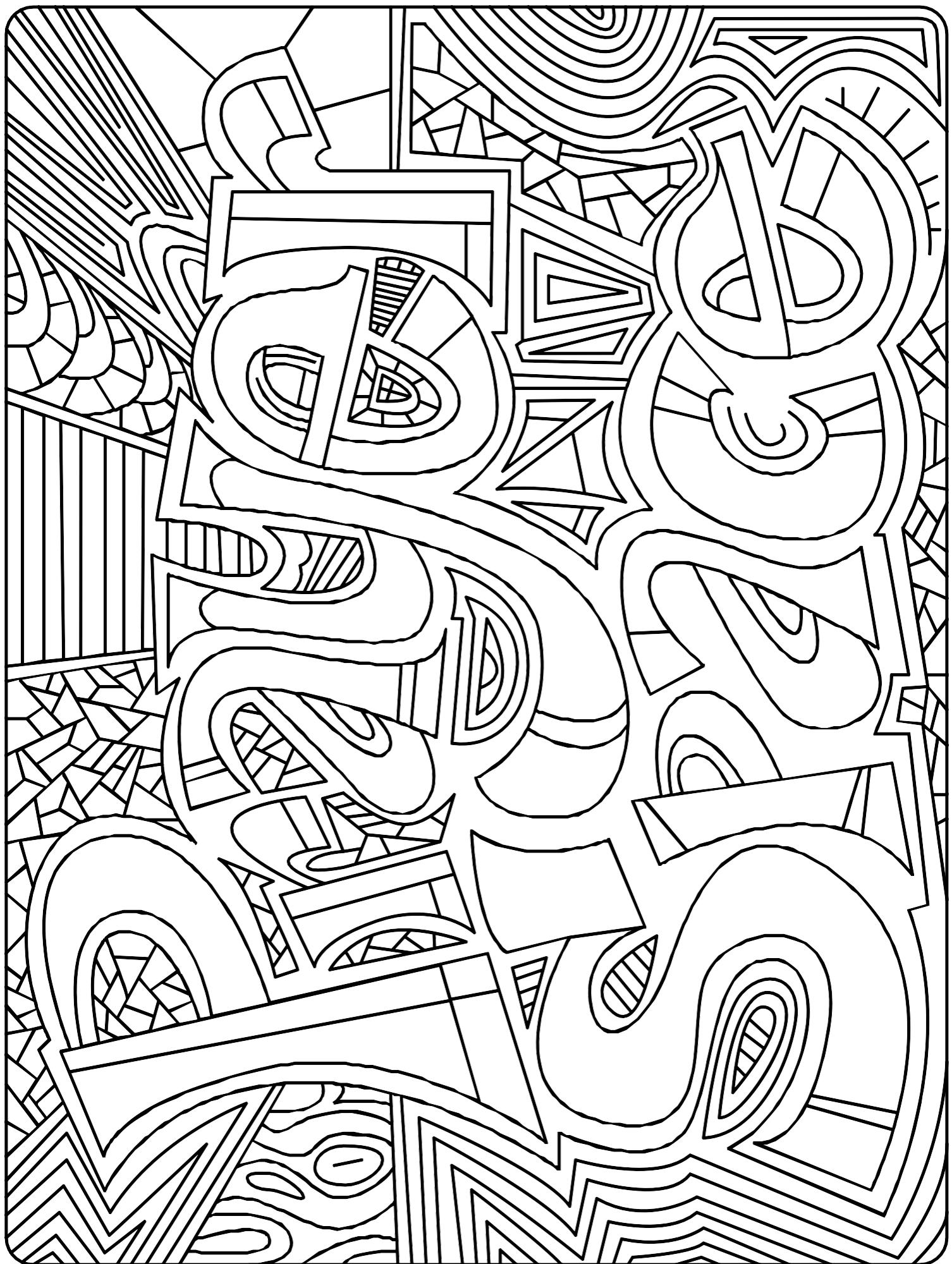
To each other and all whom you love in this world.

