

3

Jesus Christ Is Our Savior



Last month Alexa Federov's home was partly destroyed by a storm. So she and her parents went to stay at her Aunt Anna's house. Every day Alexa's parents traveled back to their home, and worked to clean up and repair the house.

One morning when Alexa woke up, she heard noises outside. She got up and went to see what was happening. It was Aunt Anna carefully hammering broken dishes on a table in the driveway. Alexa was confused and asked, "What are you doing, Aunt Anna?"

Aunt Anna explained, "Your mom and dad brought back a box of these broken dishes.

Your mom treasured these dishes because the set was a wedding gift from your grandparents. Your mom was upset when she saw the dishes broken and scattered. She couldn't bring herself to throw away the pieces."

Alexa asked, "Then why are you breaking the dishes into smaller pieces?"

"I'm going to use the pieces to make a special gift for your mom. I'm going to make a mosaic cross. Would you like to help me, Alexa?" Aunt Anna asked.





Alexa wanted to help, so she and Aunt Anna worked on the mosaic all morning. While they were working, Alexa asked, "Why are we making a cross?"

Aunt Anna said, "For me a cross is a sign of hope. I think about Jesus' love for us. I remember that he died on the cross and rose from the dead for us. I also remember that he promised to be with us always. When your house is repaired, your parents can hang the cross where all of you will see it often. As you look at it, you can think about Jesus' love.

You can remember that Jesus is with you in happy, peaceful times as well as in troubled, stormy times."

...

What do you think Alexa's parents will say when they see the cross?

What do you think about when you see a cross?

We Will Learn...

- 1** Jesus gave us the Eucharist at the Last Supper.
- 2** Jesus died on the cross to save us from sin.
- 3** Jesus rose from the dead and brought us new life.

1 Jesus gave us the Eucharist at the Last Supper.

Every year Jewish people gather to celebrate the Feast of Passover. In the time of Jesus, many gathered in Jerusalem for the feast. They praised and worshiped God in the Temple there.

Jesus and his disciples went to Jerusalem on the Sunday before Jesus died. They stayed in the city all week, and Jesus taught outside the Temple every day.

On the night before Jesus died, he and his disciples gathered to celebrate the Passover meal. At the meal Jesus gave the disciples a special way to remember him and to be with him. Here is what Jesus said and did at the meal. "While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, 'Take it; this is my body.'

Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood.'

(Mark 14:22-24)

Since this was the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples before he died, we call this meal the **Last Supper**. At the Last Supper Jesus gave himself to the disciples in the bread and wine which became his Body and Blood.

At the Last Supper Jesus gave us the gift of the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the sacrament of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus is really present under the appearances of bread and wine. This true presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist is called the **Real Presence**.

On the night before Jesus died, what did he do for his disciples?



2 Jesus died on the cross to save us from sin.

Some powerful leaders did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God. They plotted against him. After the Last Supper, Jesus went to pray in a garden with some of the Apostles. While they were there, the leaders had Jesus arrested.

