

APRIL 20, 2014
EASTER SUNDAY,
RESURRECTION OF
THE LORD

Christ is risen!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Matthew 28:1-10	He is risen!
Monday	1 Corinthians 15:1-8	Witnesses to the risen Christ
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Christ has been raised
Wednesday	Mark 16:1-8	Women go to the tomb
Thursday	John 20:1-18	Mary Magdalene sees the Lord
Friday	Acts 13:23-33a	God raised him from the dead
Saturday	Psalms 98	Shout for joy!
Sunday	John 20:19-31	Thomas sees and believes

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was nailed to a cross. He isn't here! God has raised him to life, just as Jesus said he would." Matthew 28:5-6 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Risen Lord Jesus, please take away our fears. Help us to go wherever you send us. Amen. (Matthew 28:10)

Mealtime Prayer:

Risen Lord Jesus, we praise you for the gifts of this table and our celebration of Easter joy. Fill us with your love and life. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the risen Lord Jesus replace your fears with joy, and raise you to new life with him. Amen. (Matthew 28:10; Colossians 3:1)

taking
faith
home

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time you received good news.
- Imagine that you were one of the women who went to the tomb the first Easter morning. How do you think you would have felt?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus is risen and is alive?

DEVOTIONS

When you gather for your home Easter celebrations, begin with these words (a leader says the words in *italic* type, all respond with the words in **bold** type).

This is the day the Lord has made. **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Lord, you give us new life. **Alleluia!**

Lord, you give us this new day. **Alleluia!**

Lord, you give us our world and all that is in it. **Alleluia!**

Lord, you give us each other. **Alleluia!**

We praise you God, maker of the universe, for sending us Jesus and giving us new life in him. **Alleluia!**

He is risen! **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

After this, commence your hunt for Easter eggs, prepare for church, or begin your household Easter breakfast or lunch. As an Easter week home activity, plant seeds or seedlings in pots or in your garden in celebration of the new life God gives us through the risen Christ.

SERVICE

Spare a thought for those who have to work on Easter Sunday (e.g. those working in hospitals, police stations or in other areas of important public service). Make up a basket of Easter "goodies" to deliver to them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

It is a custom in many churches to light a new Paschal Candle on Easter Sunday for use throughout the year ahead. As an Easter week household activity, prepare your own Paschal Candle to use during the next year. Purchase a large white candle. Decide together on Christian symbols to place on the candle (include a cross and the year number in your design). Trace these symbols onto the candle with a felt-tip pen, and then use fabric paints to paint them on. Light the candle on the dates of church festivals and on your baptism anniversary dates.



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