

APRIL 12, 2020
EASTER SUNDAY



The resurrection of Jesus changes everything.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 28:1-10	Christ's resurrection
Monday	Acts 10:34-43	Peter speaks of faith in Jesus
Tuesday	John 20:1-18	The resurrection of Jesus
Wednesday	Jeremiah 31:1-6	Israel will return to God
Thursday	Colossians 3:1-4	New life in Christ
Friday	Isaiah 25:6-9	The Lord has saved us
Saturday	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	The Lord is always merciful
Sunday	John 20:19-31	Thomas sees and believes

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“So they [Mary Magdalene and the other Mary] left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.” **Matthew 28:8-9 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to live each day knowing and trusting that Jesus' resurrection changes everything we experience around us. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, just as our Lord Jesus Christ ate with Peter and the other disciples after he rose from the dead, be with us now in this meal. Amen. (Acts 10:41)

A Blessing to Give:

May the risen Lord Jesus Christ be your strength and the power of your salvation now and always. (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 happens during an earthquake? Have you experienced one? If so, tell about it.
- Tell or think about a time in your life when something happened that “shook” you up.
- How do you think Jesus' resurrection shakes up the way God cares for us and all people?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 28:1-10.

Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary” go to the empty tomb. The second Mary is likely Jesus' mother (see Matthew 13:55 and 27:56 where Jesus' mother is described as the mother of James and Joseph). It is surprising that this second Mary is not named as the mother of Jesus. It appears that the emphasis is not on her biological relationship to Jesus but Mary as a follower of Jesus. She is now a disciple. Jesus' resurrection changes and shakes up everything, including our relationships to others. This is something suggested by the earthquake and the angel of the Lord that descends and whose appearance is like lightning (28:2-3). The resurrection of Jesus connects heaven and earth in a way that shakes up everything for the followers of Jesus and for all of creation itself. How does Jesus' resurrection change everything? How does it change you?

Pray: **Risen Lord Jesus, come into my life this day that I may be changed to live for you. Amen.**

SERVICE

Natural disasters occur regularly around the world. The aftermath of floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes or typhoons change people's lives drastically. There are many organizations that provide help for these victims. Have you ever helped during a recovery? How might you support this work?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Write the numbers one through ten on separate pieces of small paper. Fold each number and place them in ten different colored plastic eggs along with a sweet treat. Hide the eggs and have a hunt. After they are found, open each egg and take the contents out. Ask who has number one and then read Matthew 28:1. Continue the numbers in order as verses 2-10 from Matthew 28 are read. When finished say together: **Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!** (say three times, each time getting louder)



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