

EASTER SUNDAY

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD



Beacon of Light

Lord God,
you who conquered the darkness of evil,
also vanquish the fear in our hearts.
We rejoice that your resurrection,
frees us from the slavery of sin
and leads us to eternal life.
Grant that we may follow the path
that your light shines for us
and share with others
the love that you have given us.
You live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, March 31, 2024
He Has Risen!



Today's readings: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed.

Our rejoicing at Easter Time acknowledges that Christ's life and light has conquered death and separation. Jesus came to do God's will, paid the ultimate price, and now we proclaim his resurrection with joy. Our Lord prepared his disciples for his death and resurrection, telling them, "A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me" (John 16:16). Jesus' rising from the dead should have come as no surprise to the disciples, yet they were surprised. As today's Gospel proclaims, "They did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead." Even though we understand,

we still need to be open to seeing with the eyes of our hearts so that we can embrace the resurrected Christ.

After the forty days of Lent, we celebrate the light defeating the darkness for fifty days. During Easter Time, we are invited to meditate on how our actions can be light for others. How do you help dispel the darkness surrounding others in our world? Do you carry the message that Jesus is alive? Are you willing to live it? When we spread the light of Christ that permeates our lives, we show appreciation for the faith that we have been given. Through Jesus Christ, God's promises of abundant life are fulfilled. Let us not be afraid to rejoice in the new life we have been given... given to share.



This Week at Home

Monday, April 1

Trust

This week the gospel shows Jesus encountering his disciples in varied settings. As we pray with these readings, we might see ourselves reflected in the encounters. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were fearful yet overjoyed upon seeing the empty tomb. How many of us have been stopped by our fears? These women trusted what the angel told them about our Lord. When we allow fear to overcome and paralyze us, problems are created. When afraid, seek the help of God, who has given you new life. *Today's readings: Acts 2:14, 22–33; Psalm 16:1–2, 5–11; Matthew 28:8–15.*

Tuesday, April 2

Conversion

Jesus' followers, like Mary Magdalene, do not recognize the risen Lord. They continue to seek the Jesus they had known before he fulfilled his mission. To recognize the resurrected Jesus, we rely on the eyes of our hearts, which are filled with faith and trust in the Lord. Allow your heart to have a true conversion leading God to dwell within you. *Today's readings: Acts 2:36–41; Ps 33:4–5, 18–22; John 20:11–18.*

Wednesday, April 3

Bread of life

Imagine that, as one of the apostles, you followed Jesus and broke bread with him just before his death. Then he was nowhere to be found, or so you think. After Jesus' death, the disciples began to feel alone and disillusioned. When have you had an encounter with someone and realized it had been Jesus? In the Lord's Supper Jesus promises to be with us. He has not abandoned us; he remains within us, offering spiritual sustenance. *Today's readings: Acts 3:1–10; Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:13–35.*

Thursday, April 4

Agents of peace

While the disciples spoke of how Jesus had become known to them in the breaking of the bread, he appeared, saying, "Peace be with you." This scared the disciples. Jesus had to show them his wounds for them to believe it was he who had returned. Reflecting on this scene, consider whether you are at peace. Do you bring peace to others? Is there someone with a restless heart who needs your offering of peace? *Today's readings: Acts 3:11–26; Psalm 8:2–9; Luke 24:35–48.*

Friday, April 5

Moving forward

Jesus' followers have gone back to their old lives. Many people do the same today. After we experience a genuine encounter with Christ, it can be easy to return to our former ways. The harder path is to continue to move forward in the faith journey. As easy and as comfortable as our old life might have been, Christ calls us to a new life in which we surrender ourselves to God. What new life is God calling your congregation to? *Today's readings: Acts 4:1–22; Psalm 118:1–4, 22–27; John 21:1–14.*

Saturday, April 6

Is it really he?

How you have allowed yourself to be transformed this Easter? When have you recognized the presence of Jesus in your faith journey and opened yourself to change? Are there times that Jesus could rebuke you for your unbelief and hardness of heart, as he rebuked the apostles? As you read of the encounters Jesus had throughout his glorious day of resurrection, ponder how you have been the living Christ for others. Take to heart the message of light and hope brought about through the resurrection. *Today's readings: Acts 4:13–21; Psalm 118; Mark 16:9–15.*