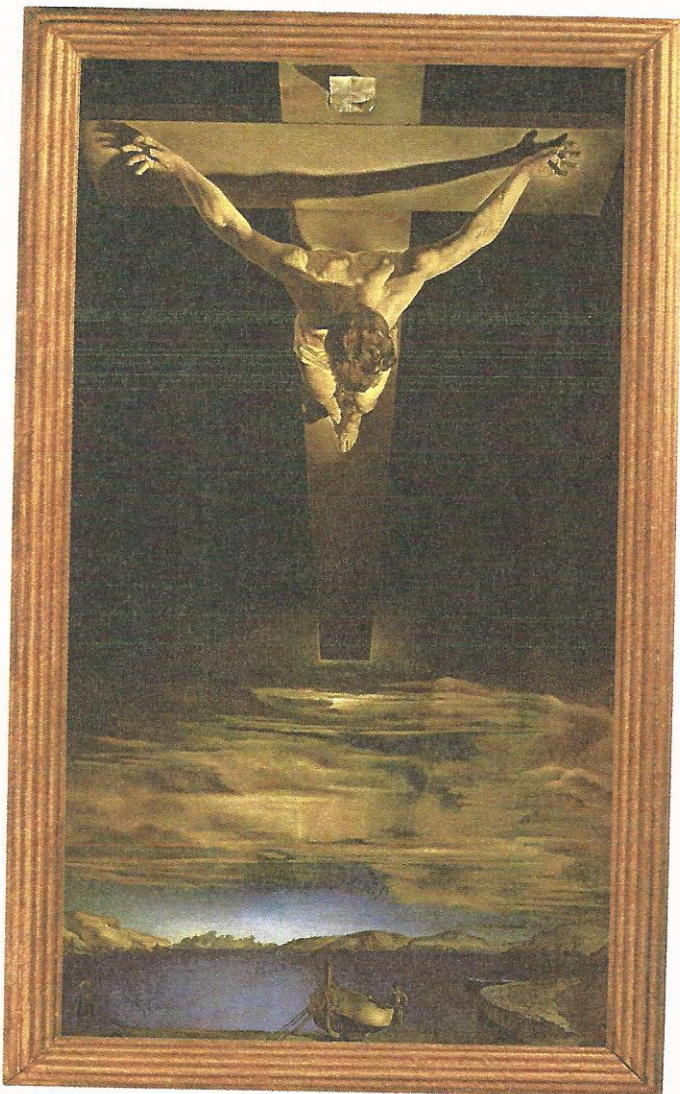
The next morning Jesus was sentenced to die. The soldiers forced Jesus to carry a heavy cross to Calvary, a hill outside Jerusalem. There Jesus was crucified—that is, nailed to a cross. Yet, even as he was dying, Jesus forgave those who had crucified him. He prayed: “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34).

Do You Know?

On the Feast of Passover the Jewish people remember and celebrate the wondrous way that God saved their ancestors from slavery and death in Egypt. God “passed over” the houses of his people, protecting them from the suffering that came to the Egyptians—the death of every first-born son. God then saved Moses and the Israelites by helping them to cross the Red Sea and flee Egypt. God made a covenant, an agreement, with Moses as he had made an everlasting covenant with Noah and all living beings after the flood and as he had with Abraham and his descendants. By the covenant God made with Moses and the Israelites, God would be their God, protecting and providing for them, and they would be his people.

Through Jesus Christ’s Death and Resurrection, a new covenant was made between God and his people. Through this new covenant we are saved. We can share in God’s life again.

Jesus’ mother Mary, other women disciples, and the Apostle John stayed by Jesus as he suffered and died on the cross. Many of Jesus’ disciples hid because they were afraid that they, too, would be arrested.



Christ of Saint John of the Cross, Salvador Dali, 1951

After Jesus died, his body was taken down from the cross and laid in a tomb. A great stone was rolled in front of it. Then, filled with sadness, the disciples left to return to the places where they were staying.

Why was Jesus sentenced to die?

3 Jesus rose from the dead and brought us new life.

Early on the Sunday morning after Jesus died, some women disciples went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body. As the women neared the tomb, they saw that the stone in front of it had been rolled back. The women thought someone had stolen Jesus' body.

But then the women saw two men in dazzling garments. The men said, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised" (Luke 24:5–6).

The women ran to tell the Apostles that Jesus had risen from the dead just as he had told them he would do. The mystery of Jesus Christ rising from the dead is the **Resurrection**.

Through his Death and Resurrection, Jesus Christ saved us from the power of sin and death. Jesus is our Savior. **Savior** is a title given to Jesus because he died and rose from the dead to save us. Jesus promised that his faithful followers would also share in his Resurrection and have eternal life. Through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior, we have new life—we share in God's own life now and have the hope of living with God forever.

Each year we celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

How do you think Jesus' disciples felt when they heard that he had risen from the dead?

Review

Write *True* or *False* next to the following sentences. On a separate piece of paper, change the false sentences to make them true.

1. _____ Jesus and his disciples went to Egypt to celebrate the Feast of Passover.
2. _____ Jesus gave himself to us in the Eucharist on the night before he died.
3. _____ Most of Jesus' disciples stayed with Jesus as he died on the cross.
4. _____ The women disciples shared the news about Jesus rising.

