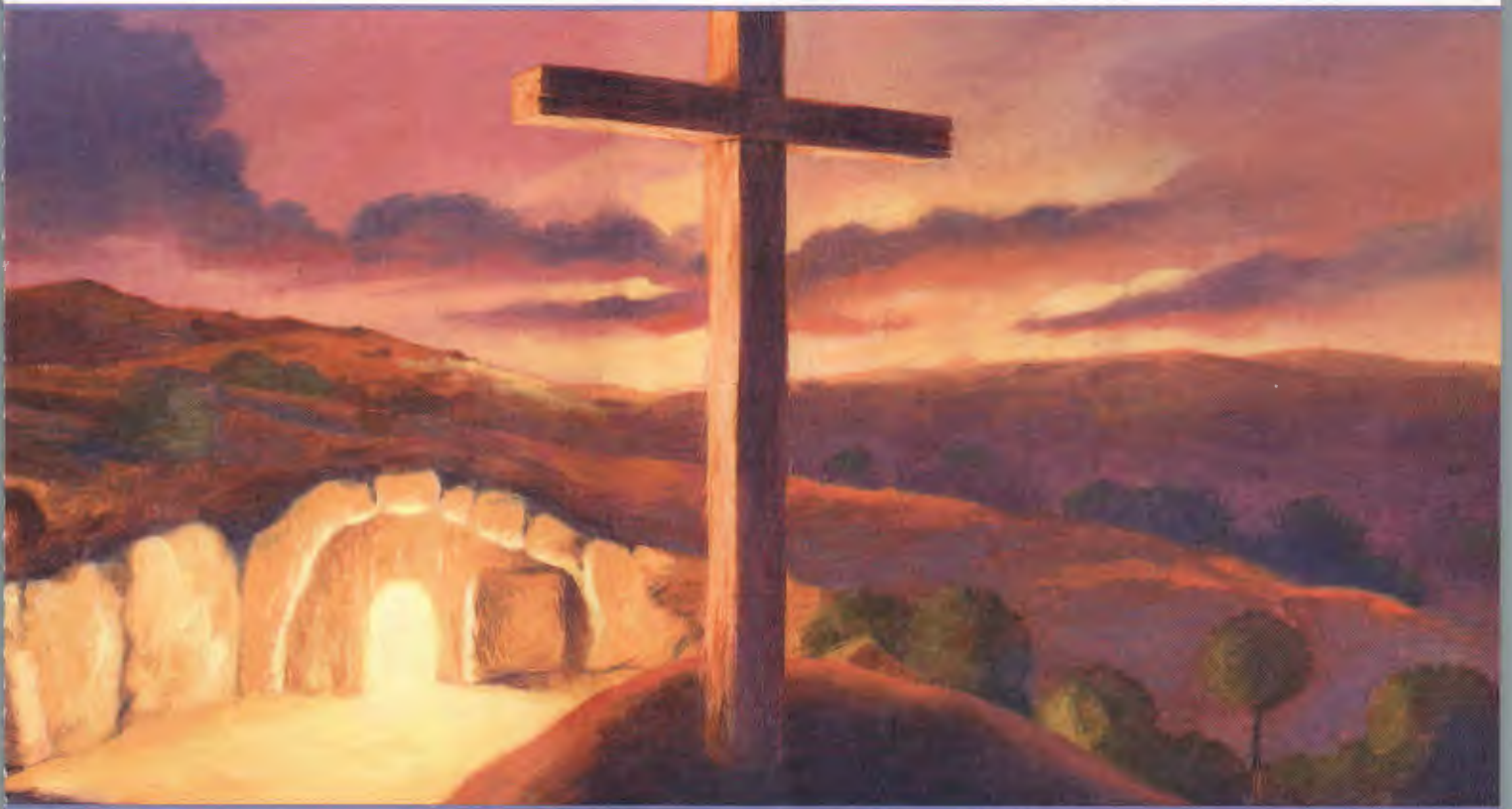


ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 7

Jesus Christ and the New Testament

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Our Sunday Visitor

Christ Our Savior

Let Us Pray

Leader: Jesus, you love us and save us. You bless us with infinite love. We thank you and praise you for your mercy toward us.

“LORD, your mercy endures forever.

