

APRIL 1, 2018
EASTER SUNDAY



We are witnesses to the resurrection.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 16:1-8	The tomb is empty
Monday	John 20:1-18	Jesus is risen!
Tuesday	Isaiah 25:6-9	God wipes away all tears
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Witnesses to the resurrection
Thursday	Acts 10:34-43	The gospel is for all
Friday	John 11:1-27	Jesus is the resurrection and the life
Saturday	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	A song of victory
Sunday	John 20:19-31	Jesus appears to the disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.”

Acts 10:40-41 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, by the power and witness of the resurrection, you are our strength and our might; you Lord Jesus, have become my salvation. Amen. (Psalm 118:14)

Mealtime Prayer:

Risen Lord Jesus, come to us this day. Bless our food, share our table, and accept our thanks. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the good news of Jesus' resurrection fill you with love, joy, peace, hope, and good courage.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Halle, Halle, Halle



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell the story of a favorite event you experienced or witnessed.
- What do you think it was like to be one of the first witnesses of Jesus' death and resurrection?
- A witness is one who has a story to tell. How are you a witness to God's saving work in the world? What story do you like to tell about how God and the resurrection of Jesus are real to you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 16:1-8.

This account of the resurrection is quite surprising. It ends by noting that the women “went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid” (v. 8). The Gospel of Mark does not end with a spirit of triumph but one of fear. Some faithful Christians have been so shocked by the ending that they added more verses to the original ending of the Gospel (vv. 9-20). With either ending, it is clear that silence was not the final word, even though the women were terrified. God's message of forgiveness and resurrection must get out to the world. How does the ending of Mark help you with your fears as a witness to God's work in the world? Close by praying:

Pray: **Almighty God, we thank you for your mercy and kindness present in our lives and world. Give us courage to tell the story of hope that is ours through Christ's death and resurrection. Amen.**

SERVICE

Plan to bring Easter resurrection cheer to someone who is working on Easter Sunday in a hospital, nursing home, police station, or fire station. Prepare an Easter basket to deliver to them as a gift from your home.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Have an Easter egg hunt and begin the festivity with the following words:

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made. *All:* **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Leader: Christ is risen! *All:* **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Leader: Lord, you give us new life. *All:* **Alleluia!**

Leader: Lord, you give us your creation and all that is in it. *All:* **Alleluia!**

Leader: Lord, you give us hope and the story of the resurrection to witness to others. *All:* **Alleluia!**

Leader: Christ is risen!. *All:* **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Leader: Let us pray. Dear God, we thank you for this day and for these Easter eggs, a sign of new life and a symbol of the resurrection. May our joy and laughter reflect the power of new life through Jesus Christ our Lord. *All:* **Amen.**



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