

EASTER

A Guide for Faith at Home



READ

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Isaiah 25:6-9

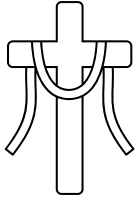


LEARN

Easter is not just one day, but a full and joyful season of 50 days! In Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and our rebirth in new life in faith. Jesus' resurrection is God's ultimate and lasting victory over sin and death, which then extends to each of us as God's people and members of the body of Christ through baptism. Throughout this season, we hear stories of Jesus revealing his true nature as the Son of God to his people. How might Jesus be revealed to us this season, in our lives and the lives of our neighbors? We also hear about the emergence of the early Church through the Acts of the Apostles --the growth, the challenges, and the miracles witnessed by the followers of Jesus. As disciples of Jesus Christ today, what can we learn from these early Christians? As the Easter season progresses, we observe the Ascension of Jesus into heaven (day 40). But we are not left alone! Easter concludes with the Day of Pentecost and the arrival of the Holy Spirit in our midst.



The Diocese of New Jersey



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DO

Easter is a great season for faith at home activities. It is rich with symbols and signs of our new life in Jesus Christ!

- **Light from darkness:** The Easter story begins in darkness but emerges into the new light of abundant life. Just as the Paschal candle is lit in our churches, light a candle at home throughout this season, and to mark life events such as baptisms and deaths. Another way to witness the light of life is to witness a sunrise sometime during the Easter season.
- **Seeds of faith:** Gardens feature prominently in the Holy Week and Easter story. Jesus prays in the garden before his death, and meets Mary in the garden after his resurrection. In this season, we witness new life sprouting from seemingly dead branches and empty dirt. Seeds planted transform into green shoots and buds, just as Jesus emerged from the tomb. Plant some seeds, in a pot or garden bed, and watch the glory of God's creation spring forth. Or, take a walk or visit a garden, and as you see the earth's annual renewal, give thanks for the gift of our salvation.
- **Resurrection living:** Notice the signs of new life and rebirth all around us during this season: new growth, rainbows following a rain shower, and butterflies! Use these visual cues to remind yourself and others of the gift of God's son, Jesus Christ, and his work of reconciliation and salvation.



PRAY

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 222



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