

APRIL 20, 2025
EASTER SUNDAY



Jesus' resurrection brings amazement and questions.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 24:1-12	The resurrection of Jesus
Monday	Acts 10:34-43	Peter speaks of faith in Jesus
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:19-26	Confidence in the resurrection
Wednesday	Mark 16:1-8	Jesus has been raised
Thursday	Deuteronomy 11:13-21	Teach the children
Friday	2 Corinthians 4:7-15	Apostles speak the faith
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

But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened. Luke 24:12 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious and Living God, give us ears to hear and believe the message of the resurrection and the voice to speak to others of Jesus' victory over death. Amen.

Mealtide Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food; this is the day that you have made; let us rejoice and be glad in it through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen. (Psalm 118:24)

A Blessing to Give:

May you rejoice that Christ is risen.



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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:

- Do you talk about your faith with others? Explain.
- Jesus' disciples reacted in different ways to the resurrection. How do you think you would have reacted?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 24:1-12.

Luke wants future disciples to pause and wonder about faith in the resurrection of Jesus. Easter morning and the announcement of Jesus' resurrection begins with fear and then leads to joy. The women are initially terrified, not jubilant. For the disciples, it begins in disbelief. They even questioned the reliability of the women's testimony. Only Peter goes to the tomb. He is moved to amazement when he sees only linen cloths, and not Jesus' body. Luke gives us an honest story that relates to our own difficulties in trusting God. Belief is not our first reaction to God's grace and mercy. Has Jesus' body been stolen or is resurrection something to believe? Clearly, the disciples aren't buying it right away. As with the disciples on Easter Sunday, we, too, can wonder, "What happened?" The tomb is empty, but the resurrected body has not yet been seen. The beauty of the Christian faith is the honest description of discipleship. Even on Easter morning, there is room for confusion and questions as well as wonderment. We are encouraged to be like Peter and explore what might be true.

Discuss: What questions do you have about the resurrection of Jesus?

Pray: **Awesome God, we thank you for the joy and wonderment that Easter brings; help us to overcome doubts and fears that we may live with hope and confidence through Christ Jesus our Risen Lord. 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's amazement and questions about Christ's resurrection?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Place a candle near the cross drawn on the paper on the first week in Lent. Take a moment to trace the cross with your finger and reflect on the words of the Lord's Prayer that were written around the cross during Lent. Then say the Lord's Prayer as written in Luke 11:2-4 with the addition of the doxology: **Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Light the candle and say: Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!



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