

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



Alleluia! Alleluia!

God of joy,
you raised Jesus from the dead
and unlocked the path to eternal life
for all of creation.
Awaken us to the gift of salvation
poured into the world
with Christ's victory over death.

Infuse our hearts with joy
as we pray, sing, and dance in celebration.
Bless our Easter worship
and time gathered with family and friends
this day.
Through Christ the risen Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 9, 2023

Alleluia!



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; Sequence Victimae paschali laudes; John 20:1-9 or Matthew 28:1-10 or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Luke 24:13-35. Celebrating Easter is like watching the sunrise in the most beautiful place ever visited. All along our journey through Lent our eyes have been tuned for directional arrows in the Scriptures pointing our steps toward God, who summons us unceasingly.

At Easter we open our hearts fully as the Son rises gloriously and his rays fill us with joy. Together with the

community of faith, we renew our baptismal vows. Like a long-married couple renewing their marriage vows, we baptized Christians renew our commitment to Jesus Christ and the Church. We welcome sprinkles of blessed baptismal water as a symbol of our bond in faith. It is a joyous response to God's invitation to return to him with ready hearts. The resurrection is celebrated with our jubilant renewal of faith as the Gloria and Alleluia are sung and trumpets and bells resound. Our sanctuaries and homes are filled with fragrant flowers and our tables hold choice foods to share with those we love. The Son is alive and with us always! Alleluia!



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 10 Do Not Be Afraid

In Matthew's resurrection account, the first appearance of the risen Lord is to Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary." The encounter is utterly unexpected. The women were looking for the disciples. They could not imagine seeing Jesus. The first words Jesus speaks are "Peace" and "Do not be afraid." With their fear dispelled, the women embrace their call to be the first witnesses of the risen Christ. *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 11 Called by Name

John's resurrection account mirrors Matthew's in that the first appearance of the risen Lord is to Mary Magdalene. Consumed with grief and confusion, Mary is unable to recognize Jesus until he calls her by name. At the sound of her name, Mary is forever transformed. With certainty, she announces the good news. On the day of our baptism, and continually throughout our lives, God calls us by name and sends us as living witnesses to the world. *Today's readings: Acts 2:36–41; Psalm 33:4–5, 18–19, 20 and 22; John 20:11–18.*

Wednesday, April 12 Be Alert

There is so much good news to unpack and celebrate about the resurrection of Jesus that the Church gives us fifty days in the Easter season to do this. Today is one of the many times when we hear about the time Jesus appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. He approaches and walks with them, first listening, then teaching, and ultimately revealing. Jesus does that with each of us, day by day, through the Easter season. Be alert for when he shows up! *Today's readings: Acts 3:1–10; Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:13–35.*

Thursday, April 13 Go Deeper

As Jesus ate and spoke with his disciples in Jerusalem, Luke tells us that "he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" (Luke 24:45). He reinterpreted sacred Scripture in light of his birth, death, and resurrection, revealing a new layer of meaning about the plan of God. How might we allow our daily reading of the Scriptures through this Easter season to bring us to a deeper understanding of the paschal mystery in our time? *Today's readings: Acts 3:11–26; Psalm 8:2ab and 5, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:35–48.*

Friday, April 14 Fifty Days

Today we hear from John about Jesus' third appearance to his disciples, this time on the beach of the Sea of Tiberias. The disciples have returned to their occupation of fishing. Jesus will be sending them back to the vocation to which he called them as evangelists. Jesus did not give up on his beloved disciples; he does not give up on us. Easter is not over; it has just begun. During these fifty days of Easter, we have time to contemplate how the Lord draws us close, feeds us, and empowers us to be living witnesses of joy. *Today's readings: Acts 4:1–12; Psalm 118:1–2 and 4, 22–24, 25–27a; John 21:1–14.*

Saturday, April 15 Go Out to the Whole World

The octave (eight days) of Easter concludes with Mark's account of how Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene. She immediately went to announce the good news. But, alas, she was met with resistance and disbelief. Witnessing the truth of Jesus Christ in today's culture requires confronting skepticism and rejection. But as Jesus instructed the disciples then, he commands us now to persist and "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). *Today's readings: Acts 4:13–21; Psalm 118:1 and 14–15ab, 16–18, 19–21; Mark 16:9–15.*