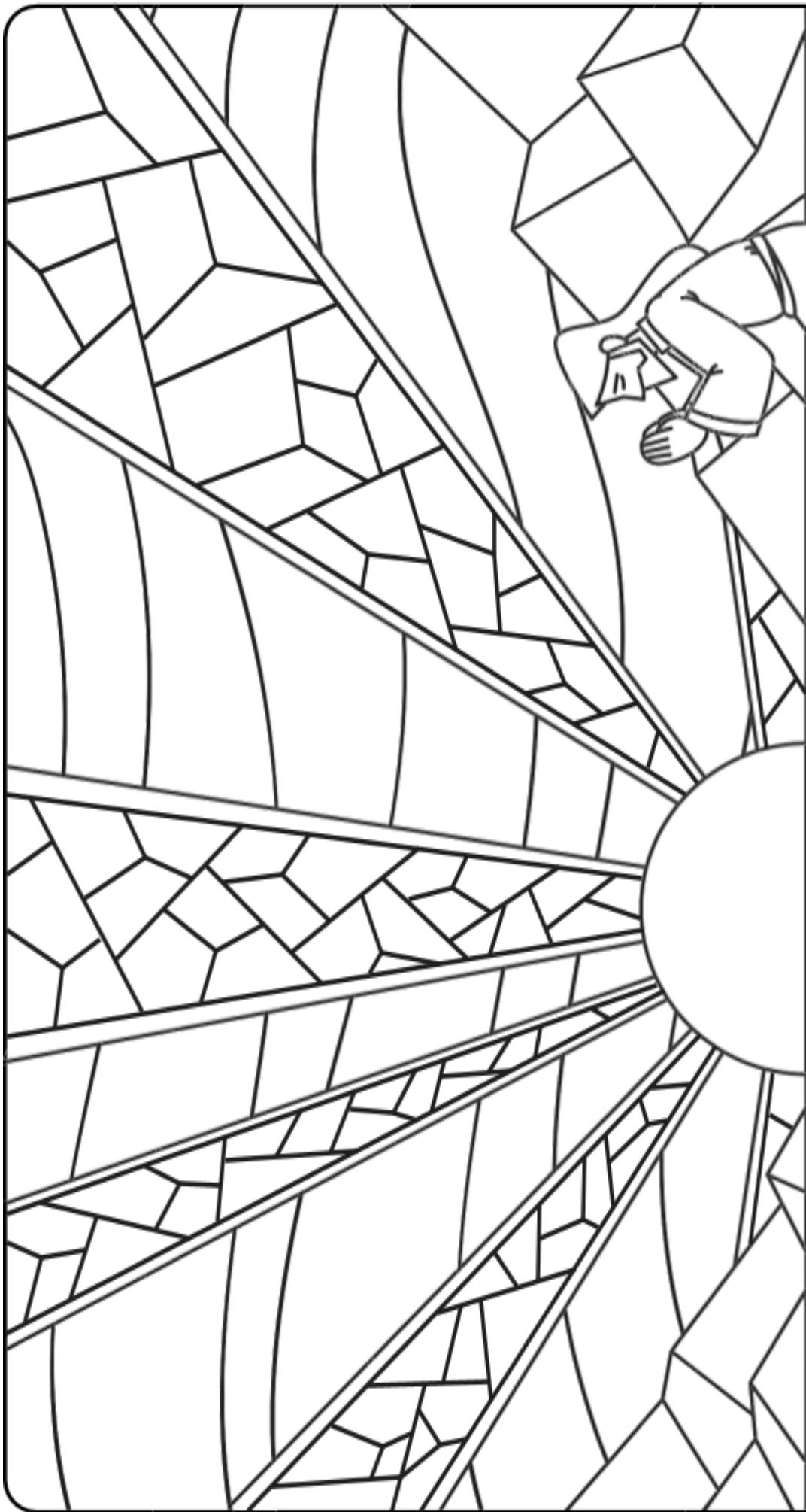
Christ is Risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Amen!

