

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



New Life

God our Savior,
you have defeated death,
reigning immortal!
Through your resurrection,
you give us the gift of new life.
In gratitude, we praise you.
Embolden us to seek you.
Grant us the strength
to believe and to spread the news
of our salvation!
Who live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, April 20, 2025
See the Stone Removed



Today's readings: Acts 10:34a, 37–43; Psalm 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23; Colossians 3:1–4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b–8; John 20:1–9. As a faith community, we have journeyed with Jesus through his passion. Imagine, however, living in Jesus' time and witnessing the traumatic event unfold. Imagine watching as Jesus is humiliated, mocked, tortured, and brutally killed in front of a large crowd. Mary and the disciples stood with him as he endured unimaginable pain and suffering, watching as their hopes in what Jesus had preached disappear.

On the first day of the week, after the Sabbath, Mary of Magdala goes to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body. Upon seeing the stone removed, she runs to the disciples. Two

disciples run to the tomb; imagine their hearts racing, still mourning and confused. They reach the tomb and see the burial cloths and the cloth for Jesus' face rolled up separately. Imagine their surprise! The beloved disciple "saw and believed," but "they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead."

On this most glorious day, step into the experience of Mary, Peter, and the beloved disciple. Run to the tomb, see that the stone is removed, and peek in. Look at Jesus' burial cloths and allow yourself to rejoice! Feel hope in new life! What does this Easter season hold for you? How can you live into the hope of resurrection of the Lord?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 21 Octave of Easter

The octave of Easter is the eight days from Easter Sunday to the Second Sunday of Easter (also called the Sunday of Divine Mercy). This prolonged joyous celebration is an opportunity to immerse ourselves more deeply into the mystery of Christ's resurrection. Every evening this week, spend time praying in gratitude for Christ's victory over death. *Today's readings: Acts 2:14, 22–33; Psalm 16:1–2a and 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11; Matthew 28:8–15.*

Tuesday, April 22 See the Lord

Despite being close friends, Mary Magdalene weeps and does not recognize the risen Christ until he exclaims her name. Sometimes Jesus is right in front of us, but our despair blinds us. This evening, prayerfully reflect on your day. Where did you recognize God in front of you? When were you distracted and unable to see God? Say a prayer in gratitude for God's presence in your life and ask for the strength to see the Lord tomorrow. *Today's readings: Acts 2:36–41; Psalm 33:4–5, 18–19, 20 and 22; John 20:11–18.*

Wednesday, April 23 On the Road Together

Jesus approaches two of his disciples on their way to Emmaus. They do not recognize him until after he unpacks Scripture and blesses the bread, breaks it, and gives it to them. Their eyes are opened, and they finally see the Lord, realizing that they had walked with him. Invite someone to pray with you today, perhaps a family member or a close friend. Together, read today's Gospel passage and share what stands out to you. Reflect on how Jesus was present to both of you today. *Today's readings: Acts 3:1–10; Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:13–35.*

Thursday, April 24 Questions

The disciples are startled and terrified when Jesus appears, saying to them, "Peace be with you." They are troubled and questions arise in their hearts. Those questions, and the questions that arise in our hearts, are not necessarily bad. Such queries are problematic only when we allow doubts and fears to blind us from seeing God. When questions arise in your heart, do you bring them to your prayer? How can you invite God into your questions about the resurrection? *Today's readings: Acts 3:11–26; Psalm 8:2ab and 5, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:35–48.*

Friday, April 25 Christ the Cornerstone

A cornerstone is a stone that joins two walls by forming the base of a corner of a building. It is typically the first stone set during construction, laying the foundation of a building. We hear Peter describe Jesus as the cornerstone. During your day-to-day routines, do you recognize Jesus as the foundation of your life? How can you make prayer, conversations with Jesus, a more regular part of your days? *Today's readings: Acts 4:1–12; Psalm 118:1–2 and 4, 22–24, 25–27a; John 21:1–14.*

Saturday, April 26 Praising God

Despite being threatened for teaching in Jesus' name, Peter and John say, "It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard." The joy of the resurrection inspired them to reorient their lives so they could preach the Good News. Consider how the joy of God's forgiveness and the promise of life after death inspires you. How can you share this joy with those around you? *Today's readings: Acts 4:13–21; Psalm 118:1 and 14–15ab, 16–18, 19–21; Mark 16:9–15.*