

The Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Sunday)

Introduction

Christ is risen! Alleluia! When we read today's Gospel it is easy for us to laugh at Mary of Magdala. How could she not have known that Jesus had risen? Sometimes we have to remind ourselves that we know how the story goes. Imagine the utter shock of visiting the tomb of a loved one to find it empty. John's Gospel notes that even Simon Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved did not understand what had happened. Perhaps this is an invitation for each of us to think deeply about what the Resurrection means in our own lives.

Ritual at Home

The Easter Sunday liturgy celebrates Resurrection through the lens of discipleship. We hear the Gospel story of Mary and the disciples running to the tomb almost immediately before we have the opportunity to renew our own Baptismal promises as we profess our faith.

Create a prayer space full of greenery and flowers. On a table that is easy accessible by everyone, place a bowl of Holy Water.

Opening Prayer: Loving God,
We celebrate this day of gladness and rejoicing,
basking in the depth of your love
revealed in an empty tomb.
May we, like the disciples, make haste
to share the news of Resurrection with everyone we encounter.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Reading: John 20:1-9 (*Celebrating the Eucharist*, page 238)

Profession of Faith: As we profess our faith, we proclaim the Apostle's Creed, found on page 11 of *Celebrating the Eucharist*.

After the communal recitation of the Apostle's Creed, each person is welcome to sign themselves with the Holy Water, recalling the waters of Baptism and our commitment to life in Christ. You might wish to play some soft, instrumental music in the background during this ritual signing.

Intercessions: Confident that the living God is truly present in our lives,
we raise our petitions, confident that they will be heard.

For Pope Francis and all church leaders: May they guide the faithful with the patience and kindness the Risen Christ shows to the disciples.

For all who support and nurture life, especially healthcare workers, teachers, and public servants: May they find joy in their vocation of service to others.

For all who celebrate new beginnings this Easter season: May they know life and love in their experiences and opportunities.

For all who work for equality and justice: May they never tire of proclaiming the peace of Christ.

For all who are sad or suffering during this time of Easter Alleluias: May they find the consolation of Christ through all those who love and support them.

The Lord's Prayer: Gathering these prayers together,
as well as those we hold in the silence of our hearts,
we pray in the words that Jesus taught us.

Our Father . . .

Prayer: Loving God,
We celebrate the life and love that you proclaim and share with us.
May we know the joy of your Resurrection in our hearts
as we strive to share this joy with others.
Like Mary, Simon Peter and the beloved disciple,
may we run to spread the Good News of the life and love you share.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

All are invited to share a sign of Christ's peace.

Conversation Starters

1. What images, words, or phrases do you associate with Easter Sunday?
2. What are some important Easter traditions in your own family?
3. Where do you encounter the Risen Christ?

Continuing the Conversation

As you celebrate the Easter season, take time to notice the daily experience of resurrection and new life. Share these moments with your family and friends at the end of each day or week. You might be surprised how much new life permeates our world!