

Thursday April 1

Holy Thursday



Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me “teacher” and “master,” and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet.

John 13:12-14

Jesus did the job of a servant when he washed the feet of the disciples. Then he told them that should be their job—they should be servants too.

“Do you realize what I have done for you?” Jesus asks, and it is a good question. What does it mean to become a servant, a servant who, like Jesus, would be willing to give his whole life for the sake of other people?

Lord Jesus, help us to think deeply about what you have done for us during these holy days. May we follow you with our whole lives.



Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14 • Psalm 116:12-13, 15-18

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 • **John 13:1-15**

Friday April 2

Good Friday

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its scabbard. Shall I not drink the cup that the Father gave me?"

John 18:10-11



Like Peter, Jesus could have fought back, but he chose instead to do what the Father wanted him to do. Why did the Father want him to accept death on the cross? Many people have tried to answer that question, but the mind

of God will always be a mystery to us.

Jesus showed the depth of his love for us—and for the Father—by accepting suffering and death at human hands. Why? Perhaps reverent silence is the best answer to that question.

Your love, O Lord, is a mystery. Thank you.

Isaiah 52:13--53:12 • Psalm 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 • **John 18:1--19:42**

Saturday **April 3**

Easter Vigil

*My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.
He is my God, I praise him.*

Exodus 15:2

Led out of Egypt and saved from pharaoh's army, the Israelites sang their praise to the God who saved them. It is easy to be happy when we see that we have been saved from something bad.

Tonight the whole Church will join in a joyful celebration because we know that we have been saved from the power of sin and death.

Let us savor the sweetness of salvation and the joy of knowing where our strength, courage and happiness come from.



Exodus 14:15--15:1 • **Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18** • Romans 6:3-11 • Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 • Luke 24:1-12

Sunday April 4

The Resurrection of the Lord

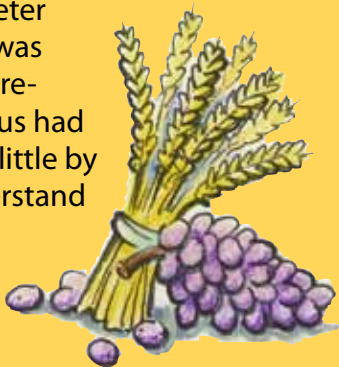
*They have taken the Lord from the tomb,
and we don't know where they put him.*

John 20:2

Mary of Magdala and Peter didn't understand what was going on. They weren't prepared to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. But little by little they began to understand what had happened.

Faith and understanding doesn't come all at once. For the next 50 days, the Church will celebrate the season of Easter. During this time, let the wonder of the resurrection sink in.

*Lord, you are the savior of the world.
Thank you for all your kindness to us.*



Acts 10:34, 37-43 • Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Colossians 3:1-4 • **John 20:1-9**

Monday April 5

Monday in the Octave of Easter

*Jesus said to them,
“Do not be afraid.
Go tell my brothers
to go to Galilee, and
there they will see me.”*



Matthew 28:10

Easter is such a happy time. Eggs, bunnies, chicks and pretty colors help us remember the new life that Jesus gives us. So why would anyone be afraid of that?

Well, seeing Jesus alive again was not what they expected, was it? It was new and different. No one had ever risen from the dead before. It might scare you too. That's why when the disciples first saw Jesus, he told them not to be afraid.

God's most wonderful gifts can surprise us. We might even be scared to accept them. But let's not be afraid!

May I not be afraid to let you in and change me, Jesus!

Acts 2:14, 22-33 • Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-11

Matthew 28:8-15



Tuesday April 6

Tuesday in the Octave of Easter

Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord..."

John 20:18

Have you ever been so excited about something that you couldn't wait to tell everyone? Maybe you saw something funny or you got a good grade. Maybe you had a great day with a friend.

Mary of Magdala was one of the first people to see Jesus after he rose from the dead. You can imagine how she felt—take the happiest you've been and think a thousand times bigger.

Luckily, this isn't just a moment in the past. Jesus is *still* alive, still giving us life and mercy right now. Are we ready to follow Mary of Magdala and share that good news?

Jesus, I'm happy to share the new life you give me.

Acts 2:36-41 • Psalm 33:4-5, 18-20, 22

John 20:11-18

Wednesday **April 7**

Wednesday in the Octave of Easter

Then the two recounted... how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Luke 24:35



These two friends met Jesus after he rose from the dead. They were confused about who he was, but when Jesus broke the bread at their meal, they knew.

Mass is often a busy time. There are friends to greet, prayers to say, music to sing, words to listen to—and all those grown-up words! It's especially hard for those who are little and have to sit near the back, because it's hard for them to see what's going on.

So maybe when we are confused at Mass we can focus our hearts on what we know—Jesus is with us in the Eucharist—and listen to his words.

Acts 3:1-10 • Psalm 105:1-4, 6-9

Luke 24:13-35

Thursday **April 8**

Thursday in the Octave of Easter

Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts?