Discuss the following.

5. Why were Jesus and his disciples in Jerusalem during the week before he died?
6. Why did some powerful leaders have Jesus arrested and sentenced to death?
7. What did Jesus do for us through his Death and Resurrection?

Faith Words

Last Supper (page 20)

Real Presence (page 20)

Resurrection (page 22)

Savior (page 22)

With My Family

Sharing Our Faith

- 1 Jesus gave us the Eucharist at the Last Supper.
- 2 Jesus died on the cross to save us from sin.
- 3 Jesus rose from the dead and brought us new life.

PRAYING TOGETHER



At Mass after the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, the priest invites us to proclaim our faith. Here are two of the acclamations we pray:

**Save us, Savior of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.**

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

Pray these acclamations often during the week. Remember all that Jesus has done for us by his Death on the cross and his Resurrection.

Living Our Faith

In this chapter you learned that as Jesus was dying on the cross, he forgave those who crucified him. With your family talk about the importance of forgiveness. If there are people who have hurt you or treated you unfairly, forgive them by talking with them or by forgiving them in your heart. Ask forgiveness of any person whom you have hurt.

MORE for You to Know

DIVINE REVELATION God loves us so much that he told us about himself. He revealed himself to us. To *reveal* means “to make known.” Divine Revelation is God’s making himself known to us through his mighty deeds and by his interactions with his people throughout time.

God made himself known gradually over time. Revelation began with the creation of the first human beings and their descendants. It continued through the time of the ancient Israelites and the Jewish people. God’s Revelation is full and complete in his only Son, Jesus Christ. The Church is guided by the Holy Spirit to understand God’s Revelation. God’s Revelation is handed down through the Bible and Tradition.

THE BIBLE AND TRADITION The Bible, also called Sacred Scripture, is the written record of God’s Revelation. The Bible has a divine author, God, and many human writers. The Holy Spirit guided these writers as they wrote. The special guidance that the Holy Spirit gave to the human writers is called *Divine Inspiration*. It guaranteed that they wrote without any error God’s saving truth. For that reason, God is the true author of the Bible.