Never forsake the work of your hands!” **Psalm 138:8**

All: Jesus, help us to forgive and be forgiven. Help us make things right. Bring us back to the Father’s love.

Scripture

“He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation. ... For in him all the
fullness was pleased to dwell,
and through him to reconcile all things for him,
making peace by the blood of his cross [through him],
whether those on earth or those in heaven.

And you who once were alienated and hostile in mind because of evil deeds he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through his death, to present you holy, without blemish, and irreproachable before him ...”

Colossians 1:15, 19–22

Have you ever thought...

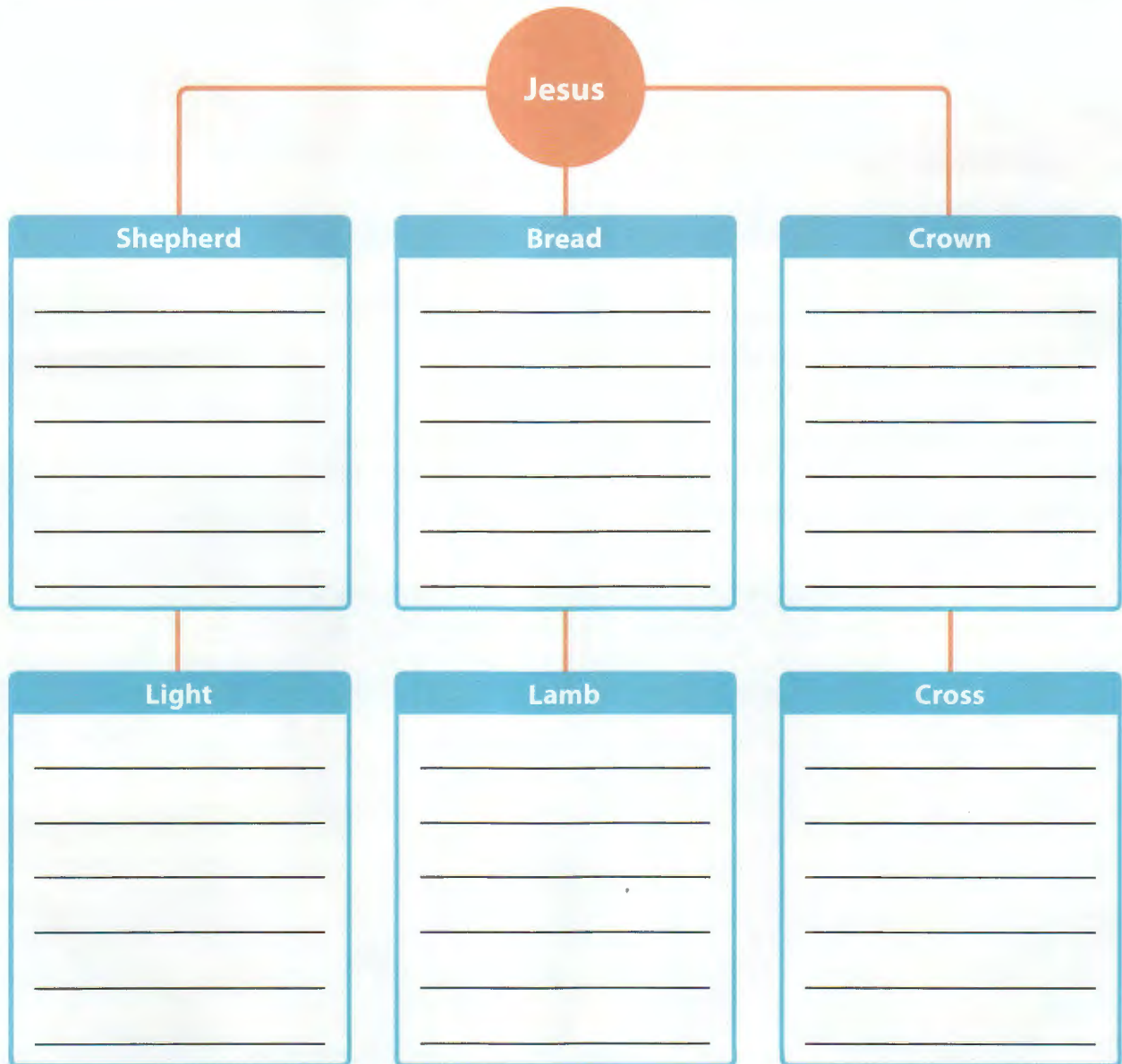
- Why are we in need of reconciliation?
- What weakens our friendship with God?

