

WELCOMING THE ALLELUIA



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A Kendall Hunt Company

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

PREPARATION

1. Gather a white table cloth, 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 to determine the best option for your class.



PRAYER

To Begin: Lead the young people in singing a refrain or song in honor of Mary.

Option 1: *If you "buried" the Alleluia prior to Lent, invite the children to process quietly 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 banner(s) or scroll(s).
2. Invite the children to process to the Easter 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!

Preparing the Easter Prayer Table and **WELCOMING THE ALLELUIA**

Lead, or have a student lead, the procession to the prayer table. Sing an Easter hymn as you process (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 table is prepared, encourage the children to rejoice by singing Alleluia and playing their instruments.

**LET US DRESS OUR EASTER TABLE IN WHITE,
THE COLOR OF THIS EASTER SEASON OF JOY.**

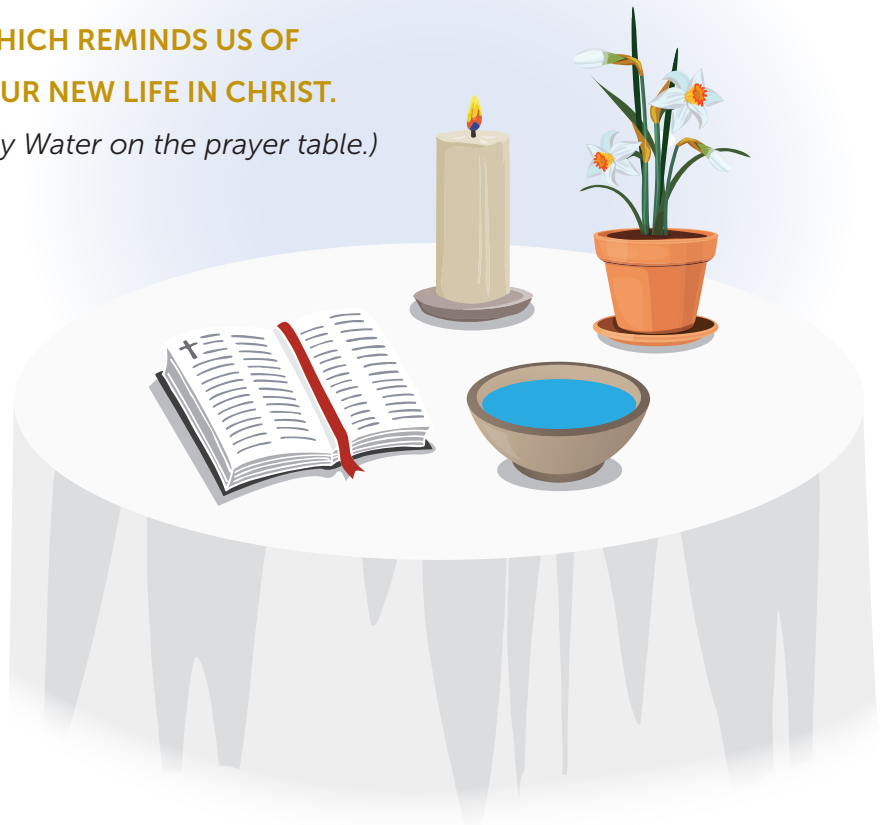
(The white cloth is placed on the prayer table.)

**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.)



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**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, invite the children to sing joyful Alleluias and play their instruments.)

