

Celebrating Easter

Engage: Page 205

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Open the Bible and read aloud Luke 24:1–8. Then say: **The Gospel of the Lord**. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Ask your child: **What was the best news you ever got?** (Accept reasonable answers.) Say: **Imagine how happy Jesus' followers were when the angels told them the news that Jesus had risen from the dead!**
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 205. Then ask: **How do you think Jesus' friends felt after hearing the news from the angels?** (joyful) Say: **Easter reminds us to be joyful people.** Invite your child to retell the Easter story.
- ▶ Say: **Let's tell Jesus how we feel about what he did for us.** Pray aloud the prayer. Then pause for reflection. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.
- ▶ Together find the date of Easter on a calendar and mark off the next 50 days to identify the Easter season.

Explore: Page 206

- ▶ Ask: **What happens in the spring of each year?** (trees bud, flowers bloom, baby animals are born) Say: **Springtime is also when we celebrate Easter. Just as there is new life in God's creation during the spring, we celebrate the new life we share with Jesus Christ during the Easter season.**
- ▶ Read aloud the title and first paragraph. Point out the boldface word *Easter* and have your child repeat it after you. Ask: **How do we begin the Easter season?** (with the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening before Easter) Say: **The Easter Vigil begins the Easter season with a celebration of light. A new paschal, or Easter, candle is lit.**
- ▶ Read aloud the second paragraph. Say: **Easter is a time for us to rejoice and remember that Jesus died and rose from the dead for us. We celebrate Jesus' Resurrection on Easter and every Sunday of the year.**
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Explain the color key. Have your child complete the activity and read aloud the hidden word.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: **How can you share God's peace?** (by helping a friend, by obeying parents)

Reflect on the Mass: Page 207

- ▶ Say: ***We've learned that at Mass during Lent and Holy Week before Easter, we do not sing or pray the Alleluia.*** You may wish to practice the Alleluia melody used in your parish and sing aloud together. Ask: ***How does this song make you feel?*** (happy, full of God's love and joy)
- ▶ Read aloud the title and first paragraph. Ask: ***Why do we sing and pray the Alleluia during the Easter season?*** (The Alleluia is a joyful prayer of praise to God, and we are joyful that Jesus rose from the dead for us.)
- ▶ Read aloud What We Experience. Then discuss the symbols of Easter.
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Explain that Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the first day of the week, Sunday, the Lord's Day, which is the eighth day after God created the world. Say: ***Sunday, the Lord's Day, is an Easter celebration that occurs each week. On this day we gather at Mass to thank Jesus, our Redeemer.***

Art Print: Page 208

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture that shows the risen Jesus Christ and the women who went to the tomb Easter morning. Ask: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how it makes him or her feel. Say: ***Easter is a time to celebrate how Jesus saves us all.***
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first paragraph—the story of the Resurrection according to the Gospel of Matthew. Ask: ***How do you think the two women felt when they didn't see Jesus' body?*** (confused, afraid) Say: ***They were confused and didn't know what to do.*** Ask: ***Then what happened?*** (Jesus appeared to them.) ***What did Jesus tell them?*** (not to be afraid) ***How did the women feel then?*** (very happy)
- ▶ Read aloud the second paragraph. Ask: ***What do we celebrate on Easter Sunday?*** (Jesus' rising from the dead) ***What is one of the ways that we celebrate?*** (singing and praying Alleluia)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Have your child complete the activity. Then ask: ***Where can we meet Jesus?*** (at Mass with our families, in church, anywhere because Jesus is always with us)
- ▶ Have your child trace his or her hand on white construction paper. Cut out the tracings and wrap the fingers around a pencil to curl them slightly. Cut yellow craft stems into three equal pieces and twist together to form the stamen, then twist the stamen onto the green craft stem. Wrap the paper hand around the craft stem until the thumb touches the pinky finger. Glue and tie a ribbon around the base of the flower.

Respond: Pages 209–210

- ▶ Read aloud the Faith Summary on page 209. Review the Word I Learned. Next, read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Then say: ***Jesus gave us the gift of himself when he died to save us from our sins. We can give of ourselves too. We can spend time with others, and we can act unselfishly as Jesus did.*** Ask: ***What are some ways you can give of yourself?*** (share things to make someone smile, don't argue with brothers and sisters, do chores without being asked)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity title and directions. Have your child complete the activity and read aloud the Good News about Jesus' Resurrection.
- ▶ Say: ***Today we learned about the joyful season of Easter.*** Pray aloud the prayer as your child prays silently. Then say: ***Let's spend a few moments silently talking to God in our hearts.*** Pause briefly. Close by praying together the Sign of the Cross and *Amen*.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph of With My Family on page 210. Then read aloud and discuss the Scripture verses as suggested in the next paragraph.
- ▶ Discuss Faith on the Go. Then plan a time to complete the activity together.
- ▶ Conclude by praying together the Family Prayer.