

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



Alleluia! He Is Risen!

Alleluia! He is risen!
Father, you make all things new,
beginning with your work in creation,
making us in your image and likeness,
giving us all good gifts.
And now, you give more.

Jesus is risen. You have raised him!
We receive this life!
Help us to respond.
Help us to offer our lives as pure gift
in imitation of the one who first loved us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

April 4, 2021

He Is Not Here! He Is Risen!



Today's readings: Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37–43; Psalm 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23; Colossians 3:1–4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b–8; Sequence: Victimae Paschali Laudes; John 20:1–9 or Mark 16:1–7 or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Luke 24:13–35. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus. We can picture them, walking, carrying their spices, wondering about how they would move the stone. Perhaps these grieving women were thinking about Jesus' life and telling stories about him. They were probably raw with the emotions of the past few days.

In an instant, everything has changed. The stone is rolled back. The man in white tells them Jesus is not there, that he is risen. They are the first witnesses, the first ones to

see the completely new thing God was doing. What must it have been like to see this? The Gospel of Mark says that they were amazed. They did not understand that this was good news. News that would change all of history.

Imagine that you are with the women. What do you see, smell, and hear? Write a first-person account, recording your reaction as the meaning of what you have seen comes over you, as your mind comes to the realization that Jesus is risen. Does it seem like a light has been turned on? Reread the Gospel account aloud, and invite those you are with to illustrate the story. Discuss how it feels to have this good news proclaimed. How will your life reflect the joy of this good news to all you encounter?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 5

God Raised This Jesus

“God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses.” Peter’s speech summarizes the whole of the paschal mystery: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. During the Octave of Easter, the first eight days of our season of celebration, the Church celebrates as fully as she does on Easter Sunday. Each day is a solemnity. How can you continue your celebration? *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 6

Secret Eggs

A fun activity to carry the celebration forward makes use of watercolor paints, a white crayon, and paper to make Easter eggs with hidden messages or pictures. Cut out an egg shape from paper. Use a white crayon to draw designs, and write messages such as “Alleluia!” “Jesus is Lord!” or “He is risen!” You might draw a cross, lilies, or other traditional Christian symbols. Paint over the designs with watercolors to reveal the words and pictures. *Today’s readings: Acts 2:36–41; Psalm 33:4–5, 18–19, 20 and 22; John 20:11–18.*

Wednesday, April 7

On the Road

The road to Emmaus is an image frequently depicted in Christian art and literature as an image of discipleship. People have long reflected on the Eucharistic image, recognizing Jesus in the breaking of the bread, and of their hearts burning as they opened the Scriptures. Engage the text for yourself. Copy the Scripture, in its entirety or just a phrase that stands out, such as “their eyes were opened” or “were not our hearts burning within us?” You might also choose to illustrate your image or to decorate the Scripture you copied with a beautiful border. *Today’s readings: Acts 3:1–10; Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:13–35.*

Thursday, April 8

Witnesses

In these resurrection appearances, Jesus helps the disciples to understand what has happened with both words and actions. When he eats and invites human touch, he is showing them that he is not a ghost. He is sharing his resurrected body. When he opens the Scriptures, he is explaining how God has been working in the world throughout salvation history, culminating in this moment. Jesus is forming them as witnesses. *Today’s readings: Acts 3:11–26; Psalm 8:2ab and 5, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:35–48.*

Friday, April 9

All of the World

Peter proclaims, “There is no salvation through anyone else.” In the vastness of the catch at the sea of Tiberias, we also see illustrated the universal nature of the Gospel imperative. They really are to go out to all of the world and spread the good news. We are too. What can you do today to share in this mission of bringing all to Christ? *Today’s readings: Acts 4:1–12; Psalm 118:1–2 and 4, 22–24, 25–27a; John 21:1–14.*

Saturday, April 10

What We Have Seen and Heard

In the Gospel, Jesus says, “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.” We know that God is calling all people into relationship, creating a new heavens and new earth, bringing about a kingdom of peace and justice. Set a timer for five to ten minutes, and silently reflect on what this kingdom will be like. Ponder what God may have planned for you in this kingdom. *Today’s readings: Acts 4:13–21; Psalm 118:1 and 14–15ab, 16–18, 19–21; Mark 16:9–15.*