Journey through the
LABYRINTH

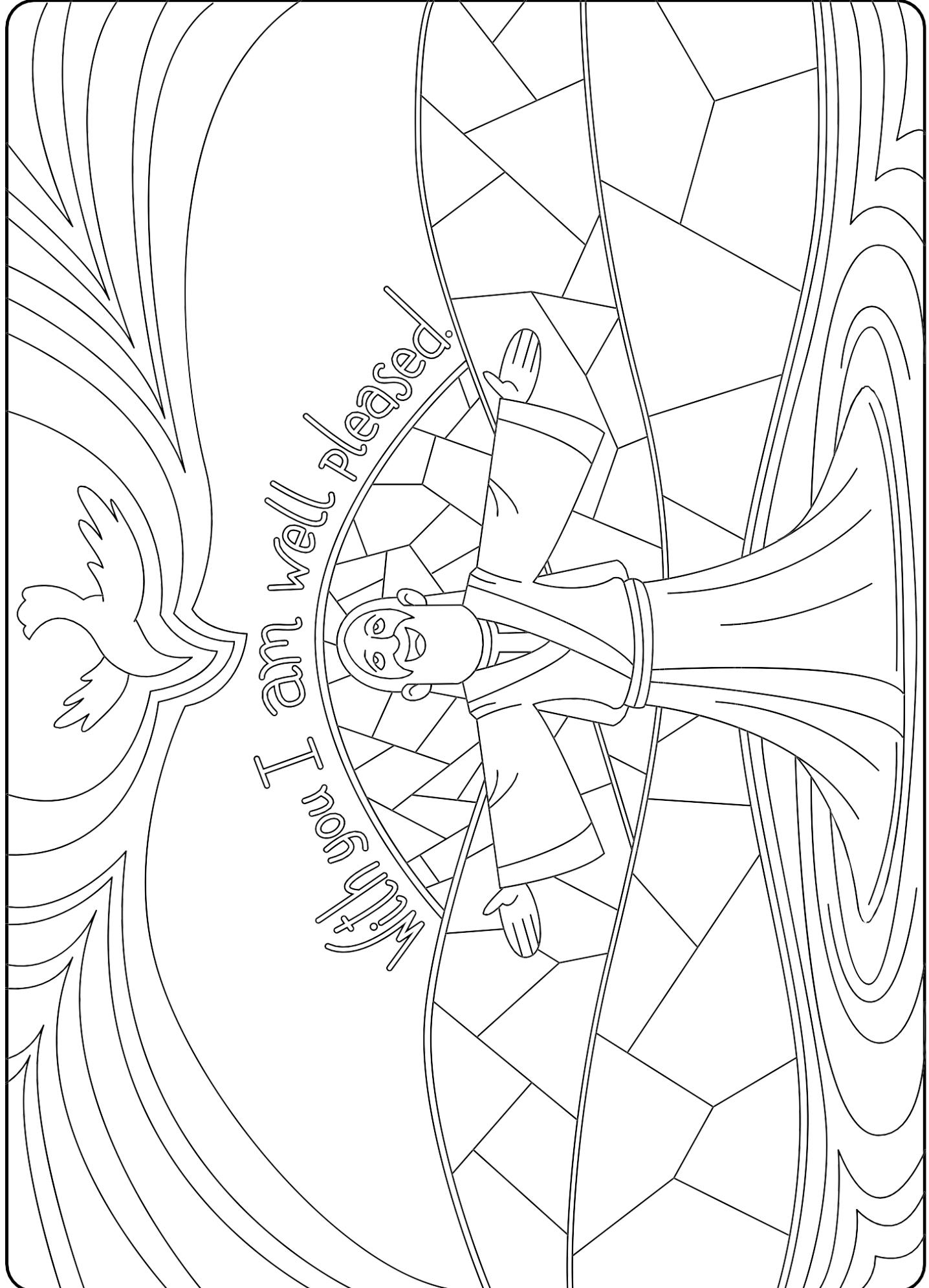




