

APRIL 20, 2025
EASTER SUNDAY



The resurrected Jesus changes who we are.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:1-18	The resurrection of Jesus
Monday	Luke 24:1-12	Jesus is alive
Tuesday	Acts 10:34-43	Peter speaks of faith in Jesus
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 15:19-26	Confidence in the resurrection
Thursday	Ezekiel 36:24-36	The renewal of Israel
Friday	Romans 12:1-8	The new life in Christ
Saturday	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	The Lord is always merciful
Sunday	John 20:19-31	Seeing Christ's wounds

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). John 20:16 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of power and might, give us joy in the good news of Jesus' victory over death that we may celebrate life in his name each and every day. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Christ is risen! Alleluia! For the power of resurrection to give life and for the gift of this food, we give you thanks through Christ Jesus our Lord. Alleluia! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the words "Christ is risen" bring you joy. Alleluia!



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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:

- Our lives are influenced by those around us. How have others influenced who you are?
- How does believing in Jesus and his resurrection influence your life today?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 20:1-18.

John's resurrection account brings together important themes from the Gospel. John 1 begins as a new creation story, imitating the language of Genesis 1. This new creation—born again—language is continued on the lips of Jesus in John 3:3-8. The empty tomb experience takes place in a garden where Mary thinks Jesus is the gardener. The setting reminds us of the origins of human life in the Garden of Eden. In John 1:39 Jesus invites the disciples to "Come and see" where Jesus is staying. After the resurrection, Mary says to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord." Mary's new birth as a follower of the resurrected Lord is seen in her recognition not only of Jesus but of her own identity and calling as a disciple. Jesus calls her by name and in that moment, she not only sees Jesus as her teacher, but her role as student and disciple. The resurrection for Mary is a very personal recognition of the resurrected Jesus and her new life as a disciple who has seen the Lord.

Discuss: How does the recognition of Jesus' resurrection impact your life of faith?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to see in Jesus' resurrection, our calling as followers of the Lord and those who share love, hope, and good news with others. Amen**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you encourage someone with love and hope in Jesus' name?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The word Easter means "spring." Easter ushers in new life. Plant an Easter Garden with colorful flowers like pansies, tulips, and petunias. If you buried or hid the word "Alleluia" on Transfiguration Sunday, display it in a visible place in your home during the Easter season or laminate it and place it on a stick in your Easter garden. As the garden grows during the fifty days of Easter, recall Mary in the garden with her Lord and remember that Jesus has given you a new identity as a follower of Jesus. When you look at your Easter Garden, say: **Alleluia! Christ is risen.**



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