

# Read



Acts of the Apostles

10:34a, 37-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17,  
22-23

Colossians 3:1-4 or

1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

John 20:1-9, Matthew 28:1-  
10, or Luke 24:13-35

## LIVING THE WORD

# Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

April 12, 2020



## REFLECTION

After encountering the empty tomb, Mary immediately goes to Simon Peter and the other disciple. While seemingly insignificant, this detail encompasses one of the most important realities of the Resurrection. Mary knew that she could not continue her morning duties alone, especially in light of her recent discovery.

As Christians, our life is rooted in a similar reality. We cannot exist as isolated individuals and are instead called to community. It is impossible to journey through life by ourselves. We rely on others for strength and support. We share our hopes and fears. We work together to accomplish our goals, we affirm the diverse gifts we see in others, and we help others in need.

Most importantly, though, Mary knew that the work of the Resurrection was not meant for her alone. Telling the world that "God is alive" requires a network of believers, connected in common mission. We are part of this same network and continue the mission today.



## ACTION

Think of the different ways you encounter community. Who are some of the people that support and challenge you? Who do you support and challenge? Write a short note to one of those people, thanking them for being a significant part of your community.

*"What a great favor God  
does to those he places in the  
company of good people!"*



—St. Teresa of Avila



## QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ Why is community such an essential component of Christianity?
- ❖ Have you ever experienced difficulties being part of a community? How did you work through the challenges?



# Introduction to **EASTER TIME**



## **The Season**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The season of Easter Time is a fifty-day celebration that Christ has conquered death and reigns with the Father for eternity. Through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, we are immersed into Christ's Paschal Mystery. We gaze again upon the face of love poured out, sacrificed for us and for all, the face of God that we see through Christ's life and love. And, we are taught yet again that this loving way is to be our way, *the Way*.

The Easter Gospel accounts bring us face to face with the mystery of Christ's Resurrection, so that we, with the disciples, may move from unbelief to belief, declare our love of Christ and recommit ourselves to sharing this love in our world.

If we have kept Lent well, Easter Time will help us solidify our commitment to Christ in our daily living. If we slipped during Lent, letting go of resolutions and falling into less-than-Christ-like patterns of behavior, this season may be one of new opportunity to live in the hope and joy of the Resurrection. Through Christ, we no longer need to despair: we have all we need to overcome the temptations and challenges of life. By the end of the season, we will be reminded that we are promised the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, who will teach us and remind us of all we have learned from our Lord.

There is no doubt that we need Easter's joy, hope, and love. There is much in our lives as individuals and in the world that speaks more of death and darkness than of life and light. It is essential, then, that we linger in Easter Time, for its full fifty days, and carry it as witnesses into our lives. Christ's risen life has the power to change the world; we must carry this life through our daily living, as Easter people, now and forever.

## **Celebrating Easter Time with Teens**

While Lent has a particular sort of appeal for teens who are developmentally moving from concrete to abstract thinking, Easter Time may be a challenge, particularly for younger teens. The resounding themes of love and the assurance of the Holy Spirit provide the concrete direction needed for younger teens, while the mystery of the Resurrection, Ascension and descent of the Holy Spirit may be more appealing to older youth. Bring the season to life in your reflections by sharing your own examples of Christian life and love, and invite the teens to do the same for one another.

## **Preparing the Liturgical Environment**

The white of Easter Time is bright after the long Lenten bareness and penitential violet. Add an Easter lily, baptismal candle, and green plants to your environment to reinforce the focus of the season on the newness of life, which we gain through Christ's Resurrection. Include a Bible or Lectionary, open to the Easter narrative, and a strip of cloth or paper on which is written the word "Alleluia!"



April 12, 2020

## EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

### LECTIONARY #42, 41, OR 46

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

John 20:1-9 or

Matthew 28:1-10 or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Luke 24:13-35

### Prepare for the Word

*The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.*

### Leader's Context

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The mystery of the Resurrection is a high point in our Christian faith and continue our through journey through the Sacred Paschal Triduum. Easter Sunday concludes the Triduum and we spend today reflecting with Jesus' beloved disciples on the meaning of the empty tomb, joining the disciples in wonder and joy.

**Q FOCUS:** *Easter Time is a season of wonder and joy.*

### Liturgical Calendar Connection

Display the liturgical calendar, and point out the fifty days of Easter Time to teens. Draw their attention specifically to today, Easter Sunday, and the *Octave of Easter*—the first eight days of the season. These days allow us time to reflect on the mystery of the Risen Christ.

### Church Teaching Connection

As Catholic Christians, we are an Easter people. However, as Pope Francis writes, "there are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter" (*Evangelii gaudium*, 6). Our joy is to be like a flame after being lit; changing or adapting, but ever-present. Our joy in the Resurrection can never go out!