Getting Started

In this chapter you will learn how sin and suffering entered the world, and about God's never ending love for us. You will explore our need for forgiveness and the ways Jesus makes that forgiveness possible.

- Catholic Faith Words**
- Original Holiness
 - Original Sin
 - personal sin
 - salvation
 - Paschal Mystery

On the lines below each term, explain why it is a title or symbol for Jesus. *



Original Holiness

How did suffering and sin enter the world?

You've probably heard the accounts of creation many times. What is God telling us in these accounts? Our first parents, called Adam and Eve, initially experienced only good, because sin had not yet entered the world. God made himself known to them, sharing his love. There was no pain or suffering, no arguments or distrust. The Garden of Eden symbolized true paradise, one in which Adam and Eve lived in **Original Holiness** and justice. They were happy in a way that we cannot imagine. This is what God created all humans for: to be free, to be his friends, and to be close to him.

But that's not how things end. Genesis 3 goes on to describe how Adam and Eve took advantage of their freedom and did not turn to God for answers or trust in his

word. Instead, they trusted the serpent. He convinced them that if they ate the fruit of the one tree God said not to eat from, they could have the same knowledge as God. They disobeyed the one command God had given them, and they ate the fruit. By doing this, our first parents introduced shame, sin, and suffering into the world.

➤ **How do you think God might have felt about Adam and Eve's actions?**

Catholic Faith Words

Original Holiness the state of goodness that humanity enjoyed before our first parents, Adam and Eve, chose to sin against God

Original Sin the sin of our first parents that wounded human nature and introduced sin, suffering, and death into the world; all humans are born with Original Sin and are thus tempted to sin

personal sin a deliberate thought, word, deed, or omission that violates the law of God

The banishment from Paradise, engraving from a Pictorial Bible, German school (19th century)



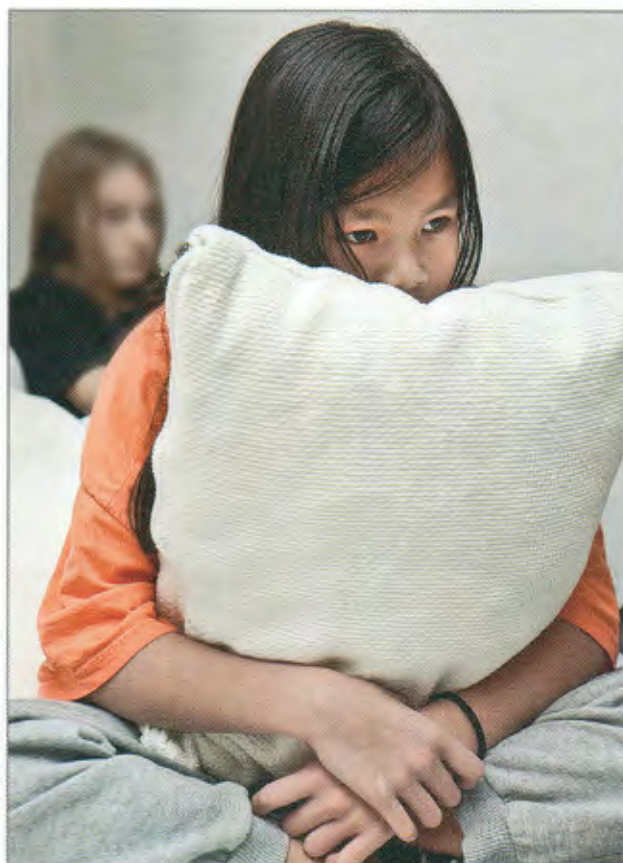
Forever Different

So what happened next? The Book of Genesis tells us that Adam and Eve hid themselves from God, trying to stay away from him because they knew they had sinned. They were afraid. For their disobedience, God expelled them from the Garden.