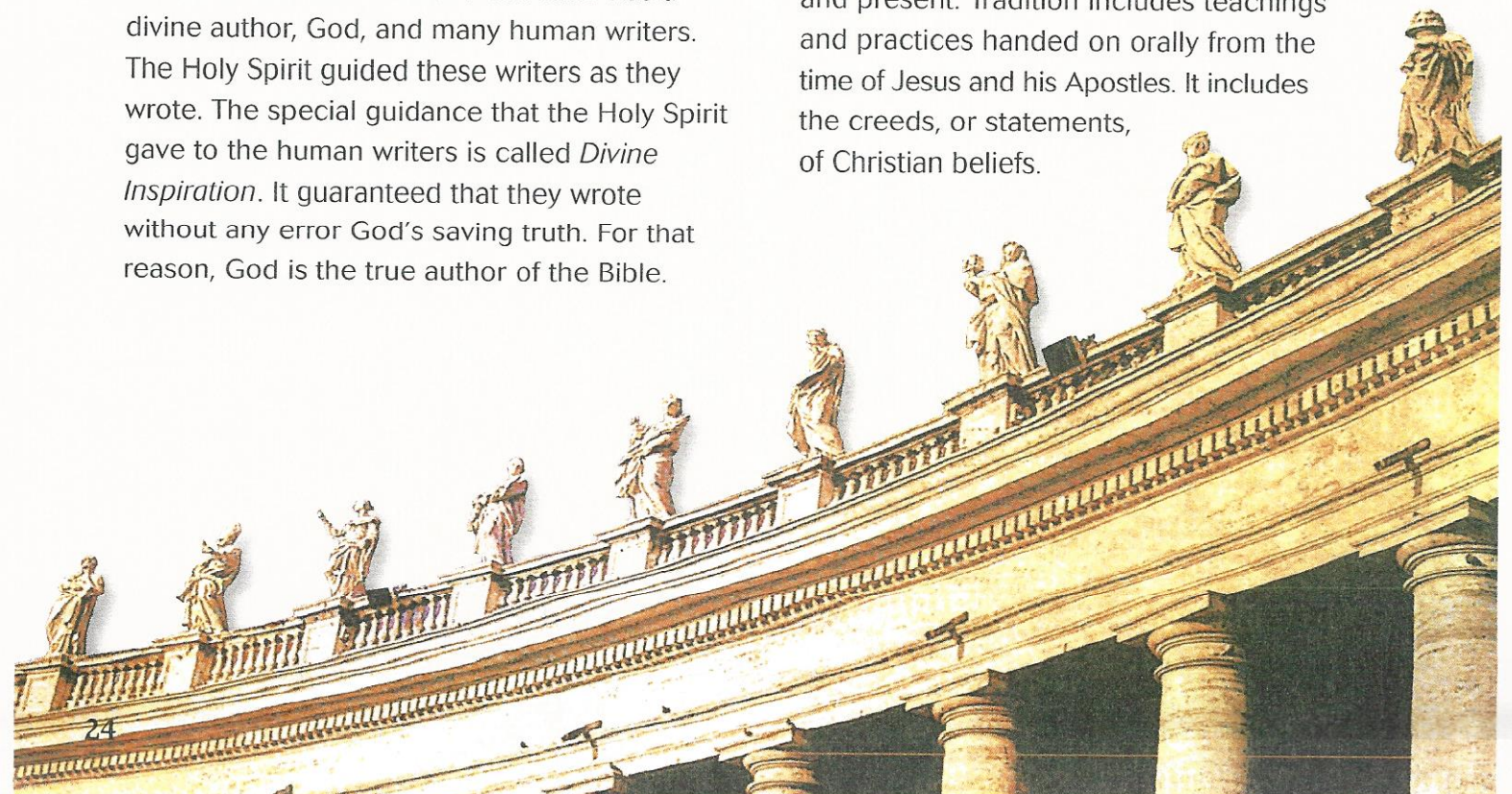
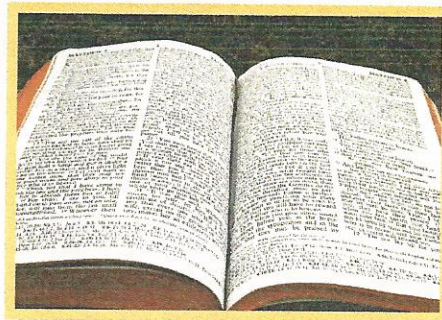
The word *bible* means “books.” The Bible is made up of seventy-three separate books. It is divided into two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. They contain Salvation history.

The Old Testament contains forty-six books. In the Old Testament we learn about God’s relationship with the people of Israel.

The New Testament contains twenty-seven books. In the New Testament we learn about Jesus Christ, his first followers, and the beginning of the Church. The four Gospels of the New Testament contain the message and key events in the life of Jesus

Christ. Because of this, the Gospels hold a central place in the New Testament.

Tradition is the Revelation of the Good News of Jesus Christ as lived out in the Church, past and present. Tradition includes teachings and practices handed on orally from the time of Jesus and his Apostles. It includes the creeds, or statements, of Christian beliefs.



UNIT 1 Assessment

Write *True* or *False* next to the following sentences. On a separate sheet of paper, change the false sentences to make them true.

1. _____ We call the Bible the Word of God.
2. _____ The Blessed Trinity is the central belief of our faith.
3. _____ No one stayed with Jesus as he died on the cross.
4. _____ Human beings are born with Original Sin.
5. _____ The disciples were the twelve men whom Jesus chose to share in his mission in a special way.

Put the following biblical events in the order in which they happened. Use numbers 1–5.

6. God promised to send a Savior. _____
7. At the Last Supper, Jesus gave us the gift of himself in the Eucharist. _____
8. Jesus shared the Good News of God's love. _____
9. Jesus was crucified, died, and rose from the dead. _____
10. Jesus, God's own Son, became man. _____

Write your responses on a separate sheet of paper.

11. Name two ways Jesus spread the Good News of God's love.
12. What is the Kingdom of God?
13. What is the Incarnation?
14. Who are the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity?
15. What did Jesus do for us through his Death and Resurrection?