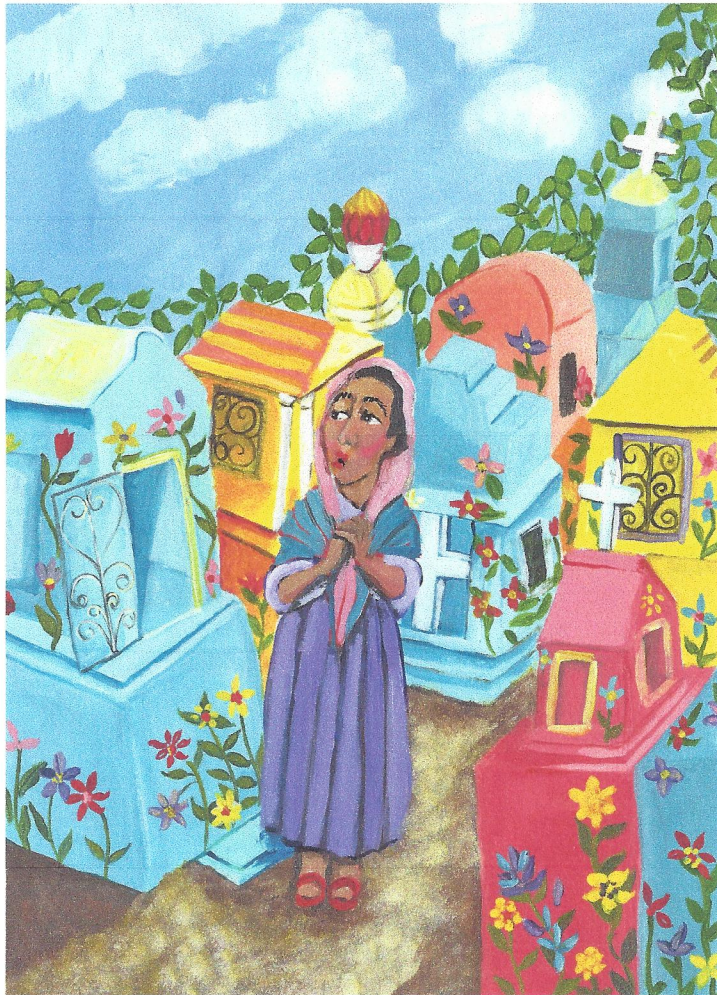


EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



Proclaim New Life in Christ

Great and glorious God,
you who have given us life from the
creation of the world
you who have raised Christ from the dead,
you who have sent us holiness each day,
dwell in our hearts joyfully.
May our joy never cease,
our faith never waver,
and our life in Christ continue to flourish.
As we proclaim Christ risen and alive,
may we find him each day
in one another, in our homes and our work,
and, strengthened through our lives
of faith,
bring all home to new life in him.
We ask this through Christ,
our Risen Savior, who lives and reigns
with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever. Amen. Alleluia.

April 16, 2017

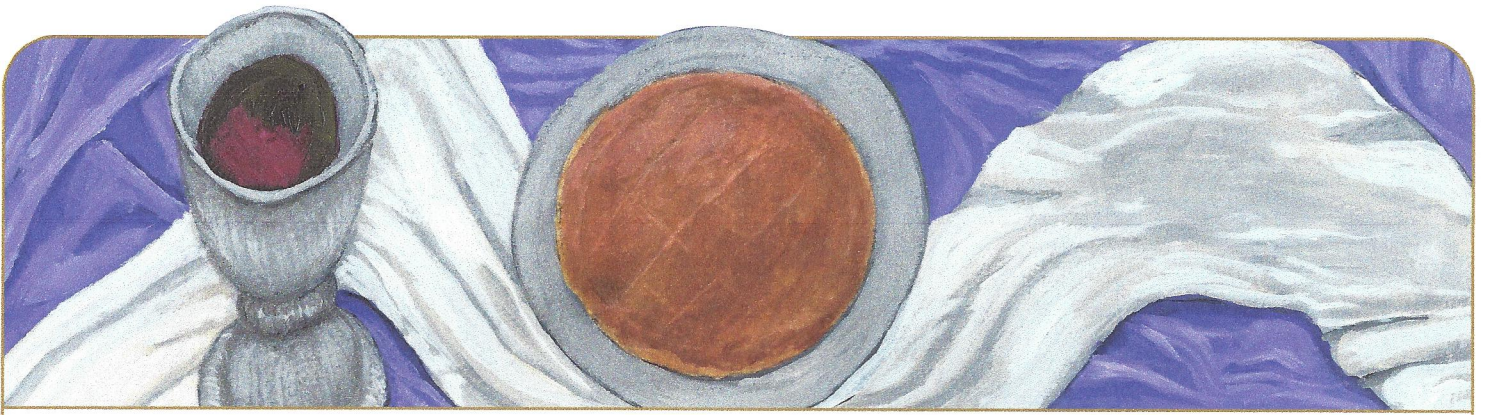
Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!