Everything was different now. The pure happiness and holiness had been lost, not just for Adam and Eve, but for all humans after them. Human nature itself had been harmed. Now, all people suffered because of the choice of our first parents. This disobedience is called **Original Sin**. Original Sin is not something we do; it's something we inherit. Humans can be sad and can suffer because of the sinful actions of others. Humans do not live forever, but die. And all of this is connected to the effects of Original Sin, including the human tendency to commit **personal sin**, to give in to temptation and disobey God. In all of these ways, human nature is affected by Original Sin.

But even though our first parents, and all those who have come after them, disobeyed God, God still loved them. He promised to save them, to bring them back to himself. Throughout history, God sent leaders and prophets to his People, to guide them back to him. Through these people, God promised a Messiah who would bring the people back into the right relationship with God and others, and who would free them from sin.

But why did God allow the physical and moral evil to continue? We do not know the answer to this, but we need to turn to the Son of God whom the Father sent. Jesus Christ died and rose to new life to conquer and defeat evil. In this we must trust.



REFLECT

Think of examples of Original Sin in the world—times when the human tendency to be sinful, imperfect, or flawed was evident. What examples have you heard about in the news reporting on current events or social issues, or seen in movies or on TV?

How would the world be different if those stories were replaced with examples of care, honesty, generosity, and humility?

God So Loved the World

Why did Jesus save us?

You might have heard “Jesus is our salvation” and wondered why people need “saving.” People need to be restored to the friendship Adam and Eve had with God before Original Sin. Because God created our first parents holy and just, only he can save us from the effects of Original Sin and from our sins. That is what we mean by **salvation**.

For many years, the Jewish people—the People God had chosen to show the whole world his plan of salvation—waited for the Messiah to come and set them free, as their prophets had promised. They lived by the laws of the covenant, but often they strayed. Some thought the Messiah was coming to set them free from the Romans, who had captured their land and taken their religious

Catholic Faith Words

salvation the loving action of God’s forgiveness of sins and the restoration of friendship with the Father brought by Jesus Christ

freedom. But God wanted to set his People free from the sin that had captured their hearts and all humankind.

“The New Adam”

But how could things be fixed between humans and God? How could the whole human race be redeemed?

Scripture

“In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another.”

1 John 4:10–11

Because God the Father loved human beings, he sent his Son to them. God the Son freely chose to become man and to offer himself in order to redeem us from the effects of Original Sin and from our personal sins. He came into the world as a baby, born from a human mother. Because he did this, no one

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Go to the Source

Look up these readings to see how each person came to recognize who Jesus really was.

Nathanael: John 1:49

Martha: John 11:20–27

Peter: Matthew 16:13–20

Woman at the well: John 4:25–29



could ever say that God didn't understand what it was like to be human and to be tempted by sin.

Jesus is called the "New Adam." Adam was unfaithful to God, but Jesus remained faithful to God, even when he was tempted.

Jesus the Messiah

When Jesus became an adult, many people listened to him tell parables and describe God's love. Jesus came to fulfill the Laws of Moses, called the Mosaic Law, which included the Ten Commandments, and give them deeper meaning. Jesus fulfilled the Law.

Some of Jesus' followers came to believe that he was the Messiah, the one who would save them.

Jesus the King

The Jews before and during Jesus' time used precious oil for anointing. Priests anointed new kings by pouring expensive oil on them as a blessing and sign that God would guide them. Anointing with oil was a symbol of power and authority. It meant the person being anointed was chosen in a special way. At his baptism, Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit to fulfill the Father's will.

The Jews were waiting for their Messiah, the one anointed by God himself, not with earthly oil. The Son of God was the one who came to save and redeem the human race. We call Jesus the Christ, the Messiah, our Savior and Redeemer.

Use the following terms to complete the definitions for these titles of Christ:

Redeemer Christ Savior Messiah



Titles of Christ

_____ is a Hebrew word that means "anointed," showing he is chosen and empowered. This word was used by Christians to refer to Jesus as "the Much-Awaited Anointed One from God."

