

Waiting for Jesus

THE WORD

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome went to the tomb with spices. Just as the sun was rising, they asked, "Who will roll away the stone for us?". When they arrived, the stone had been rolled away and a man in the white robe was sitting there. The man said to them, "Do not be afraid, Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified has risen from the dead! You must go and tell the disciples!" The women were filled with amazement and they ran to tell the other disciples.

Ex 14:15–15:1 | Rom 6:3–11 | Ps 117 | Mk 16:1–7

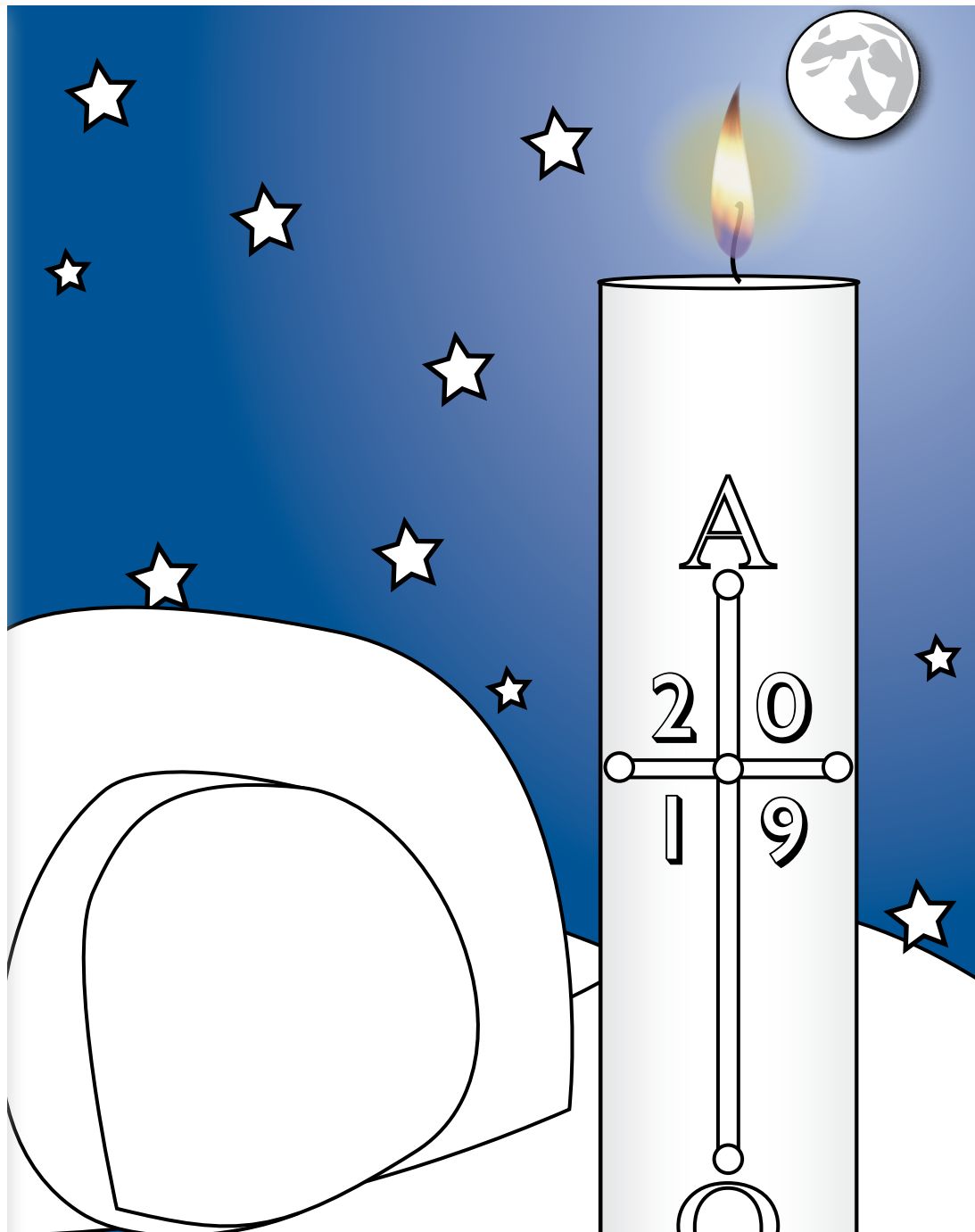
LOOK CLOSER

On this evening, the Paschal candle is blessed and lit for the first time. It will be used throughout the Easter season and at baptisms until next Easter when a new candle is blessed. The Paschal Candle has the symbols of Jesus on it: a cross, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet (alpha and omega) symbolising that Christ is our beginning and end, and the current year showing that Christ is Lord of our time. Five grains of incense in the form of a cross are inserted as symbols of the five wounds of Christ.

Make it: Make a family prayer candle to use throughout the year. Decorate it with soft wax or paints. Include your family name and other symbols. Ribbons and holy pictures can be held in place with pins.

DID YOU KNOW?

Easter Symbols. The Easter Vigil has some very powerful symbols. One of the most important is fire, because Jesus came to set the world on fire and shatter the darkness. The Easter Candle is lit and in turn it lights the candles of the congregation until the whole church is ablaze with light. We also, for the first time in 40 days, sing 'alleluia' and other joyful songs.



PRAYER SPACE

Symbol: Candle | [Make the Sign of the Cross and one person say]

Father, we share in the light of your glory through Jesus, the Light of the world!

Make this candle holy and inflame us with your hope, Amen.

[Light your candle then together say]

Alleluia! Alleluia! Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, His love has no end. Alleluia!

[One person read the Gospel]

After the Sabbath as Sunday was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. Suddenly there was a violent earthquake and an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled the stone away and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, his clothes white as snow. The angel spoke to the women, "Do not be afraid – Jesus is risen!"

Mt 28:1-10

[Together respond]

Alleluia!

[Offer any individual prayers, then together make the Sign of the Cross]