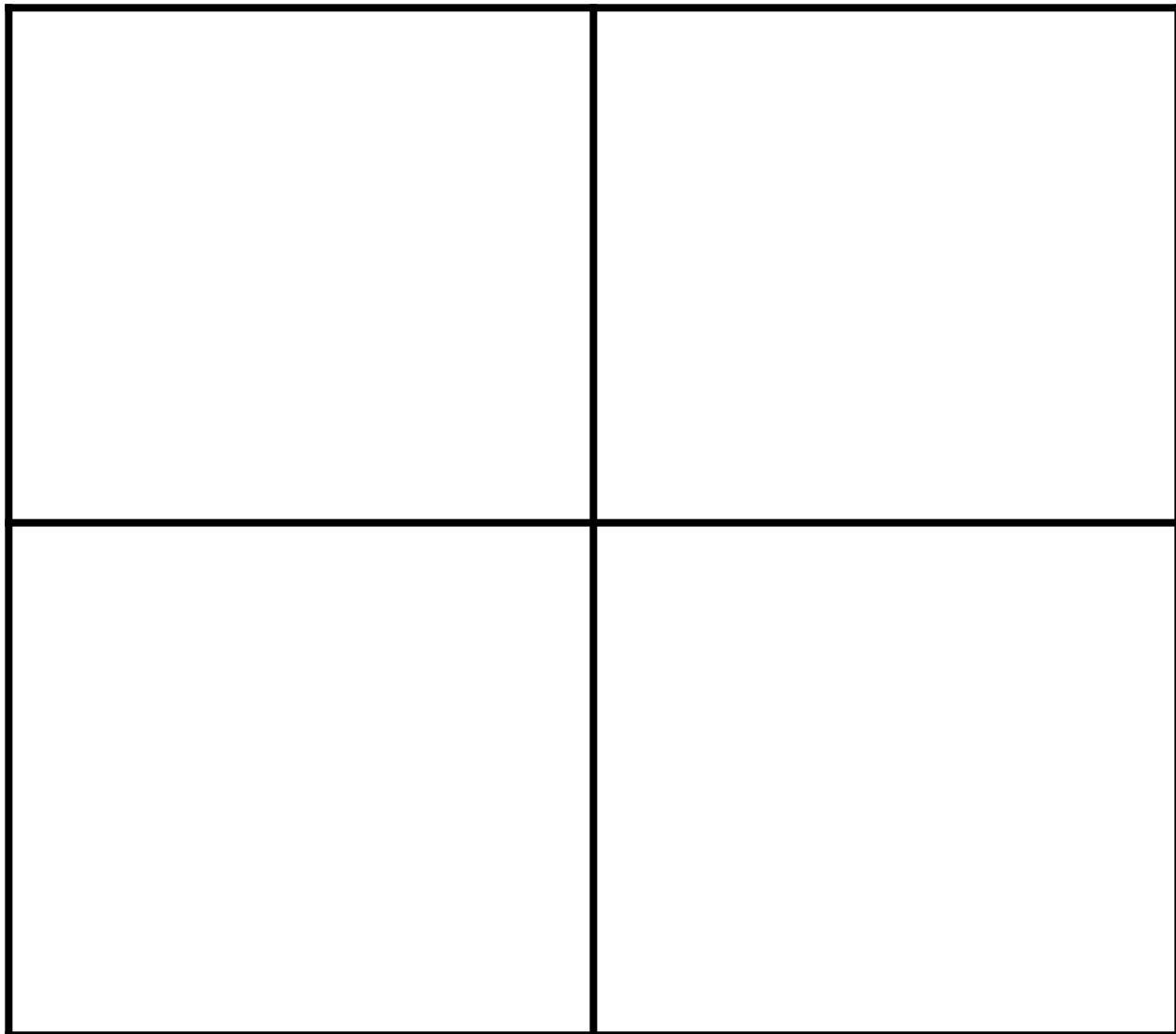
