

EASTER SUNDAY, RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



Form Us into New Bread

Father of new life,
by raising your Son, you conquered death
and opened for us a path to eternal life.
Knead us into new dough,
cleaning out the old yeast of malice
and wickedness,
so that we may be formed into new bread
as we celebrate the Passover of the Lamb.
Like Mary of Magdala, may we run ahead
to proclaim the Resurrection of Christ
to people of every race, language,
and way of life.

Inspire us to be messengers of your
evangelizing Word
so that our Easter alleluias will bring joy
to the whole world!

We ask this through our Lord
Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, April 20, 2014 Disciples at the Tomb

Today's Readings: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 (24); Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; John 20:1-9. Knowing what we do now, it's probably impossible to imagine ourselves in the situation of Mary of Magdala, Peter, and the other disciple. How would we respond to the empty tomb? Mary was the first to see that something was amiss, but she interpreted the stone that had been removed as evidence that someone had "taken the Lord out of the tomb." First Peter, and then the other disciple enter the tomb and see the linen wrappings. Their orderly arrangement is a sign that this is not a case of grave robbery. It will take time for the disciples to process the clues, for they are not thinking about Resurrection just yet. They are lost in the mystery—a good place to be.

This is the day that the Lord has made, and so the entire Church stands and sings, "Let us rejoice and be glad in it." The Eucharist is our source and sign of unity. In the second option for the second reading, Paul uses the metaphor of cleaning out old yeast (old sinful behavior) so that we can celebrate the festival with the new "unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

Mary of Magdala is often called the first disciple, since she was the first to bring news of what the disciples would later understand as the Resurrection. Can you name some women in today's Church who are proclaiming the Resurrection of Christ? If you have women religious or other women on your parish staff who are lay ecclesial ministers, thank them for the work they do.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 21 Do Not Be Afraid!

In the Gospel account of Matthew, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary encountered Jesus on the road, “took hold of his feet, and worshipped him.” Jesus’s first words to the women disciples were “do not be afraid.” This phrase is found in Scripture 365 times (one for each day of the year). Start your day with these four words! This week, the Church celebrates the Octave of Easter as one great solemnity. It’s time to change the purple cloth in your home prayer place for one of white or gold. Add some spring flowers to give joy to your Easter prayer. Today’s Readings: Acts 2:14, 22–33; Psalm 16:1–2a and 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11 (1); Matthew 28:8–15.

Tuesday, April 22 Listen for the Call

Mary announced to the other followers “I have seen the Lord!” Only when she had heard his voice calling her name had she recognized Jesus. (The sheep recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd.) In this time of mystagogy (a time of reflecting upon the sacred mysteries), in what ways is Jesus calling out to us, so that we may recognize his voice? Pray today and each day this week by singing the Easter Alleluia. Today’s Readings: Acts 2:36–41; Psalm 33:4–5, 18–19, 20 and 22 (5b); John 20:11–18.

Wednesday, April 23 Breaking of the Bread

The Eucharist is at the heart of our Catholic faith. Today’s Gospel account on the road to Emmaus is perhaps one of the most-loved post-Resurrection stories. Its description of the “breaking of the bread” is an early reference to the Eucharist. When we eat the bread and drink the cup, we become Christ for others. Do others see Christ in you when you encounter them in your daily life? Today’s Readings: Acts 3:1–10; Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 8–9 (3b); Luke 24:13–35.

Thursday, April 24 Peace Be with You

Even after the Resurrection, the disciples are troubled because they still do not recognize the risen Lord. When Jesus appears to them, his words are “Peace be with you.” When we share peace with one another in the Eucharistic celebration, it is God’s peace that we share—a holy gesture. Our world is filled with so much injustice and turmoil. The resurrected Christ, the Prince of Peace, will calm our troubles and alleviate our fears. In what ways are we witnessing the peace of Christ to others? Today’s Readings: Acts 3:11–26; Psalm 8:2ab and 5, 6–7, 8–9 (2ab); Luke 24:35–48.

Friday, April 25 Come and Eat

Today’s Gospel account gives us the third post-Resurrection appearance of Jesus to the disciples. As in the encounter on the road to Emmaus, the story includes a meal. Throughout Jesus’s public ministry, he ate and drank with tax collectors and sinners. In this Easter Time, Jesus continues to show us that he nourishes the Church with the bread of eternal life. The story also focuses on the central role of the Eucharist in the faith life of the Church. How does the Eucharist nourish you in your daily life? Today’s Readings: Acts 4:1–12; Psalm 118:1–2 and 4, 22–24, 25–27a (22); John 21:1–14.

Saturday, April 26 Proclaim the Gospel

Again, Jesus appears to his disciples who are gathered at table for a meal. He charges the disciples to “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.” Through the celebration of the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist, we experience the continuous offering of Jesus’s sacrifice. The Eucharist is a source of joy for the Church. In what ways can you be the presence of Christ to a broken world? Today’s Readings: Acts 4:13–21; Psalm 118:1 and 14–15ab, 16–18, 19–21 (21a); Mark 16:9–15.



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Keeping the Seasons

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