



A Resurrection Parade Sketch/Short Program

[Please provide: two narrators, five women to model hats, five Easter bonnets/straw hats, copies of the bonnet item patterns found at the end of the sketch, yellow and orange cardstock paper, gray cardstock paper, dark brown cardstock paper, a small lightweight rock or picture of a rock, a small butterfly clip (either store-bought or made out of yellow cardstock paper), small metal clip, four small plastic Easter eggs, white cardstock paper, hot glue gun and glue sticks, pianist, music score for the song “Easter Parade” by Irving Berlin, copies of this program for each model and for the narrators, copy of the “Resurrection Parade” song for all present located at the end of this program]

To prepare: Make copies of the hat (bonnet) item patterns found at the end of the sketch. Use the patterns to make each of the hat items as described below. Attach the items to the hats, one item per hat.

Sunrise bonnet: a half sun with rays that looks like a sunrise made out of yellow and orange cardstock paper.

Empty tomb bonnet: an open tomb shape made out of gray cardstock paper. Hot glue a small lightweight rock or picture of a rock next to the opening of the tomb. Cut three small crosses from dark brown cardstock paper and hot glue them on the bonnet to the far left side of the empty tomb.

Butterfly bonnet: a store-bought or yellow cardstock paper butterfly glued to a metal clip. Clip the butterfly to the center of the bonnet.

Egg bonnet: four small plastic eggs attached to the hat with hot glue.

Faith bonnet: a dove shape cut from white cardstock paper to symbolize the Holy Spirit. Make sure that each of the hat items is large enough for the sketch audience to see.

Before the sketch begins: assemble the hat models (wearing their hats) out of sight until they are called forward by the narrator. As the audience arrives, hand out copies of the song, “Resurrection Parade” (found at the end of this sketch).

Narrator 1: Welcome, friends! Easter parades have their beginnings with the first Palm Sunday and Good Friday. Walks were held by early Christians to commemorate Jesus’ arrival into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and His walk to the cross on Good Friday. During the Dark Ages, early Christians held these solemn processions to demonstrate their unity in faith and to reach out to non-believers. Even back in these times, participants wore their finest clothes to show their respect to Jesus.

Narrator 2: Wearing new clothes for Easter began in Europe. In the early part of the 4th century, the Roman Emperor Constantine I ordered his subjects to wear their finest clothes in honor of Christ’s resurrection. From the 1880’s until the 1950’s, New York City’s Easter parade was a famous Easter celebration in the United States. Easter bonnets were worn by women as a festive part of the parade. Fancy hats also became a custom for women all over the U.S. to wear to church on Easter Sunday.

Narrator 1: In 1933, the American composer Irving Berlin wrote the song, “Easter Parade.” Originally a part of a Broadway revue called *As Thousands Cheer*, eventually the popular song became the basis for the film *Easter Parade*. You’ve likely heard its melody before.

Cue the pianist to play the melody of “Easter Parade.”

Narrator 2: Today, we have the privilege of hosting a resurrection parade. This parade, with the special Easter bonnets you are about to see, even has its own parade anthem, “Resurrection Parade.” Take out the lyrics sheets you were given as you arrived. Let’s practice this anthem together.

All sing: In your Easter bonnet with Easter joy upon it,
You’ll be a glowing witness of the Resurrection!
From L.A. to Dover, when people look you over,
They’ll know Jesus did something special for us.
On the avenues, streets, and roads, too,
Many will see God’s love for us found in Jesus who died and rose to save all.
So, proudly wear your bonnet, with Easter joy upon it
And share it with all people near and far ‘round the world.

As the song ends, cue the models to come out and stand before the audience as they wear their bonnets.

Narrator 1: Our first featured resurrection bonnet is the sunrise bonnet. (Cue the person wearing the bonnet with the rising sun to walk around the audience to model it.) A sunrise is an Easter symbol because as the sun, S-U-N, rose on that first Easter morning, the Son, S-O-N, rose from the dead, as we read in Mark 16, verses 1, 2, 5, and 6: *When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.”* Let’s give a round of applause to thank God for that first Easter morning. (Encourage the audience to applaud as the model returns back to stand before the audience.)

Narrator 2: Our next featured resurrection bonnet is the empty tomb bonnet. (Cue the person wearing the bonnet with empty tomb and stone to walk around the audience to model it.) The empty tomb is a proof of Christ’s resurrection. Luke 24:1–6a says: *But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen.”* Let’s give a round of applause to thank God for the empty tomb. (Encourage the audience to applaud as the model returns back to stand before the audience.)

Narrator 1: Our third featured resurrection bonnet is the butterfly bonnet. (Cue the person wearing the bonnet with the butterfly to walk around the audience to model it.) The butterfly, which beautifully emerges from its cocoon tomb, has become an Easter symbol of Christ when He triumphantly rose from death. The butterfly also serves as a reminder of the new and better covenant which emerged as a result of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Ephesians 2:4–5 says, *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our*

trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved. And in 2 Corinthians 5:17 we read: Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17). Let's give a round of applause to thank God for making us new creations through Holy Baptism. (Encourage the audience to applaud as the model returns back to stand before the audience.)