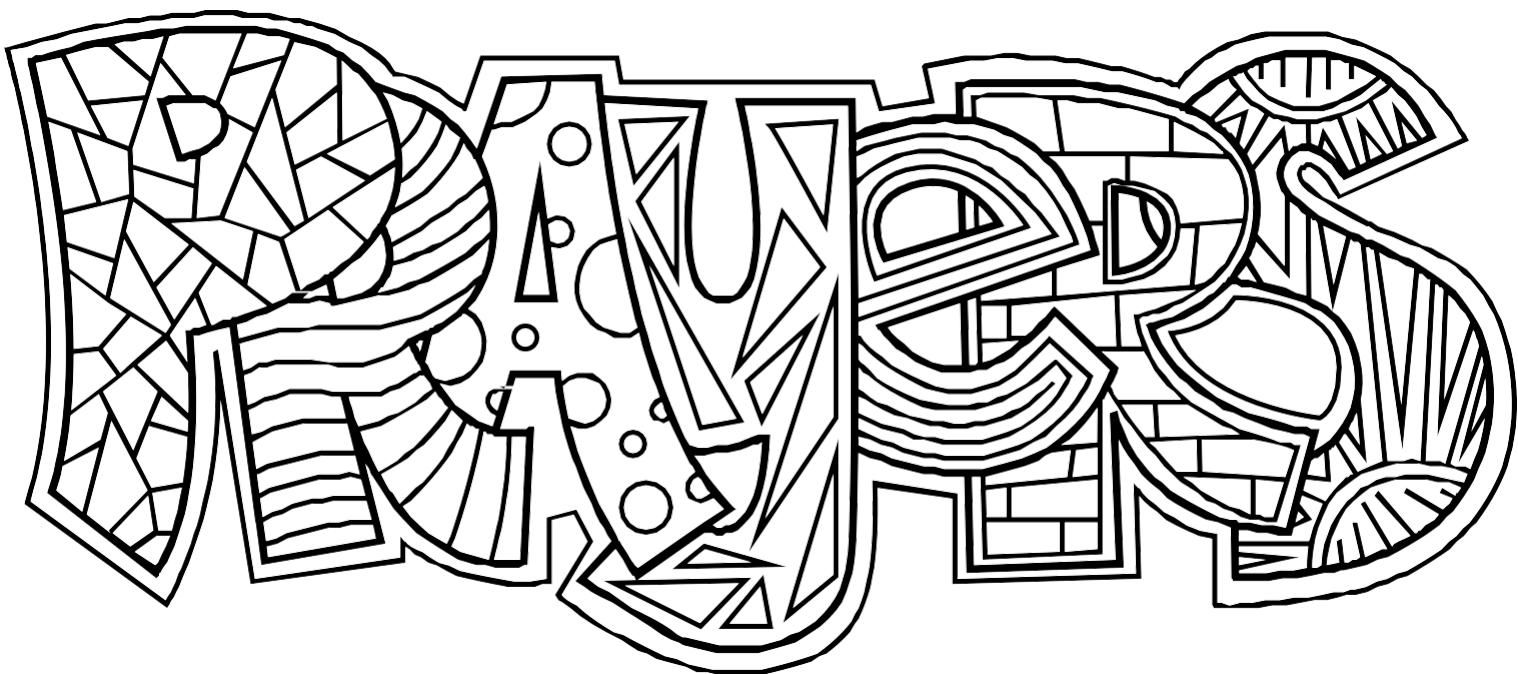


