



EASTER SUNDAY FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Leader: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us 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.

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel

Say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Reader: The word of the Lord. *People:* Thanks be to God.

Psalm 114 (may be read responsively by leader and people)

- 1 Hallelujah!
When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
- 2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
you little hills like young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if

we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The word of the Lord. *People:* Thanks be to God.

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Reader: The word of the Lord. *People:* Thanks be to God.

Reflection (one or more participants may like to offer some reflection)

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Leader: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born
of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Leader: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Leader: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: I will, with God's help.

Leader: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

Leader: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Leader: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Leader: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

The Prayers

Leader: Let us now pray for all persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth, and for all who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

Intercessor: Deliver us, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Open our hearts to your grace and truth.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Fill us with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Keep us in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Teach us to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Send us into the world in witness to your love.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Bring us to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: (*invite participants to offer prayers for others*)

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. *Amen.*

All: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen

Leader: All praise and thanks to you, most merciful Father, for adopting us as your own children, for incorporating us into your holy Church, and for making us worthy to share in the inheritance of the saints in light; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Leader: Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Resurrection.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Notes and Participant List

“*Leader*” ~ Parts marked this way will be done by:

Reader(s) ~ it would also be nice to have up to four volunteers (one to read the Ezekiel reading; a second to lead the Psalm; a third to read the Romans reading; and the fourth to read the Gospel reading)

Ezekiel reader:

Psalm leader (first half of each verse):

Romans reader:

Matthew reader:

“Reflection” ~ (A) participant(s) might offer a brief reflection, connecting the James Tissot painting (on the first page) with the Matthew Gospel reading

“*Intercessor*” ~ a volunteer may read these lines in the Prayers

Volunteer:

Note: Toward the end of the prayers, provision is made for individual participants (whether readers or not) to offer specific prayers for other individuals and concerns.