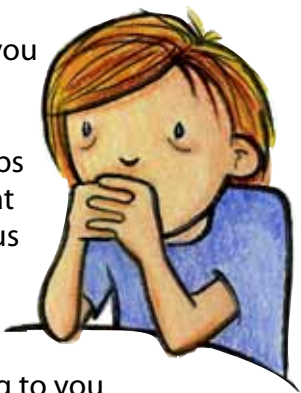
Luke 24:38

Everybody worries. We worry about our schoolwork, about our families, about what other kids think about us. We worry when we feel bad.

What do you do when you feel worried and troubled? Some kids keep it to themselves. They think grown-ups wouldn't understand or that they'd be a bother. But Jesus wanted the apostles to tell him all about their worries, and his words weren't just for the apostles. He's talking to you and me too. He's listening right now.

So... why are you troubled?

Jesus, here's what worries me today.



Acts 3:11-26 • Psalm 8:2, 5-9

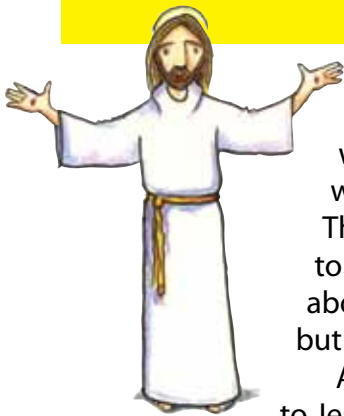
Luke 24:35-48

Friday April 9

Friday in the Octave of Easter

When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

John 21:4



After Jesus rose from the dead, his friends were happy, but they were also confused.

They weren't expecting to see him. Something about him was familiar, but different.

As they all came closer to Jesus, heard him speak their names and touched him, they understood. Their hearts opened, and they knew this was really Jesus—really alive forever, really there to love and forgive them!

Jesus is speaking your name too. He's inviting you to come closer and to be his friend forever.

Acts 4:1-12 • Psalm 118:1-2, 4, 22-27

John 21:1-14

Saturday **April 10**

Saturday in the Octave of Easter



*Go into the whole world
and proclaim the gospel
to every creature.*

Mark 16:15

Have you ever been part of a phone tree? It works like this: someone calls you with an important message, and then you make a call or two and pass that message along to other people. The tree will grow and spread the message to many people, but everyone has to do a small part.

When Jesus told the disciples to spread the gospel throughout the world, he knew it could not happen all at once. He knew no single person could make that happen. But if Christians do their part—whether it is small or large—the gospel will spread throughout the whole world.

Lord Jesus, help me to do my part to tell people about what you have done for us.

Acts 4:13-21 • Psalm 118:1, 14-21

Mark 16:9-15

Sunday April 11

Second Sunday of Easter • Divine Mercy Sunday

Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

John 20:26



The doors were locked because the disciples were afraid of being arrested or killed. We can understand that, right? We're all afraid sometimes.

It's good to know that even if in our fear we lock some things out, Jesus can still find his way in. Jesus can still say, "Peace be with you."

Jesus, thank you for your gift of peace.

Acts 5:12-16 • Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19 • **John 20:19-31**

Monday **April 12**

As [the disciples] prayed... they were all filled with the holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:31



Fear can be powerful, especially when a loved one contracts a disease, you see a bully waiting for you or powerful storms and earthquakes are coming your way.

These disciples were the same ones who were hiding behind locked doors after Jesus died on the cross. Something changed for them—the Holy Spirit transformed their fears into courage. It will do the same for you. You might still have shivers down your back, but the door to speak and live the truth will be opened.

Holy Spirit, take away my fear.

Acts 4:23-31 • Psalm 2:1-9

John 3:1-8

Tuesday **April 13**

St. Martin I

There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them... and they were distributed to each according to need.

Acts 4:34-35

Close your eyes and imagine this: You crawl out of bed this morning, and Mom says, "Guess what? Our church building disappeared last night." In fact, not only your church but every church building in town is gone—vanished! Would there still be a Christian "church"?

Of course! The early Christians had no stained-glass cathedrals. The "people" were the Church. They met in each other's homes and shared their food and possessions "according to need."

Where would your "church" be if the building disappeared? Think about it.

Lord, we don't need a church building, but thanks for our place of worship.

Acts 4:32-37 • Psalm 93:1-2, 5

John 3:7-15

Wednesday **April 14**

During the night, the angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison, led [the apostles] out, and said, "Go and take your place in the temple area, and tell the people everything about this life."

Acts 5:19-20



Imagine again that you have no church and you were asked to share everything with your fellow Christians. Then you are thrown into prison for telling people about Jesus. Would you be tempted to say, "Wait a minute! I'm scared, and I don't want to share my bicycle or my ham sandwich. I quit!"?

God sent an angel to rescue the disciples, but the angel told them to go out and preach some more. Would you go?

Lord, forgive my selfishness and give me the courage to tell someone about you today.

Acts 5:17-26 • Psalm 34:2-9

John 3:16-21