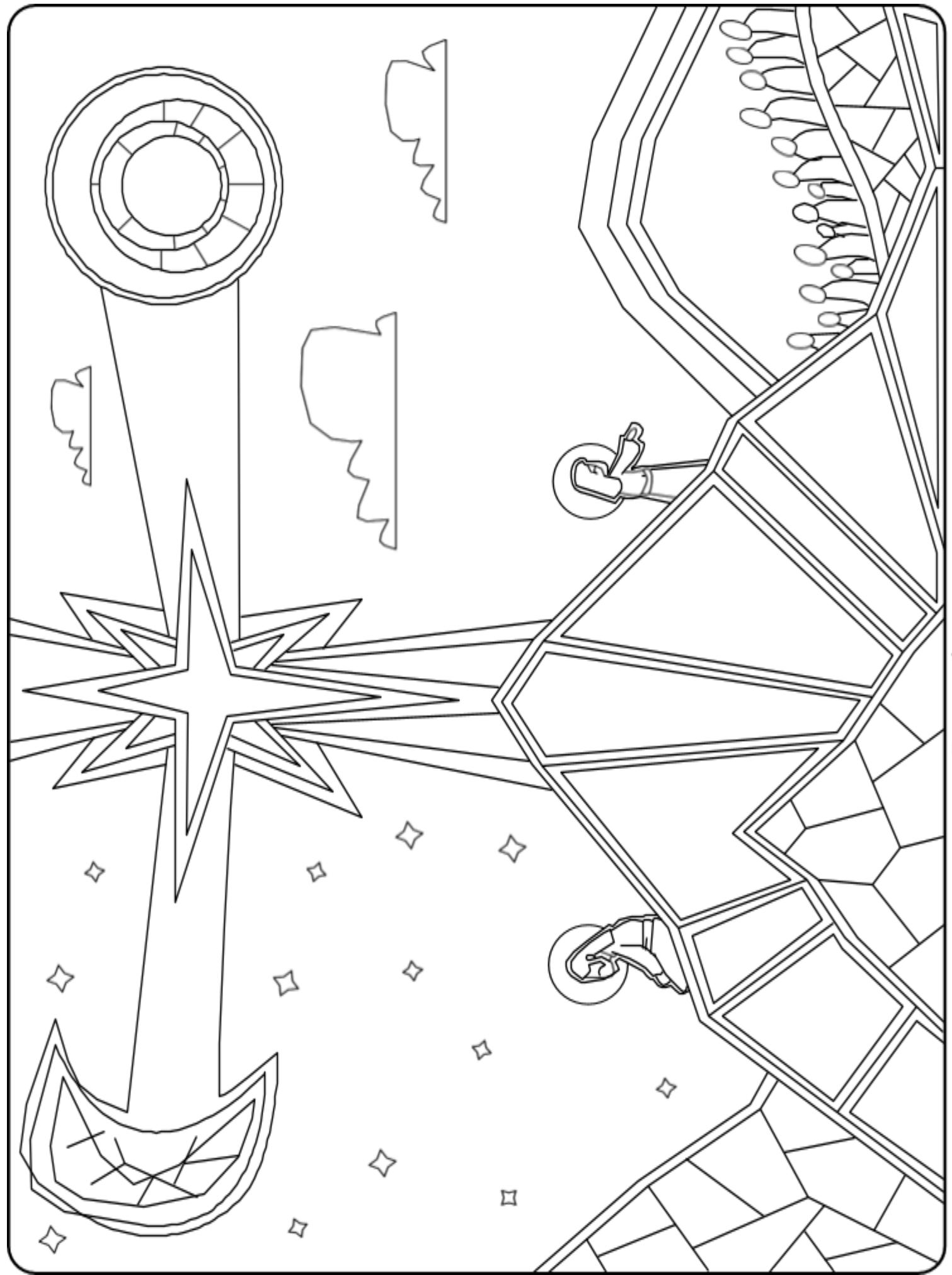
A vertical strip of a children's book page. At the top, the word "Prayer" is written in a large, bold, black, rounded font. Below the word, there are three simple stick figures. The first figure is a person sitting with their hands clasped together in a prayer position. The second figure is a person standing with their arms raised in a circular motion, possibly representing a dance or a ritual. The third figure is a person sitting on the ground, facing away from the viewer. The entire strip is framed by a thick black border.