Narrator 2: Our fourth resurrection bonnet is the egg bonnet. (Cue the person wearing the bonnet with the plastic eggs to walk around the audience to model it.) Although eggs, like butterflies, are not referred to as a resurrection symbol in the Bible, they have become an important part of our Easter celebrations. The open egg shell is a reminder of the open tomb, especially after a chick is born and leaves the egg. The chick itself symbolizes new life which pertains to Christ rising from the dead and also to our new birth in Christ. Holy Scripture describes it this way: *According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3b).* Easter egg hunts can also symbolize the women who went to the tomb and searched for Jesus on the first Easter morning. Let's again thank God with our applause for the new, eternal life we receive through faith in Jesus, our Lord and Savior. (Encourage the audience to applaud as the model returns back to stand before the audience.)

Narrator 1: Our last resurrection bonnet in our resurrection parade is the faith bonnet. (Cue the person wearing the bonnet with the dove to walk around the audience to model it.) You probably think of the dove as more of a symbol for Pentecost than Easter, but it is also part of the Easter story. Without the Holy Spirit, whom the dove represents, we could not believe that Jesus rose from the dead. Without the Holy Spirit working in us, we could not be witnesses of the Easter message. The Holy Spirit works in our hearts to give us the courage, just as He gave Mary Magdalene on the first Easter morning, to go and tell the Good News that Jesus is risen! By the power of the Holy Spirit, we can triumphantly proclaim, "Alleluia! Jesus lives!" Let's stand and praise God for the Gospel message that we are saved from sin, death, and the devil through faith in Jesus alone. (Encourage the audience to applaud as the model returns back to stand before the audience.)

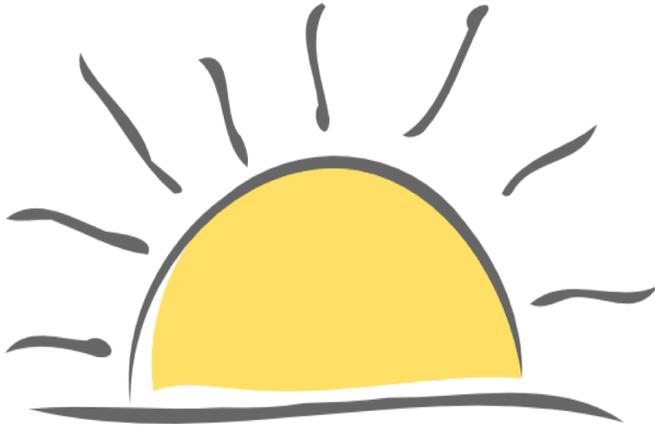
Narrator 2: We pray: Dear risen Lord Jesus, Your resurrection changed everything for us. After giving Your life to rescue us from our sins, You rose from the dead and conquered our greatest enemies, sin, death, and the devil, for us. By the power of the Holy Spirit Whom You sent to be our Helper, may we joyously proclaim that because You live, we, too, live forever! In Your triumphant name we pray. Amen.

All sing: "Resurrection Parade." (As the singing begins, the bonnet models take one last walk around the audience, then exit.)

A Resurrection Parade
Sketch/Short Program
Written by Patti Thies, Ankeny, Iowa
Published by Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 2019

Resurrection Parade Bonnet Patterns (Enlarge for use)

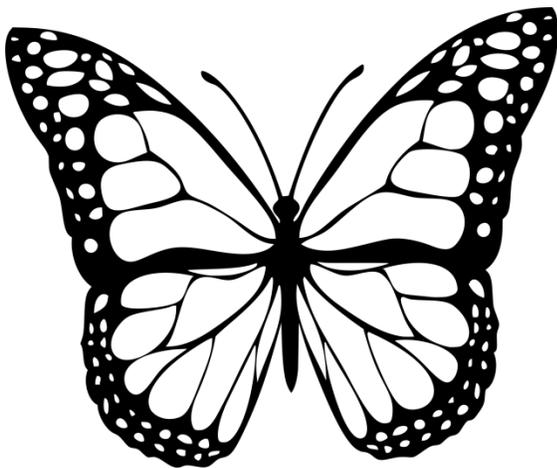
Sunrise Pattern



Empty Tomb Pattern



Butterfly Pattern



Dove Pattern



“Resurrection Parade”

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You'll be a glowing witness of the Resurrection!
From L.A. to Dover, when people look you over,
They'll know Jesus did something special for us.

On the avenues, streets, and roads, too,
Many will see God's love for us found in Jesus who died and rose to save all.
So, proudly wear your bonnet, with Easter joy upon it
And share it with all people near and far 'round the world.