

A NOTE TO PARENTS

“Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.” With these words, Handel’s Messiah pivots from the lyrical and triumphant Christmas sections to the tense, anguished music that tells of the Messiah’s suffering and death. When we finish celebrating the Savior’s coming, we begin to consider the work he came to do. From the beginnings of the Church, Christians have felt that the one most important thing Jesus came to do was to die—and rise again. The Creeds, like Handel, pass directly from his birth to his death, with no mention of what came between. For centuries, the daily work of Jesus’ ministry was almost totally eclipsed in the Church’s mind by the centrality of his Passion.

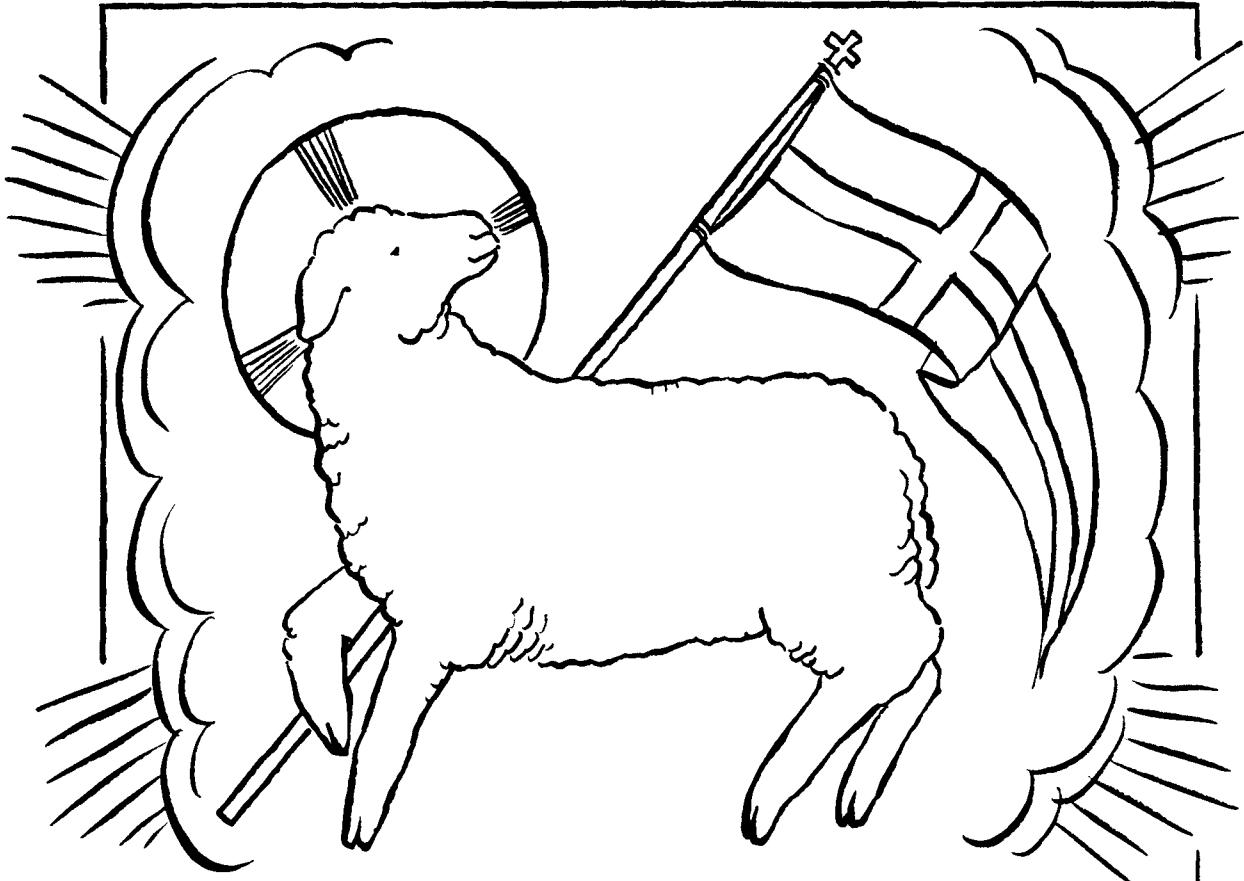
Since the Reformation, much more attention has been paid to Jesus’ teachings and works of mercy, and to his life and ministry as an example for ours. Especially with children, the portrait we have painted of Jesus has become “Jesus my friend,” whose presence and touch bring unfailing joy, security, and healing. We have surrounded this lovely Jesus not only with rosy-cheeked children but with flowers, birds, and little lambs. Lifted out of the tough and trenchant context of the Gospel, elaborated by fictional stories from a thousand Sunday School texts, this Jesus moves through our world fixing problem after problem and enjoining our children to bring peace and harmony through love, cooperation and sharing.

It is a hard burden to lay on them. As they grow, they see it doesn’t work: neither their own good intentions nor the kindness of Jesus are enough to break the power of greed, bullying and laziness, nor to conquer loss and pain. It is fairer, and much more Scriptural, to tell them the truth from the start: that the loving Jesus, like the woolly little lamb, bleeds to give us life. Jesus is our teacher, friend and example; he is also the Lamb of God, slain on the altar of the world’s sins; and he bears many other names, all of them correcting and amplifying each other. Look up the names on the back of this page. How many others can you think of? Talk about them with your child: how do they help you to know Jesus and what he did for us, and to learn to be more like him?

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Year A
2nd SUNDAY
after EPIPHANY



*“Behold the LAMB OF GOD, who takes away
the sin of the world!”*

JOHN 1:29

JOHN THE BAPTIST CALLED JESUS "THE LAMB OF GOD."

Long ago, God's people used to kill a lamb as a way of asking God to take away their sins.



When we call Jesus the Lamb of God, we are thinking of how he died to take away our sins.



The Bible says God's Holy Servant will bring the whole world back to God.



God's Servant says, "Lord, here I come, to do what you ask."



"Lamb of God" is one of the expressions we use when we talk about Jesus, the Messiah. There are lots of others in the Bible.

What do you think these other expressions tell us about Jesus? Ask someone to find them in the Bible, so you can talk about them.

KEY OF DAVID



ISAIAH 22:22
REVELATION 3:7

SHEPHERD



JOHN 10:14

CORNER STONE



EPHESIANS 2:20

LIGHT



JOHN 3:12

BREAD OF LIFE



JOHN 6:35

MOTHER HEN



LUKE 13:34