A Prayer for...

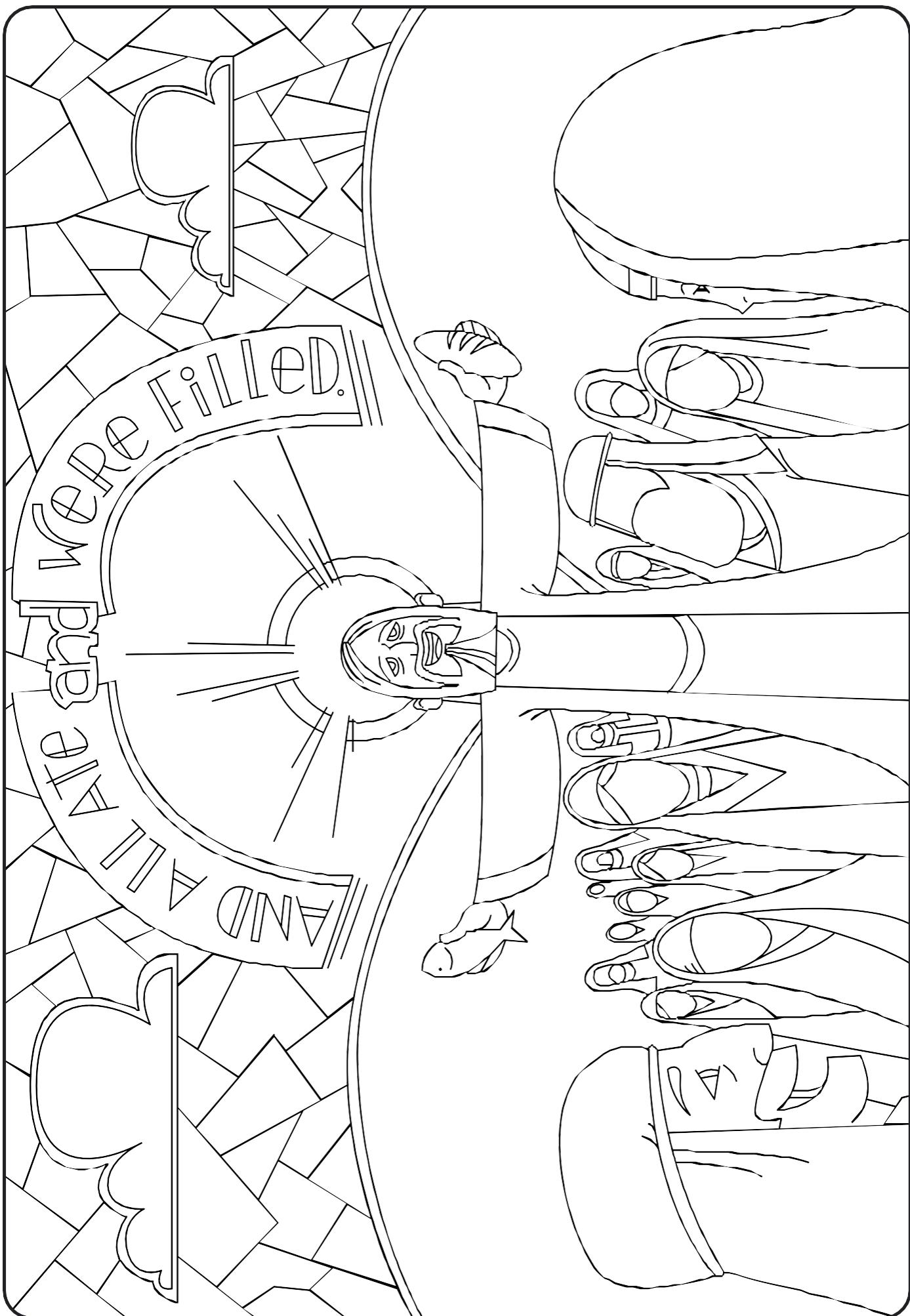


I am well pleased.
with you





you
and
the



LOVING GOD
who art in
Heaven
hallowed
be thy
Name.

