

[36]

# EASTER SUNDAY

## FIRST READING

After Jesus was raised from the dead,  
we ate and drank with him.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:34a, 37-43

**P**eter said to Cornelius and his household:

“You surely know what happened everywhere in Judea.

It all began in Galilee after John had told everyone to be baptized.

God gave the Holy Spirit and power to Jesus from Nazareth.

He was with Jesus,

as he went around doing good

and healing everyone who was under the power of the devil.

We all saw what Jesus did both in Israel and in the city of Jerusalem.

“Jesus was put to death on a cross.

But three days later,

God raised him to life and let him be seen.

Not everyone saw him.

He was seen only by us,

who ate and drank with him after he was raised from death.

We were the ones God chose to tell others about him.

“God told us to announce clearly to the people

that Jesus is the one he has chosen

to judge the living and the dead.”

“Every one of the prophets has said

that all who have faith in Jesus

will have their sins forgiven in his name.”

The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5b-6c

*R. (24) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.*

Tell the Lord

how thankful you are,

because he is kind  
and always merciful.  
Let Israel shout,  
“God is always merciful!”

*R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.*

The Lord is powerful!  
With his mighty arm  
the Lord wins victories!  
And so my life is safe,  
and I will live to tell  
what the Lord has done.

*R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.*

The stone that the builders  
tossed aside  
has now become  
the most important stone.  
The Lord has done this,  
and it is amazing to us.

*R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.*

## **SECOND READING**

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians 3:1-4

**B**rothers and sisters:

You have been raised to life with Christ.  
Now set your heart on what is in heaven,  
where Christ rules at God’s right side.  
Think about what is up there,  
not about what is here on earth.  
You died, which means that your life is hidden with Christ,  
who sits beside God.  
Christ gives meaning to your life,  
and when he appears,  
you will also appear with him in glory.

The word of the Lord.

## ALLELUIA

1 Corinthians 5:7b-8a

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

## GOSPEL

The teaching of Scripture is that Jesus must rise from the dead.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to John 20:1-9

**O**n Sunday morning while it was still dark,  
Mary Magdelene went to the tomb  
and saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.  
She ran to Simon Peter and to Jesus' favorite disciple and said,  
"They have taken the Lord from the tomb!  
We don't know where they have put him."

Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.  
They ran side by side,  
until the other disciple ran faster than Peter and got there first.  
He bent over and saw the strips of linen cloth lying inside the tomb,  
but he did not go in.

When Simon Peter got there,  
he went into the tomb and saw the strips of cloth.  
He also saw the piece of cloth that had been used to cover Jesus' face.  
It was rolled up and in a place by itself.  
The disciple who got there first then went into the tomb,  
and when he saw it, he believed.  
At that time Peter and the other disciple did not know  
that the Scriptures said Jesus would rise to life.

The gospel of the Lord.

## **Easter Alleluia!**

### **Opening Prayer:**

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for enduring the pain of the cross, dying because you love us and then returning to us again because of your love for us. Help us carry the happiness we feel today into all of our days. Help us also to carry it into the darkest places of our world to bring others the happiness and love that we have found in you.

In your name we pray.

Amen

### **Readings:**

Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43

Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5b-6c

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-9

### **Reflection:**

Why are we so excited and happy today?

Have you every received a present that you were so excited about and made you so happy that you ran around showing everyone? Why did you do that? Often we are so happy that it spills out and we feel that we will just burst if we can't share it with others.

That is how Easter is! Good Friday was so sad when Jesus died for ME. I felt very loved but also like I had lost something or someone very special. Then the sudden happiness that He has risen. He has returned to Me! He has proven that everything He said is true. He has shown that through love comes happiness and life. After spending Lent trying to become a better person, here I am now with my sins forgiven. I am new again and with Jesus I can do anything! I can be a good person. I feel intensely loved and want to share that love and happiness. I want others to feel God's love the way that I do. I want to show and tell everyone of the great things that God has done for me. I am proud and happy to be among people who feel the same way that I feel.

### **Discussion:**

1. Pretend you are Mary Magdalene or one of the apostles. How do you feel at first when you see that Jesus' body is gone? Then later how do you feel when you realize that He has risen and come back to you?
2. What are some of the signs that are being used today to symbolize new life?
3. What does it mean to have new life?
4. If we continue to live our lives the same way do we really have new life?
5. What do you think God wants us to do with our new life?

*(continued on page 2)*

**Activity:**

Materials needed: 8 ½ " x 11" paper in various colors, green pipe cleaners, pencils, scissors, hole punch and floral perfume.

1. Give each child 1 piece of paper. Ask them to fold it in half and then in half again (so that the paper is in fourths).
2. Ask each child to trace their hand on the paper making sure not to touch any of the sides of the paper.
3. Cut out the hands. This should leave each child with 4 hands.
4. Ask each child to write or draw on each hand 1 way they will share Jesus' new life with the world. Use single words or phrases and/or simple pictures to save time.
5. Punch a hole in the bottom center of each hand.
6. Thread the top of a green pipe cleaner through the holes and twist tightly to secure.
7. Gently pull the hands apart and maneuver them into a circle to resemble a flower.
8. Spray each flower with perfume.
9. You may also embellish them with ribbon.
10. Ask the children to display the flowers at home and smell them often to be reminded to share their new life.

**Gospel of Life:**

After church today, talk to your family and decide on one thing that you can do as a family to share the good news that Jesus has risen. Some ideas might be: call or visit an elderly relative or neighbor who may be lonely, make friends with someone who is new to your parish, start a recycling program in your home or school, pray together one evening a week for the unborn and sick, help out at a food pantry, work through family issues without fighting or talking mean.