

# 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

If you don't already have one established in your home, set up a prayer table for the Easter season. Drape a white cloth over it and add accents of gold, Easter lilies or flowers, and a bowl of holy water. Inquire at your parish office on how to obtain a bottle of holy water. 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 evapo-

rate. Gather as a family during the next fifty days and pray the prayer on this page. Offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving for the new life Christ offers us.

### Conversation Questions

☉ God promises us new life. How does that make us feel? What does it tell us about the people we love who have died?

☉ If you were with Peter and John at the tomb, what would you tell everyone about what you saw? Would you have believed that Christ had risen?

### Living the Liturgy at Home

It is a tradition in many families to color eggs for Easter. Eggs are a wonderful symbol of new life. They also remind us of how Jesus' tomb was broken open to reveal new life. Use some of your colored eggs to make a beautiful centerpiece today. Talk with your child about what the eggs symbolize.

# ***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**

**Gather around the prayer table you have  
created in your home. It should be draped in  
white, the liturgical color of Easter. Look up  
the Divine Mercy Chaplet online and pray  
this prayer one day or evening during the  
week. Tell your child about how Jesus was  
revealed in this way to St. Maria Faustina  
and how Catholics honor her.**

### **Conversation Questions**

- ☉ What does it mean to believe in something? How can you believe in something you can't physically see?
- ☉ The second Sunday of Easter is known as Divine Mercy Sunday. The Gospel talks about forgiveness and spreading God's word. Talk about what mercy means among your family and have them share how they can practice mercy.
- ☉ When do we experience the presence of Christ with our senses?

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

Many sacraments are celebrated during the Easter season, such as Baptisms, First Communion, Confirmations, Marriages, and Ordinations. If you know someone who will be celebrating this year, discuss as a family how you will help that person to celebrate and continue to grow in their faith. Share stories and/or photos from your own celebrations.

# ***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.  
You live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen. Alleluia!**

## Ritual

**Gather around the prayer table you have  
created in your home, still draped in white  
and gold. There are many countries around  
the world that desperately need peace—not  
just the absence of war or conflict or fear.  
Add images downloaded from the Internet  
or other items suggesting that the world is  
not at peace. This week, lead a prayer for  
peace—pray for one country or region each  
day. Ask God to bless the area with peace  
by filling the hearts of people who live there  
with peace and love.**

## Conversation Questions

☉ 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***

Seek out opportunities for the whole family to participate in outreach and be sure your child is included. Offer hospitality at home and assign a task of meal planning and decorations to each member. Or contact a local soup kitchen or food pantry and volunteer to help as a family. Talk afterward about how the experience brought about peace. Did each member think of themselves as peacemakers?

# ***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.  
You live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen. Alleluia!

## Ritual

Gather around the prayer table you have created in your home and lead a discussion about Jesus as the Good Shepherd and how the sheep hear his voice. Ask your family to be particularly aware this week of when they think God is calling out to them through acts of kindness, love, or compassion. Every evening, bring these recognitions of God's voice to prayer. End with a recitation of Psalm 23.

## 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.  
You live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen. Alleluia!

## Ritual

Gather around the prayer table you have created in your home. Establish that being connected to Jesus is the key component to bearing fruit. How is your family remaining connected to Jesus? 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

- ☉ Is Christ the center of our lives? Are we bearing the kind of fruit that God intends?
- ☉ What will need to be pruned from our lives so that we may become healthier branches?

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

Help your child stay connected to Jesus by reading Bible stories on a regular basis. Assist your child in learning key Catholic prayers, such as the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be. Make Mass attendance a regular practice and use any liturgical handouts at Mass as a teaching aide for your child.