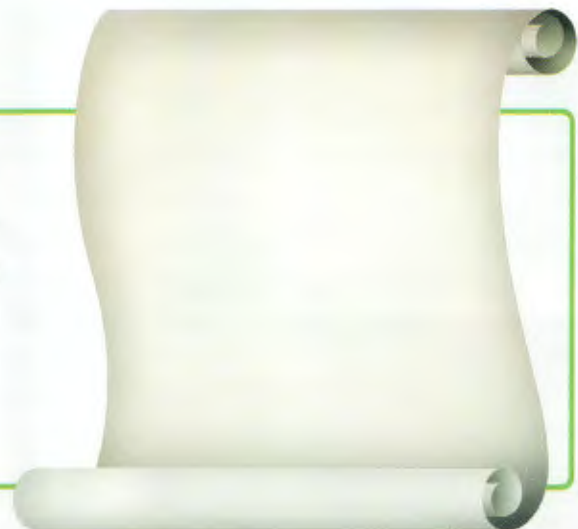
_____ is a Greek word that translates the Hebrew word Messiah. It means "the Anointed One."

In Hebrew, Jesus means "God saves." Jesus is the _____ of the World, the one who saves us from sin and punishment.

Jesus is the _____ of the World. God accomplished once and for all his plan of salvation by Jesus' redemptive Death.

LIST AND DESIGN

What titles would you give to Jesus? List titles you think of for Jesus and what they mean. Then design a poster or bulletin board with the headline "His Name Is . . ." Cut out graphic symbols to write each name on, such as a crown with the title "King of Kings" written on it, or a scroll with the title "Messiah" on it to show that Jesus was the one who came to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies.





This painting of Mary Magdalene at Jesus' tomb by Harold Copping depicts her despair before the Risen Christ appeared to her. (See John 20:11-18.)

Jesus Brings New Life

What happened when Jesus died?

You might be wondering how Jesus actually brought about our salvation from sin. The ultimate result of sin is suffering and death. So another way to ask the question is, how did Jesus conquer suffering and death?

Jesus willingly offered himself on the Cross, which the Church professes in the Nicene Creed every week:

Catholic Faith Words

Paschal Mystery Christ's work of redemption through his Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

Jesus was free from sin, but he chose to give up his life for the sins of others. He died on the afternoon of what has come to be known as Good Friday. He died for the sins of all people, and we do not hold any one person, or the Jewish people as a whole, responsible for his suffering.

The human and Divine natures are inseparable, and the Son of God suffered, died, and was buried. His redemptive Death won salvation and eternal life in Heaven for all those who had died in God's friendship before him.

His friends saw Jesus die, but no one saw him rise. They found an empty tomb on Sunday morning. However, Mary Magdalene saw the Risen Christ at the tomb. Later, he appeared to many of his disciples. They talked with him and ate with him, before he ascended (went up) into Heaven.

Jesus' redemptive Death was something only God-made-man could do. He was raised to new life, conquering the power of death. His Resurrection was a victory over death. His Death and Resurrection reveal that sin could not keep humans captive forever. Death was not the end, but a passageway to eternal life. This is the salvation that the Son of God won for all who believe in him.



Baptism



Eucharist



Anointing of the Sick

Jesus Continues to Save

The **Paschal Mystery** is the work Christ accomplished principally by his Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. The Paschal Mystery hinges on the great Easter event of our faith: the Resurrection.

How do Jesus' saving activities continue, since he is no longer with us on Earth? Jesus' saving actions continue through his Church. Jesus makes his Paschal Mystery present in the Eucharist and other Sacraments. In so doing, he continues to offer forgiveness, healing, and new life.

Baptism is the first and primary Sacrament of forgiveness of sins. It unites us to Christ, so we die and rise with him, and gives us the Holy Spirit.

In the name of God, the Church has the power to forgive the sins committed after Baptism. This happens through bishops and priests, normally, in the Sacrament of **Penance and Reconciliation**. We die to sin and rise to renewed life.

The Sacrament of **Eucharist** cleanses us from venial sins and preserves us from future sins. We share in Jesus' suffering and his rising. The Eucharist does not cleanse us from mortal sins. The proper Sacrament for their forgiveness is the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

The Sacrament of **Anointing of the Sick** also forgives personal sins if the person could not participate in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

IN SUMMARY Catholics Believe

Jesus Christ is our Savior, Redeemer, and Messiah.