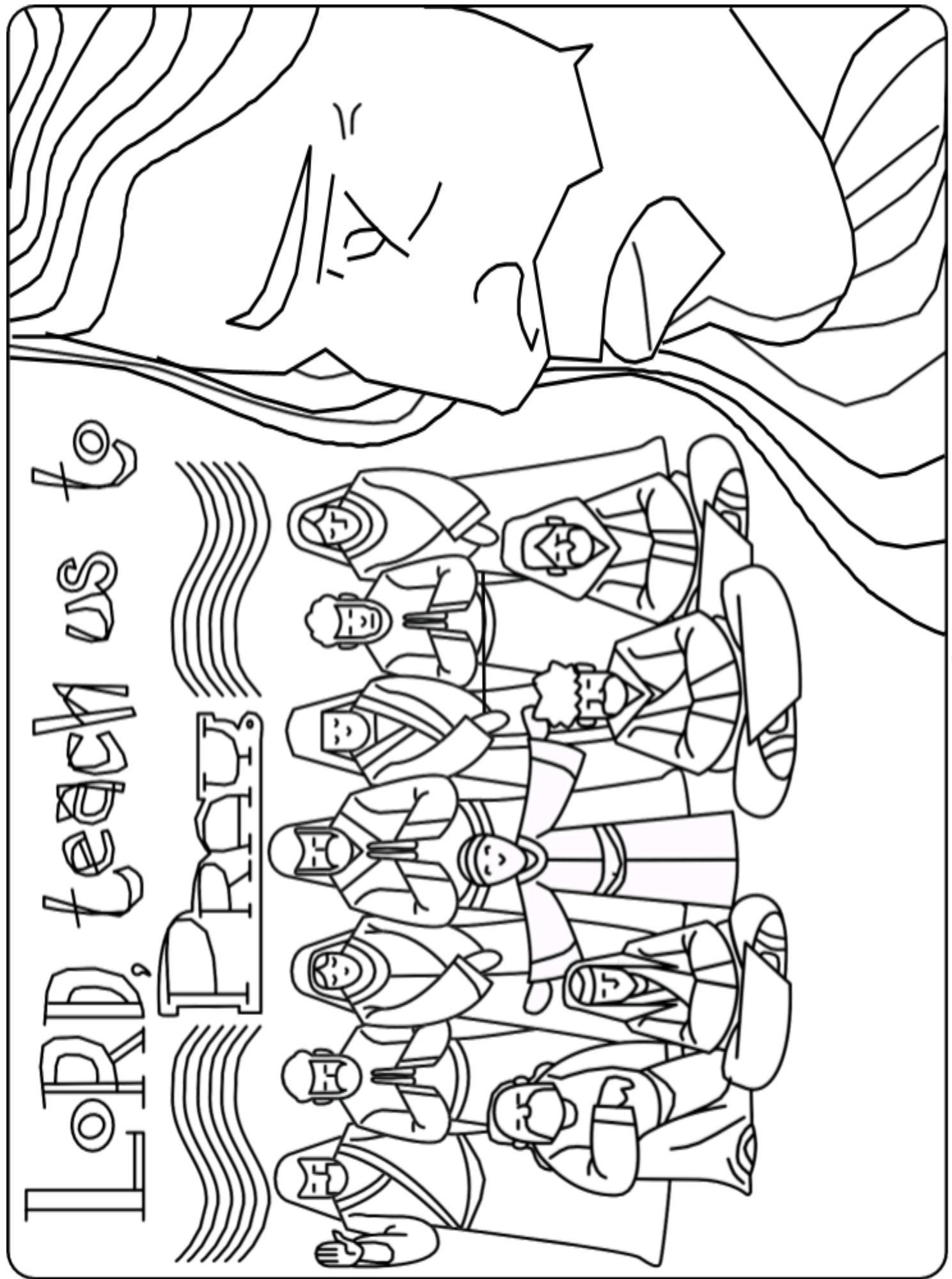
thy
KINGDOM
COME
THY WILL BE DONE
on EARTH as
it is in
Heaven

Give us
this
DAY OUR
DAILY BREAD

and
FORGIVE US
our debts
AS WE
FORGIVE
our debtors

and
LEAD US
not into
temptation

but
DELIVER
us from
evil





Glory in the Highest Heaven!



