

Celebrating Easter

Engage: Page 205

- ▶ Sing a simple *Alleluia* together. Ask: ***What other joyful symbols do we see around us at Easter?*** (colorful eggs, lilies, Easter baskets) Say: ***Easter is the time of year when we rejoice that Jesus is risen!*** Together find Easter on a calendar. Invite your child to count 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday.
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud John 6:66–69. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 205. Say: ***During Easter, we celebrate the promise of eternal life—living forever with God in heaven.***
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer with joy and enthusiasm. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

Explore: Page 206

- ▶ Ask: ***What is the most joyful time you remember? What made this occasion so joyous?*** (being with family and friends, going to a special place, having fun)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *We Reflect During Easter*. Guide your child to look up the term *eternal life* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: ***The gift of eternal life gives us hope and faith to know that when we die, we will live with Jesus forever.***
- ▶ Invite your child to complete the activity and share it with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: ***It is hard when someone we love dies. We miss that person very much. You can feel comforted knowing that everyone we love is loved by God the Father. He welcomes those who have passed away to live with him forever. Knowing that our loved ones are with God in heaven helps us when we miss them.***

(Continued on the next page)

Reflect: Page 207

- ▶ Discuss how the joy of Easter is a small taste of the joy of heaven. Say: *When we go to Mass during the Easter season, we sing joyful songs to express our joy that Jesus is risen from the dead.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Easter. Compare a Sunday Mass to Easter Sunday. Ask your child to tell what he or she sees and hears at each Mass. Then have your child read aloud What We Experience. Say: *The color white reminds us of Jesus' new life. When we are baptized, we wear a white garment to symbolize our new life.* Have your child complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Ask: *How does Jesus come close to us? (in the sacraments)* Say: *Remember that the sacraments are about love, belonging, forgiveness, and friendship—all special things that help us be the people Jesus wants us to be.*

Art Exploration: Page 208

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online a picture that shows a bouquet of lilies.
- ▶ Ask: *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the lilies symbolize. Say: *White lilies in church at Easter remind us of the risen Jesus.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 208. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the questions. Have your child read aloud We Celebrate Easter. Ask: *Why do you think spring is the perfect season to celebrate Easter?* (There is new life in nature just as Jesus rose to new life.)
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and allow time for your child to write a prayer. Then pray it together.
- ▶ Invite your child to think about what happened on the first Easter morning. Say: *Imagine coming face-to-face with the risen Jesus. What do you say to Jesus? What does Jesus say to you?* Invite your child to spend a few moments speaking heart-to-heart with the risen Jesus Christ. Close by singing together a simple *Alleluia*.

Respond: Pages 209–210

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways to spread joy to those he or she meets today. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 210. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: *We are filled with joy because Jesus died and rose to give us eternal life. Remember to keep spreading Easter joy to those around you.*