- God created human beings with the freedom to live in happiness and harmony with him. By their disobedience, our first parents lost Original Holiness, introduced sin into the world, and became subject to suffering and death.
- God did not abandon his People. He promised them a Messiah who would free them from sin. He sent his own Son to bring that salvation.
- Through his Paschal Mystery, Jesus conquered death and makes it possible for those who have faith to experience new life through the Seven Sacraments.

Our Catholic Life

We worship a God of second chances, who forgives even when we might not expect him to. During his lifetime, Jesus forgave many people in his Father's name. You can give yourself and someone else a second chance. Ask for **forgiveness** when you make a mistake or hurt someone, and forgive others when they do the same to you. Think of a real-life response you can make to someone from whom you are seeking a second chance, or whom you need to forgive.

God is always ready and waiting to forgive. He will always welcome you back. When you turn away from sin and respond to God's love and forgiveness, you experience conversion, which helps you become the person God intends you to be.



➤ **What second chance do you need right now? Is there someone who needs a second chance from you?**

People of Faith

Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, 1779–1865

Born in France, Sophie was educated by her brother, a priest. She and three companions founded the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1800 and started their first convent and school at Amiens. Sister Sophie was appointed Superior General. The Society founded convents and schools in many locations throughout the country. By the time of her death, they had opened 105 schools and convents in twelve countries. The Church celebrates her feast day on **May 25**.



For more, go to aliveinchrist.osv.com

RECALL AND WRITE

Have you ever learned something “the hard way”? Important lessons can be learned from painful experiences. Recall a time when a good thing came from a “bad” experience. It can be a true report, or a fictional story.



Prayer of Praise

Leader: Blessed be God.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Reader 1: Let us pray.

O Gracious Father,
we praise you, and we thank you for your
endless mercy,
your patience and forgiveness,
your endurance and tolerance,
and the gift of your Son, Jesus,
whom you sent to save us
from all that distracts and keeps us far
from you.

All: We praise you, and we thank you for
your endless mercy.

Reader 2: In you we find a love greater than
any we have ever known.

In you we find hope in the midst of our
darkest act.

In you we find faith in knowing we will
never be alone.

All: We praise you, and we thank you for
your endless mercy.

Reader 3: Be with us in our daily choices.

Guide our hands for service, not for
violence.

Guide our voices for speaking truth, not for
gossip.

Guide our eyes for seeing you in all that we
meet, not for seeking the bad.

Guide our feet to take the “high road,” not
for running from responsibility.


Guide our hearts for loving all your people,
not for hating or judging.

All: We praise you, and we thank you for
your endless mercy.

Reader 4: Because we are the young who
search and seek to grow in faith,
remind us always and often that you are on
our side,

that you are for us and never against us,
that you have conquered sin and sadness,
and that through your Son, even in death,
your love is endless.

All: We praise you, and we thank you for
your endless mercy.

 *Sing or play “Lord, Your Love Is Everlasting”*

A Work with Words Circle the letter of the choice that best completes the sentence.

1. Our human nature is affected by ____, which we inherit from Adam and Eve.
 - a. Adam's sin
 - b. Reconciliation
 - c. Original Sin
 - d. Paschal Mystery

2. Jesus came to redeem us—to make it possible for _____.
 - a. the Holy Spirit to come
 - b. sin to be forgiven
 - c. God to become man
 - d. man to live a sinless life

3. Jesus is called the "New Adam" because _____.
 - a. he was both God and man
 - b. he was the son of Adam
 - c. he created Adam
 - d. he redeemed us from the sin of Adam, the first man

4. The Paschal Mystery refers to _____.
 - a. Jesus' Death
 - b. Jesus' Resurrection
 - c. Original Sin
 - d. both a and b

B Check Understanding Complete each sentence with the correct terms.

5. When Adam and Eve chose to trust the serpent rather than God, they introduced _____ and _____ into the world.

6. Adam and Eve _____ from God after they ate the fruit in the garden.

7. The words *Messiah* and *Christ* both mean "_____."

8. Because of _____, people need salvation.

9. By his Death on the Cross and Resurrection, Jesus made _____ with God possible.

10. Jesus' _____ is made present to us today in the Eucharist and other Sacraments.

C Make Connections Write a one-paragraph response to the questions: What is involved in seeking reconciliation with God? What would this reconciliation mean for you?
