

APRIL 9, 2023
EASTER SUNDAY



Jesus is alive!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 20:1-18	Christ's resurrection
Monday	Acts 10:34-43	Peter speaks of faith in Jesus
Tuesday	Colossians 3:1-4	New life in Christ
Wednesday	Jeremiah 31:1-6	The joyful return of exiles
Thursday	2 Corinthians 5:14-20	We are a new creation
Friday	Genesis 2:4b-25	Creation of man and woman
Saturday	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	The Lord's always merciful
Sunday	John 20:19-31	Thomas sees and believes

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her. John 20:17b-18 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, this is the day that you have made; let us rejoice in your steadfast love and the power of Christ's resurrection for all that you have made. In the name of the risen Christ, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Alleluia, Christ is risen. O Lord, we give you thanks for sustaining us with this food and with the power of Christ's resurrection for us and all the world. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you rejoice in the risen Lord.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Jesus Christ is Risen Today



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When was a time you were in disbelief and couldn't understand something that was happening?
- As we continue to grow and mature, how is the Christian faith an ongoing process of learning and growing?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 20:1-18.

The resurrection account, the first Easter Sunday story as recorded in the Gospel of John, is filled with misunderstandings. Mary Magdalene sees the empty tomb and thinks that someone has taken Jesus' body away. Two disciples come and see it as well. The disciple that Jesus loved (traditionally thought to be John, the author of the Gospel) believes, but believes what? The very next verse says "as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead" (v. 9). The disciples leave and go home! Mary, however, remains and talks to two angels. She does not seem awed by the encounter so it is likely she does not recognize them as angels. Then she sees Jesus and thinks he is the gardener. Finally, she hears Jesus call her by name. She then recognizes him and he sends her out to tell the disciples. Like Mary and the disciples, we, too, are on a journey of understanding what Jesus' resurrection means for us and the world. It is a life filled with new insights and awe that leads us to tell others what we have seen and heard.

Discuss: What does Jesus' resurrection mean to you?

Pray: **Eternal God, help us to grow in our faith and understanding that we may be filled with joy and be faithful witnesses to the power of Jesus' resurrection for the world you love. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you share the good news of Christ's resurrection with others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The Kindness Rock Project was a trend that began in 2015. Small, smooth stones are painted with messages of kindness and hidden for others to find. Bring the good news that Christ is alive to friends and neighbors during the Easter season as a reminder that the stone was rolled away. Find or buy smooth stones, paint them, and write the words "Alleluia! Christ is Risen" on each one. Use those stones to bring the good news that Christ is alive to friends and neighbors during the Easter season. Place the stones in locations where someone can easily find them.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org