

# Easter Sunday

Feasts and  
Seasons  
Easter

3

## Background: Good News

On the morning of the third day, when the news of Jesus' Death had all but sunk into the disciples' weary souls, Mary Magdalene and the other women disciples announced to the others, "He is alive!"

Believing that the women had been overcome with grief, the men did not listen to their words—words that seemed to them like nonsense. They asked themselves, "How can this be?" (See Luke 24:1–12.)

But it was true. The Good News was not nonsense. The Father had raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus Christ was the Messiah after all.

From that day on, Easter became the central feast of the Christian community. The immense joy of Jesus' rising demanded a feast far greater than any other. Today the Church continues to rejoice at the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection.

## Getting Ready

1. Prepare your family prayer table for the Easter season. Place upon it a white cloth, a bowl of Holy Water, a candle, a Bible, a cross, and a vase of fresh flowers. Find a suggested prayer and other Easter season resources at [RCLBenziger.com](http://RCLBenziger.com)>Resources.
2. Gather the family at the front door. Together, take a walk outside and look for signs of new life in creation around you. Once home, talk about ways you can bring new life to your home this Easter season by repairing, cleaning, or painting something. Make an Easter season renewal plan.
3. Light the candle. Sing an Easter season Alleluia or hymn and pray together the Sign of the Cross.
4. Proclaim the Scripture verse at the top of page 249 and invite your family to repeat it after you. Ask God to bless your Easter season renewal plan and conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross and/or singing an Easter season hymn or refrain.



## Focus

Easter is the feast of Good News celebrating Jesus Christ's rising from the dead.

## The Church Sings

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

That Easter morn, at break  
of day,

The faithful women went  
their way

To seek the tomb where  
Jesus lay.

Alleluia!

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

An angel clad in white they see,  
Who sat and spoke unto  
the three,

"Your Lord has gone to Galilee."

Alleluia!

*O filii et filiae:* Jean Tisserand, d.1494

## Prayer

Risen Lord, your rising from the dead has won for us eternal life. Fill my heart with Easter joy. Help me share the Good News of your Resurrection with my family and with all I meet. Amen. Alleluia!

## Exploring the Theme

### Share

1. Talk together about bad news and good news you've heard in the past week. Make the connection between the good news you've recently heard and the Good News of the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday.
2. Read together *We Need Some Good News* on page 249. If other family members are gathered with you, dramatize the reading.
3. Review the directions to the Activity and give your child time to complete it. Talk together about people with whom your child can share this good news in the coming week.

### Hear and Believe

4. Look together at the illustration on page 250 and read aloud its title. Explain that the word *sepulchre* is another word for *tomb*. The illustration shows the women who went to Jesus' tomb on Easter morning.
5. Read together *The Good News of the Resurrection*. Recall with your child who discovered that Jesus' tomb was empty. (*Mary Magdalene and some other women*) Also recall what Good News the angel shared with the women. (*Jesus was no longer in the tomb. He had been raised from the dead.*)
6. Talk together about why Jesus' being raised from the dead is Good News to us today. Who needs to hear this Good News? How can you share it?

### Respond

7. Conclude this lesson with prayer. A suggested format is as follows.
  - Sing "Jubilate Servite" from *Blest Are We Faith in Action* Grade 3 music.
  - Pray together the Sign of the Cross and the prayer at the top of page 250.
  - Pray together the Scripture verse at the top of page 249. Talk about ways the Lord appears to you and to your family.
  - Offer prayers of petition (responding, "Risen Lord, hear our prayer!").
  - Pray together the Sign of the Cross and sing again "Jubilate Servite" or the hymn or refrain you sang at the beginning of this prayer.

#### *Two Things We Learned*

1.

2.