

MARCH 31, 2024  
EASTER SUNDAY



*Christ is risen. Alleluia!*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:1-18	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	Hebrews 12:1-12	The example of Jesus
Thursday	John 1:1-5	In the beginning was the Word
Friday	Romans 5:1-5	Being acceptable to God
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

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. John 20:1 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Living God, we thank you for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who has conquered sin and death for us through his death and resurrection. Amen. Christ is risen! Alleluia.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, for this gift of food and for the resurrection of Jesus Christ we give you thanks for your steadfast love that endures forever! Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the risen Christ bless you with hope and joy.



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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 is something you hope for but wonder if it will ever happen?
- What makes Easter important to you?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read: John 20:1-18.*

Mary came to the tomb early in the morning when it was still dark. The darkness versus light theme is found from the beginning of the Gospel of John, "*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*" (John 1:5) When we gather in worship on Easter Sunday, we expect light and beauty to fill the sanctuary. That is not the story of the first Easter in the Gospel of John. It includes more references to death and the tomb than the other three Gospels. Death and darkness are realities, even on Easter. There is confusion and misunderstanding, including Mary not recognizing Jesus and two of the disciples not understanding that Jesus "*must rise from the dead*" (v. 9). Perhaps John wants us to dwell a little longer on the reality of death and darkness that surrounds us, even today. A closer look at the frailty and sorrows of life and our own misunderstandings makes the message of Christ's resurrection stand out all the more. It might just make Easter even brighter, our hearts even warmer, and our hope even stronger. Christ is risen! Alleluia.

*Discuss: What is hard for you to understand about the resurrection?*

*Pray: Almighty and everlasting God, for your glory and power over sin and death we sing your praises now and forever through Jesus Christ, the one who died so that we may live forevermore. 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 give hope to someone going through a tough time?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Alleluia means "praise the Lord." The word Alleluia is traditionally not used and is "buried" during Lent. It is resurrected on Easter. Light all seven candles of the seven votive candles shaped like a cross that have been used during Lent. Consider using the candles as a centerpiece for Easter dinner. Write the word Alleluia on post-it notes or index cards. Place them around the candle cross.

*Say: Christ is risen; He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.*

*Then pray: This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Amen. (Psalm 118:24)*



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)