

Welcoming the Alleluia

Note: Celebrate this prayer at the beginning of your first class session after Easter Sunday.

PREPARATION

1. Gather a white cloth for the prayer table covering, a bowl of Holy Water, the treasure chest or box containing the Alleluia banner(s) or scroll(s), a Bible or Lectionary for Masses With Children, a candle (if allowed), fresh flowers, colored eggs, and other appropriate Easter season symbols.
2. Gather rhythm instruments and noisemakers.
3. Read over the prayer outline in order to be sure of the best option for your circumstance.

PRAYER

To Begin

Option 1: *If you “buried” the Alleluia prior to Lent, invite the children to process in quiet to the place where you did so. Ask the children if they know why they are gathering in this spot today. Then, remove the treasure chest, box, or container from its “burial place” before continuing with the prayer.*

Note: You will need to have on hand the rhythm instruments and all items for the prayer table. These will be carried in the procession back to the prayer table.

Option 2: *If you displayed your closed/locked treasure chest, box, or container on the Lenten prayer table, simply make sure that you have it available for the prayer.*

To Continue

1. Have the children form a line for a procession. Give them the rhythm instruments and items to be placed upon the prayer table, including the treasure chest, box, or container with the Alleluia(s) or scroll(s).

2. Invite the children to process to the Easter season prayer table using these or similar words:

CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!
LET US GO FORWARD SINGING OUR EASTER PRAISES
AND MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE
UNTO THE LORD!

Lead, or have a student lead the procession to the prayer table. Sing an Easter psalm or song as you process (but not the Alleluia), and encourage the children to make a joyful noise by playing their instruments and joining in the singing.

3. As the class arrives at the prayer table, motion for the children to gather around. Invite them to quiet themselves, and then lead the setting of the table with the following or similar words. After the words are spoken, encourage the children to rejoice by playing their instruments.

LET US DRESS OUR EASTER TABLE IN WHITE,
THE COLOR OF THIS EASTER SEASON OF JOY.
(The white cloth is placed on the prayer table.)

LET US PLACE UPON OUR EASTER TABLE
THE WORD OF GOD, WHICH GUIDES US
ON OUR WAY.
(The Bible or Lectionary is placed upon the prayer table.)

LET US BRING TO OUR EASTER TABLE
THE HOLY WATER, WHICH REMINDS US OF
OUR BAPTISM AND OUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST.
(Place the bowl of Holy Water on the prayer table.)

LET US BRING TO OUR EASTER TABLE
THE EASTER CANDLE.
IT REMINDS US THAT CHRIST IS THE
LIGHT OF THE WORLD AND WE ARE CALLED
TO BE THAT LIGHT, TOO.

(Place the candle on the prayer table.)

LET US BRING TO THE TABLE (*EGGS,
FLOWERS, ETC.*), OUR EASTER SYMBOLS OF
RESURRECTION AND NEW LIFE.

(Place any remaining Easter symbols on the prayer table.)

AND LET US OPEN OUR (*TREASURE CHEST,
BOX, CONTAINER*) AND WELCOME OUR EASTER
SONG OF JOY AND PRAISE.

(Place the treasure chest, box, or container on the prayer table. Open it and unroll the banner(s) or scroll(s), placing it/them on the prayer table. If large in size, display it/them on a classroom wall or bulletin board. As this is happening, sing joyful Alleluias and play the rhythm instruments.)

4. Conclude with prayer, using the following or similar words.

God of new life,
today we sing our Easter song of
joy and give thanks for your gifts
of new life.

We ask your blessing upon
our Easter prayer table,
for this is the place we will
gather and pray together
as Easter days continue.

Hear our prayers,
and fill our hearts with
thanksgiving, joy, and praise.

We ask this through
our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

(Conclude by singing Alleluias and playing the rhythm instruments.)