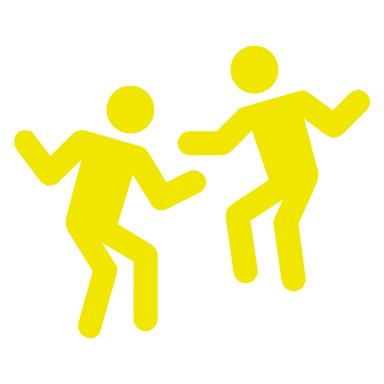
Eastertide

**We can lead this too!**

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**Theme:** Eastertide

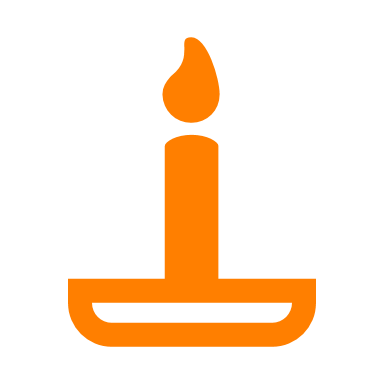
**Purpose:** to help children celebrate the resurrection and think about the Emmaus story.

**Liturgical colour:** white

**Materials Required:** accompanying PowerPoint, copy of prayers/script for readers

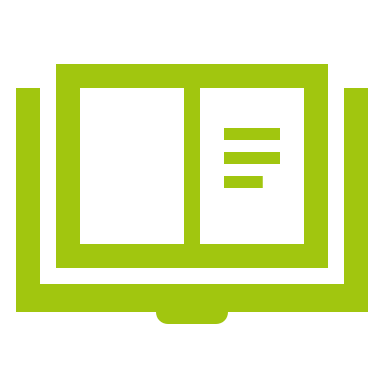
**Suggested hymns:** Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord, Walk with me O my Lord, One more step along the world I go

**Time allocation:** 15 minutes

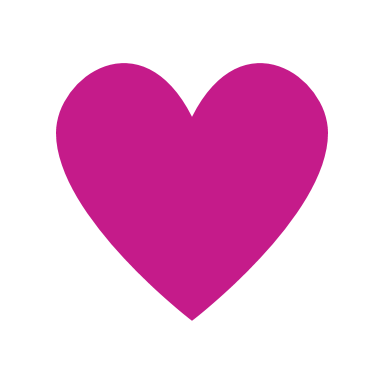


***We gather:*** *We come together as part of God’s family.*

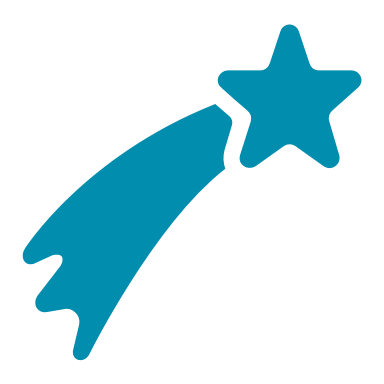
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| **Slide** | **Script** | **Ideas** |
|  | Reader: We gather as a school family to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.  Reader: The Church celebrates the season of Easter for fifty days, rejoicing in the new life and hope that the risen Jesus brings us. | Play quiet music  Light a candle |
|  | Reader: During the Easter season we listen to stories of Jesus unexpectedly appearing to his friends.  Reader: Today we are going to listen to a story of when Jesus appeared to two of his friends as they walk to a town called Emmaus. They didn’t know yet that Jesus has risen from the dead  Reader: We will stop to reflect on the story as we listen. Let’s listen to the beginning of the story now. |  |

 ***We listen:*** *God speaks to us and we listen*

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|  | Reader: On that same day two of Jesus' followers were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking to each other about all the things that had happened.  Reader: Who are the people you are able to share what is happening in your life with? Take a moment to be grateful for their presence in your life… | Display the Bible  (The passage is in Luke 24) |
|  | Reader: As they talked and discussed, Jesus himself drew near and walked along with them; they saw him, but somehow did not recognise him.  Reader: Do we always recognise Jesus as he walks with us? Do we see him present in our brothers and sisters throughout the world? |  |
|  | Reader: Jesus said to them, “What are you talking about to each other, as you walk along?” They stood still, with sad faces. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him,  “Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that have been happening there these last few days?”  “What things?” he asked  “The things that happened to Jesus of Nazareth,” they answered.  Reader: What things cause you to be downcast or sad? What kind of difficulties do people in our global family face? |  |
|  | Reader: Jesus explained to them what was said about himself in all the Scriptures, beginning with the books of Moses and the writings of all the prophets.  As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther; but they held him back, saying, “Stay with us; the day is almost over and it is getting dark.” So he went in to stay with them. He sat down to eat with them, took the bread, and said the blessing; then he broke the bread and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight.  Reader: Can you think of another time that Jesus broke, blessed and shared the bread?  Can we look out for Jesus in encounters with others, sharing stories and food? |  |

 ***We respond:*** *We respond to the Word of God*

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|  | Reader: The Emmaus story reminds us that the risen Jesus is walking alongside us. We can encounter him through the Bible, the celebration of Mass, the beauty of creation and also through our sisters and brothers throughout the world.  Reader: It teaches us about the importance of taking time to listen to people’s questions and stories. Of walking with people and getting to know them, especially people who are different to us.  Reader: Warmi Husai in Peru helps children from different backgrounds to do this and to get to know each other better. Let’s find out more…. |  |



***Going Forth:*** *We want to share the Good News!*

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|  | Reader: Let’s pray together:  Lord Jesus  as we celebrate your resurrection,  open our eyes to see you walking with us everyday.  May we be a joyful Easter people, who reach out to our global family with love.  Amen**.** |  |

OPTIONAL CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:

* Make an ‘Alleluia’ banner to display in your classroom over the Easter season.
* Send the children out in pairs to have an ‘Emmaus’ walk around the school grounds and get to know each other better
* Bake some bread together and discuss why the disciples might have recognised Jesus in the breaking of bread.