### Hear the Word

*Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.*

### Gospel Acclamation

*Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

John 20:1-9

**Reader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

*All make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.*

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple

also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

**Reader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Everyone may be seated.*

## Reflect on the Word

*When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:*

Today, we conclude the Sacred Paschal Triduum and begin the liturgical season of Easter Time—a high point of our Christian faith, and a season marked by rejoicing in the Risen Lord. We've been through an array of Gospel narratives, emotions, and parts of our faith between our parish celebration of the Lent and the days of the Sacred Paschal Triduum. Today both concludes the Triduum and begins the season of Easter Time. Let's take a moment to process the past week together before we turn to this Sunday's Gospel. Remember: the Triduum began with our Holy Thursday liturgy (complete with a washing of the feet), then Good Friday (with the adoration of the Cross), the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday (in which we looked back on the narrative and history of our Christian faith and initiated new Christians), and now today, in which we reflect on the mystery of the Resurrection.

► **What did you notice in your experience of the Triduum celebrations we have participated in thus far?**

► **What emotions, thoughts, or questions came up for you?**

Now, let us turn to Easter Sunday! Easter calls us to joy and *wonder*. We live in what is sometimes dubbed a "throwaway culture." Today's world is so fast-paced that we do not often take the time to pause

and wonder—time to feel, notice, express our curiosity, and marvel in the gifts that God has provided. In our faith lives, we desperately need this sense of wonder; otherwise, our Catholic faith can be easily reduced to memorized facts and stories. This is part of why our Triduum and Easter Time liturgies engage all of our senses and our imaginations in unique ways. Our imagination is piqued through the multitude of sensory triggers rushing in during these three days. We hear in today's reading from the Gospel according to John, that Jesus' disappearance from the tomb causes the disciples (both men and women) shock and surprise.

Imagine the shocking experience of Mary of Magdala, discovering Jesus' empty tomb.

► **What do you think she heard, saw, and felt?**

► **What parts of our Catholic faith cause you to wonder? How do you express wonder and joy?**

During the Easter Vigil liturgy, the Church welcomed new members into the Body of Christ (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist). Put yourself in the shoes of someone becoming Christian—consider all of the questions you might have, the many parts of the faith that would cause you to wonder, the power of experiencing Baptism and Confirmation, and participating in the Catholic Mass fully for the first time (that is, taking part in the Liturgy of the Eucharist). The sense of wonder that newly initiated Catholics experience is what all Catholics yearn to capture in our observance of Easter Time!

► **In what ways do you yearn for God?**

► **How do you plan to observe Easter Time?**

During this season, we work to see our faith through new eyes; we grapple with and reflect upon mysteries that cannot easily be put into words, but may be felt or sensed. The Resurrection of Christ is, in many ways, unfathomable—beyond our understanding. This season of fifty days calls us to take the time to slow down and gaze, in wonder and awe, into the beauty of our complex faith.

## Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the “Church Teaching Connection” on page 172.

**How do you find God? What forms of prayer bring you joy?**

**How might you need to experience wonder this Easter season?**

**What questions do you have about the Catholic faith?**

## Act on the Word

### Catholic Questions

Split the teens into two equal groups. Provide paper, pens, and pencils for one group. Let teens know that this activity will require a bit of imagination and creativity. In order to answer questions you may need internet access, a Catechism, or another Catholic faith-based resource.

Imagine, as we talked about in the reflection, that you are a brand-new Catholic Christian. You certainly through the necessary formation and public rituals as part of the adult initiation process, but you still have so many questions! The task of the team with paper, pens, and pencils is to write down questions you have as a “new” Christian practicing the faith in Catholicism.

#### ► What do you wonder about?

Your questions don’t have to pertain to Church dogma and doctrine or be academic, especially since the Christian initiation process is about developing a relationship with Jesus and the Church. Think of personal questions that you might have about Jesus how your faith in Jesus is lived out in the Church.

After five to ten minutes of writing questions, pair up each “new Catholic Christian” with somebody in the other group. The other person’s task is to talk through the person’s questions. If they do not have an answer that they know 100 percent, instruct them to come back to that question at the end: they can look up the answers and learn together. Reminder: the person who is playing the

“new Catholic Christian” should not give away answers that they may know!

Give teens plenty of time to go through the questions in pairs. Come back together as a large group when the pairs are finished. Have the teens share any questions that they (a) did not have an answer for, or (b) sparked a particularly great discussion.

► Ask the first group: how did it feel being able to ask questions? Did anything in the conversation open your eyes to the Catholic faith in a new way?

## Closing Prayer

*Merciful God,  
at Baptism, you breathed your Spirit upon us.  
At Confirmation, you deepened your Spirit's  
presence within us.*

*When we receive the Eucharist, you nourish our  
faith and strengthen us for mission.*

*As we welcome new members to the faith,  
help us grown in the mercy and love Christ's  
Resurrection proclaims to the world.*

*Through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

## For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday’s Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at [www.ltp.org/lwgr](http://www.ltp.org/lwgr). Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.