

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



Miracle of New Life

Risen Lord,
you open our eyes to the miracle of new life.
May the resurrection embolden us
to be witnesses of the power of your love
in our day.
Our world is in need of your abundant grace
and greater awareness of your abiding
presence with us.

Help us to reflect the courage, joy,
and enthusiasm
of Mary, John, and Peter.
Bless the words we speak, and every action
and gesture,
that in our living we may give you glory.
You live and reign with God the Father in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever
and ever. Amen.

Sunday, April 17, 2022

The Gift of Easter



Today's readings: Acts 10:34a, 37–43; Psalm 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23; Colossians 3:1–4; John 20:1–9. Imagine living through the events of last week as one of Jesus' disciples. Everything appeared to be over, their hopes and dreams gone.

All changes on Easter morning. Mary of Magdala goes to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body, a ritual that could not be done until after the Sabbath. Discovering the stone removed, she runs to find the disciples. Peter returns to the tomb and enters to find the burial cloths pushed aside and the face cloth rolled up separately, clearly an indication that Jesus had no intention of returning to the tomb. Upon viewing the interior of the tomb, the beloved disciple "saw and believed,"

the Gospel tells us. Death that once created a chasm between humanity and God has no more power.

A tomb is associated with physical death. But other kinds of tombs exist; these can hold people in fear, anger, and loneliness. The gift of the resurrection is new life. This new life shatters the darkness of this world and offers us the chance to leave behind our "tombs." What better gift could Jesus give us? The promise celebrated at Easter is one that brings us to rejoice, trusting that God is with us. This promise makes all the difference. As the reading from Colossians states, "When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory."



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 18 Do Not Be Afraid

Jesus tells the women and us, “Do not be afraid.” What do you fear? These women were on their way to proclaim Christ’s rising. Do you fear your responsibility to witness to Christ? Wherever fear is present in your life, remember Jesus’ words. *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 19 Whom Are You Looking For?

“Whom are you looking for?” Jesus asks Mary Magdalene. Though they are friends, Mary does not recognize the Lord until he says her name. It is easy to overlook any number of ways Jesus tries to interact with us. He is always there, waiting for our eyes to open and our hearts to recognize him. Take time to converse with Jesus about the places where you need to be healed. Be with the Lord in silence, listening for him to say your name. *Today’s readings: Acts 2:36–41; Psalm 33:4–5, 18–19, 20 and 22; John 20:11–18.*

Wednesday, April 20 Transforming Presence

Think of a time when you were most heartbroken over a change in your life. That same feeling may have filled the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Thinking that the man they had followed was gone, they were returning to their former lives. After Jesus’ opening of the Scriptures and breaking of bread, they recognize him and head back to Jerusalem. Each time we celebrate the Liturgy of the Word and Eucharist we too experience an opening of our minds and hearts to see Jesus present with us. How can you take that awareness of Jesus’ presence into your life today? *Today’s readings: Acts 3:1–10; Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:13–35.*

Thursday, April 21 Peace

Peace is not the absence of struggle, fear, or worry. Peace is the gift that empowers us to live through those things, realizing that we are not alone. “Why are you troubled?” Jesus asks his disciples, and us. When the trials of life seem overwhelming, it is important to stop and take a breath. That pause provides a moment to remember the presence of God and the promise of God to be with us always and in all ways. Peace comes in the pause. *Today’s readings: Acts 3:11–26; Psalm 8:2ab and 5, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:35–48.*

Friday, April 22 The Cornerstone

A cornerstone is a stone that forms the base of a corner of a building by joining two walls. In the reading from Acts, Peter calls Jesus “the cornerstone.” He is our foundation and gives shape and form to all we do. As you deal with the concerns of your life, remember who is the one who brings all things together and who will do the heavy lifting, easing your stress and fear, Jesus. *Today’s readings: Acts 4:1–12; Psalm 118:1–2 and 4, 22–24, 25–27a; John 21:1–14.*

Saturday, April 23 God Is in the Details

“It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard,” Peter and John told the leaders who demanded that they not speak or teach in Jesus’ name. When do you speak in Jesus’ name? God’s goodness is all around us, even present when times are difficult. Before complaining about a situation, pause to take a good look and see where God might be hidden in the details. *Today’s readings: Acts 4:13–21; Psalm 118:1 and 14–15ab, 16–18, 19–21; Mark 16:9–15.*