Today's Readings: Acts 10:34a, 37–43; Psalm 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23; Colossians 3:1–4; Sequence Victimae paschali laudes; John 20:1–9. Coming to the tomb early in the morning, Mary Magdalene is expecting to spend time in the quiet in the darkness before dawn to mourn the death of Jesus. But she finds that the stone has been removed. Peter and other disciples come to the tomb, with their own expectations, and find only the burial cloths. Christ, the Paschal Victim, has been raised from the dead. Where is the stone?

Have you removed the stone that has been blocking your heart? Have the cloths that have covered your buried goodness been set aside? Resurrection is the joy of living fully in Christ. New life in Christ must be celebrated. It is all good news.

Christ, who is our hope, our Redeemer, and our life, is with us.

Easter is an opportunity to begin anew. The joy of the Resurrection should be unabashed joy, bold and unafraid. Christ has removed our burial cloths, and our renewal of baptismal promises reminds us that life in Christ is lived in the assembly of the faithful. The whole community shouts for joy: Alleluia! Find your newness of life and name it. Celebrate that new life with wholehearted singing and laughter. What has died within you has been changed into new life for the future. Throw open the windows, let in the light, and sing Alleluia! The Sequence today announces it firmly: Christ is risen from the dead, by this he has given us new life.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 17

Let Us Rejoice and Be Glad!

We hear in today's Gospel that the Apostles took hold of Jesus' feet and worshipped him. This week is full of the joys of the Resurrection. Let this be reflected in your home with flowers, white cloths, and any kind of light, from natural sunlight to candles. May your environment reflect the Alleluia brought to our lips with the Risen Christ. *Today's Readings: Acts 2:14, 22–33; Psalm 16:1–2a, 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11; Matthew 28:8–15.*

Tuesday, April 18

I Have Seen the Lord! Alleluia!

"I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." In Jesus' words to Mary Magdalene, we are reminded that we are united with Christ through our belief in him. Through the Risen Christ, we are joined to the Father. In being joined to Christ, we are also joined to all who believe. *Today's Readings: Acts 2:36–41; Psalm 33:4–5, 18–19, 20, 22; John 20:11–18.*

Wednesday, April 19

Our Hearts Were Burning

When Jesus is walking with us, we can discern the true path. When Jesus is in our conversation, our hearts burn with the understanding that the Holy Spirit brings. When the bread that we break reveals God in our midst, we proclaim: Alleluia! During this Easter season, we may want to seek to open our hearts to the ways Christ is present to us. *Today's Readings: Acts 3:1–10; Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:13–35.*

Thursday, April 20

Faith in the Name of the Lord

Peter and John heal not by their own power but in the name of the Lord. That faith and that name are our inheritance. Repentance, healing, preaching to all nations—all are to be "in his name." Carry with you this day that joyful message: that it is God working through us that accomplishes our salvation. *Today's Readings: Acts 3:11–26; Psalm 8:2ab, 5, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:35–48.*

Friday, April 21

God of Surprises

In today's Gospel, we hear that Jesus provided an abundant number of fish for the disciples when they cast their net as he directed. As these disciples came ashore, he surprised them further with a breakfast that had been cooked over coals. How open are you to the surprises that God has prepared for you? *Today's Readings: Acts 4:1–12; Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a; John 21:1–14.*

Saturday, April 22

Rejoice, Believe, and Proclaim

Have you found joy in your encounters this week? We carry our Easter joy especially throughout the Octave of Easter, finding daily opportunities to discover light, happiness, and good news in daily tasks, encounters, and experiences. It is not a time for hardness of heart, as Jesus reminds us in the Gospel today. Let your attitude spread the Good News of Christ, who has died and risen for us. Alleluia! *Today's Readings: Acts 4:13–21; Psalm 118:1, 14–15ab, 16–18, 19–21; Mark 16:9–15.*

