

APRIL 4, 2021  
EASTER SUNDAY



*The resurrected Jesus is with us, alleluia!*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 16:1-8	The tomb is empty
Monday	Acts 10:34-43	God shows no partiality
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Christ died for our sins
Wednesday	John 21:1-18	Jesus is risen
Thursday	John 11:1-27	Jesus is the resurrection
Friday	Matthew 28:1-20	The resurrection of Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	Give thanks to the Lord
Sunday	John 20:19-31	Come and see and believe

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*  
Psalm 118:1 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

God of resurrection hope, overcome our fears and gladden our hearts, for you are near with saving grace through Christ our Lord. Amen. Alleluia.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever! Amen. Alleluia. (Psalm 118:1) (Traditional prayer for ending a meal)

#### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus Christ be your strength and your salvation. (Psalm 118:14)



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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:

- What event have you experienced that left you speechless?
- What do you think it was like for Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James to stand before an angel at the empty tomb and receive awesome yet unbelievable news?
- The women left the tomb and said nothing to anyone. Why do you think they were afraid?

### DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 16:1-8.

Which is harder to believe: that Jesus rose from the dead or that the Gospel of Mark ends with the words, "they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid"? In fact, later Scripture text copiers were so dismayed by the original ending that they added more verses. It just didn't make sense that the original text seemed so bleak. Instead of saying to the world, "Christ is risen, alleluia," they leave committed to say nothing for they were afraid. Perhaps part of the Gospel message is the realization that our human frailty will always get in the way. What is evident is that the message did get out. We are reflecting on that message now. In the midst of human frailty and failures what we celebrate on Easter Sunday is that God wins and continues to win by delivering on God's promises no matter what. Alleluia, we as Jesus' followers have a ministry to do for the world because Jesus rose from the dead. Yes, we may be imperfect workers, but the promise still holds true and we still have good news to tell the world. Alleluia, Jesus has been raised, is loose in the world, and is out ahead of us now. "[Jesus] is going ahead of you to [name your own destination]; there you will see him, just as he told you" (v. 7). How does knowing that Jesus goes ahead of you wherever you go impact your life as a follower?

Pray: God of glory and might, we give you thanks for the resurrected Christ who walks with us daily. Amen. Alleluia.

### SERVICE



There are many people who serve others and work on Easter Sunday in such places as in hospitals, nursing homes, police and fire stations, and restaurants. Is there a way you can share Easter resurrection cheer with those who are working?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Easter Day is full of church and family traditions to enrich our lives of faith. One tradition is to shout out and sing alleluias after its absence during the season of Lent. Alleluia means "praise the Lord." Begin each day this week with the words, "Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed. Alleluia." If others are present, say these words together with a high-five.



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