

# SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS

## VISUAL AIDS

- > Decorated Easter candle.
- > Picture of the risen Jesus.
- > One small candle or votive light for each child.
- > Candle shape cut-outs.

## WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

*Say/sing together:*

**Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am with you always,  
even to the end of time.  
Alleluia!**

A reading from the Good News given to us by Matthew and Mark.  
**Glory to you, Lord.**

Jesus had arranged to meet his eleven friends on a mountain in Galilee. Jesus came up and said to them:

'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. Make all people children of God, baptising them in the name of the Father and

## DISCUSSION

What happens in today's story?

- Jesus returns to his Father.  
Now, as a sign that he has returned, we put out the big Easter candle - but not your little candles.

What task did Jesus give his friends?  
- to carry on Jesus' work of spreading the Good News.

That is why we don't put out our little candles. To show that we are Jesus' friends, and want to carry on his work, we keep our little candles burning. They show that we want to be the light of the world.

Do we have to keep our candles burning until Jesus comes again?  
Not the little candles, but we have to keep our hearts burning with love for Jesus and his work.

## SHARING

In today's feast we celebrate Jesus' return to his Father.

Show them the Easter candle (which should be lit) and explain how it has been lit since Holy Saturday night as a sign that the risen Jesus is with us. Now, after today's Gospel, as a sign that Jesus returns to his Father, we put the candle out.

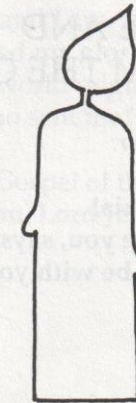
Though Jesus may be gone, his work has to continue. It is Jesus' friends who have to continue Jesus' work in the world.

Now, let us each light our candle, and listen to Jesus' farewell message; listen carefully to what he asks us to do.

of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do all the things I have told you. Know that I am with you always, yes even to the end of time.'

After Jesus had spoken to them he was taken up into heaven.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



## ACTIVITIES

- > Extinguish the little candles.

Either:

- > Give out the candle shapes.
- > On them have the children write or draw:  
either, how they will be lights of Christ in the week ahead;

or, how they will spread the Good News, and show they are Jesus' friends.

or:

- > Give out a large piece of paper, and have the children draw round their feet. Then on the footprints, have them write how they are ready to set out to spread Jesus' Good News of love, forgiveness, peace, etc.