

## Celebrating Easter

### Engage: Page 205

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Luke 6:35–36. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord***. Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*.
- ▶ Say: ***Think of having a plant that you thought had died, but when you watered it, it became full and healthy again***. Ask: ***How might that represent God's mercy?*** (God gave the plant new life.) Read aloud the paragraphs. Say: ***During the Easter season, we celebrate God's merciful love. What does mercy mean?*** (forgiveness) Say: ***The risen Christ chose mercy instead of revenge***.
- ▶ Say: ***Pray in your hearts as I pray aloud***. Pray the prayer and allow a moment of quiet reflection. Then conclude by praying *Amen*.
- ▶ Display Easter symbols such as a decorated egg, lilies, or a picture of a lamb. Ask: ***What important day of the church year do these symbols represent?*** (Easter) Read aloud the session title. Ask: ***What do we celebrate on Easter?*** (the Resurrection of Jesus) ***Is Easter on the same date each year?*** (No, it is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring.) Together find the date for Easter on a calendar. Have your child count the next 50 days to identify Pentecost Sunday.

### Explore: Page 206

- ▶ Say: ***Think of a time someone hurt your feelings but you forgave the person***. Ask: ***Did you want to forgive the person or did you remain angry? How did it feel?*** Have your child read aloud *Merciful Is the Lord*. Ask: ***What are two parts of mercy?*** (compassion and forgiveness) Read aloud *The Mercy of Friendship*. Invite your child to write a prayer for a friend who needs compassion and forgiveness.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Ask: ***When we have doubts about God, what can we do to strengthen our faith?*** (pray to God, think about his gifts)

### Reflect on the Mass: Page 207

- ▶ Discuss where you have seen lambs during Easter. (chocolate lambs, cake lambs, butter lambs) Say: *These Easter traditions symbolize Jesus, the Lamb of God.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Mass During Easter. Say: *At one time, lambs were sacrificed as a religious offering. We use this symbol today because of the great sacrifice Jesus made by dying on the Cross for our sins.* Have your child read aloud What We Experience. Ask: *Why is joyful music played at Easter Mass?* (because the parish rejoices that Jesus is with us always) *What is the liturgical color of the season?* (white) Read aloud See the Lamb of God. Invite your child to share his or her drawing with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. Say: *The Feast of the Ascension celebrates Jesus' Ascension into heaven 40 days after his Resurrection.*

### Art Exploration: Page 208

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online an image of Mary Magdalene and the other women at Jesus' tomb following his Resurrection. As you look at the picture, discuss with your child what is shown. (Mary Magdalene and other women went to Jesus' tomb to care for his body. They found the tomb empty and were afraid and confused until an angel appeared to them.)
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud A Celebration of Life and The Resurrection. Ask: *Why did God send Jesus?* (to show us his mercy and love) *How can we live as disciples?* (by committing ourselves to the service of others) Read aloud In Celebration of Easter. Give your child time to draw a picture and share it with you.

### Respond: Pages 209–210

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can forgive others even when it is difficult. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 210. Invite your child to tell you some ways he or she found during Easter to act more like Jesus.