

# Prayers and Blessings at Home

## Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

April 1, 2018



### Scripture Readings

Acts 10:34a, 37–43

Psalm 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23  
(24)

Colossians 3:1–4 or  
1 Corinthians 5:6b–8

Sequence: *Victimae paschali  
laudes*

John 20:1–9 or Mark 16:1–7 or  
Luke 24:13–35

### Easter Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,  
when your disciples laid you in the tomb  
it seemed like the end of all their hopes,  
but you rose from death to everlasting life.  
May your Resurrection change our lives.  
May your victory give us courage  
and strength.  
May your love make us more loving to  
each other.  
You live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen. Alleluia!

### Ritual

Create (or refresh) a prayer table in your home for this Easter season, using white and gold for decoration. Inquire how to get a bottle of holy water from your parish to add to the prayer table. Since holy water is blessed, it cannot be poured down a drain. If needed, take it outside and pour it straight into the earth. Should some spill, allow it to evaporate.

**Add a white pillar candle and have your child light it at prayer time, saying, “Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.”**

### Conversation Questions

☉ How does the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead change the meaning of your life?

☉ Imagine you are at the empty tomb with Mary Magdalene. How would you have felt? What would you have said to Mary?

### Living the Liturgy at Home

Before or after Mass, allow your child to observe the markings on the Paschal candle. Explain that each one has a meaning. The numbers indicate the calendar year. The cross reminds us of the Passion and Death of Christ. The alpha and omega remind us that Christ is the beginning and end of all things. The five pieces of incense inserted into the cross represent the five wounds of Jesus.

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Second Sunday of Easter / Divine Mercy Sunday

April 8, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

Acts 4:32–35

Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15,  
22–24 (1)

1 John 5:1–6

John 20:19–31

### **Easter Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
when your disciples laid you in the tomb  
it seemed like the end of all their hopes,  
but you rose from death to everlasting life.  
May your Resurrection change our lives.  
May your victory give us courage  
and strength.  
May your love make us more loving to  
each other.  
You live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen. Alleluia!

### **Ritual**

Continue to light the candle on your prayer  
table during family prayers this Easter  
season. Before prayers, have your family  
members bless themselves with holy water.  
Remind them that the water recalls our  
Baptisms.

### **Conversation Questions**

- ☉ How have you experienced the mercy of God recently?
- ☉ Who are you being called to forgive at this time in your life?

### ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about "doubting Thomas." Do you know someone who has stopped going to church or who has started to question his or her beliefs? Make an effort today to reach out to this person, just as the Apostles did when they kept Thomas with them in the upper room. This week is an opportune time to draw "doubting Thomases" back to God. Invite that person to Mass with you and your family, expressing your desire to have his or her presence in the community again.

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Third Sunday of Easter

April 15, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

Acts 3:13–15, 17–19

Psalm 4:2, 4, 7–8, 9 (7a)

1 John 2:1–5a

Luke 24:35–48

### Easter Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,  
when your disciples laid you in the tomb  
it seemed like the end of all their hopes,  
but you rose from death to everlasting life.  
May your Resurrection change our lives.  
May your victory give us courage  
and strength.

May your love make us more loving to  
each other.

Who live and reign with God the Father in the  
unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen. Alleluia!

### Ritual

Continue to light the candle on your prayer  
table during family prayers this Easter sea-  
son. This week, extend a sign of peace to one  
another. You might also include the words,  
“The peace of Christ be with you.”

### Conversation Questions

☉ How do you imagine eternal life? Does it  
reassure you that the resurrection involves  
eternal life of body and soul?

☉ How might each of you become peace  
builders—in the ways you speak or act  
towards one other at home? at school? in  
the workplace?

### ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

Reflect upon the Sign of Peace that we share  
with others at Mass. Christ’s peace is shared  
among the assembly. Talk about how we also  
know Christ’s peace through the Sacrament of  
Reconciliation. Set aside time this week for  
your family members who are able to receive  
this special grace, God’s forgiveness and gift  
of peace.

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 22, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

Acts 4:8–12

Psalm 118:1, 8–9, 21–23, 26,  
28, 29 (22)

1 John 3:1–2

John 10:11–18

## Easter Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,  
when your disciples laid you in the tomb  
it seemed like the end of all their hopes,  
but you rose from death to everlasting life.  
May your Resurrection change our lives.  
May your victory give us courage  
and strength.  
May your love make us more loving to  
each other.

Who live and reign with God the Father in the  
unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen. Alleluia!

## Ritual

This week, pray Psalm 23 during family prayers. Light the candle. Ask your child to read the psalm slowly and prayerfully (or have everyone read a verse). This psalm evokes the image of the Good Shepherd Jesus uses to describe himself in the Sunday Gospel.

## Conversation Questions

☺ Jesus uses the image of shepherd and sheep to tell us how much God loves and cares for us. How may we become faithful followers of the Good Shepherd?

☺ Sheep rely on their shepherd for everything they need. Do you put your trust in Jesus and depend on him to give you what you need?

## ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

The image of sheep reminds us that lambs' wool is often used to make warm clothing. One of the corporal works of mercy is to clothe the naked. Although the weather in North America grows warmer, the need for clothing—especially warm ones—is a year-round need. What donations can your family make to your local shelter? Each morning this week, as you dress for work or school, pray for those who are in need of good clothing.

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 29, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

Acts 9:26–31

Psalm 22:26–27, 28, 30,  
31–32 (26a)

1 John 3:18–24

John 15:1–8

### Easter Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,  
when your disciples laid you in the tomb  
it seemed like the end of all their hopes,  
but you rose from death to everlasting life.  
May your Resurrection change our lives.  
May your victory give us courage  
and strength.  
May your love make us more loving to  
each other.  
Who live and reign with God the Father in the  
unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen. Alleluia!

### Ritual

Continue to light the candle on your prayer table during family prayers this Easter season. This week, pray especially for individuals you know who are going through a hard time. Remember them in your prayer, reminding yourselves that you are all part of the same vine and are called to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

### Conversation Questions

- ☉ In what ways does Jesus' grace flow through us individually or personally?
- ☉ What are some ways the love and grace of Jesus flows through our family?

### ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

In addition to praying for your friends and acquaintances who are having a hard time, perform an act of service in your community. You might consider making these friends dinner, offering to help with a household chore, or assisting at your local food pantry. If possible, include your whole family or your child in this chosen act of service. Remind your child how you are connected to those in need, and how serving them helps you, too, because we are all a part of the same body of Christ.