

## Easter Sunday

### Sunday, March 31

Acts 10:34a,37-43  
Ps 118:1-2,16-17,22-23  
Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8  
Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7

### Monday, April 1

Acts 2:14,22-33  
Ps 16:1-2a,5,7-11  
Mt 28:8-15

### Tuesday, April 2

Acts 2:36-41  
Ps 33:4-5,18-20,22  
Jn 20:11-18

### Wednesday, April 3

Acts 3:1-10  
Ps 105:1-4,6-9  
Lk 24:13-35

### Thursday, April 4

Acts 3:11-26  
Ps 8:2ab,5-9  
Lk 24:35-48

### Friday, April 5

Acts 4:1-12  
Ps 118:1-2,4,22-27a  
Jn 21:1-14

### Saturday, April 6

Acts 4:13-21  
Ps 118:1,14-15b,16-21  
Mk 16:9-15

Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John accompanied Jesus on his final mission and were key witnesses to his inspirational teachings, astonishing miracles, traumatic suffering, and excruciating death on the cross. They were three of Jesus' most intimate friends and, besides his mother, they seemed to know him the best.

We see in Scripture how Jesus tried to prepare those he loved for what was going to happen. Still, on that Easter morning when first confronted with the empty tomb, their human weakness and broken hearts gave way to sadness, suspicion, and fear. It would take them a little while before they would fully understand that Jesus had to rise from the dead through the saving power of God and then Scripture would be fulfilled.

When we love Jesus with all our hearts and are sincerely trying to follow him, we must trust him and the Holy Spirit to help us be patient and guide our understanding of things we

don't quite understand so we can stay in line with God's holy will for our lives.

Is life giving you challenges? Are people in your life disappointing you or has grief, pain, illness, or other misfortune come your way somehow? Everyone has crosses we must bear at different seasons of our lives, and we are called to carry them with faith and trust even when we don't understand everything just yet.



We are also called to love others and share our faith with them as well. Sometimes it is our very crosses that connect us to the people to whom we are being

led to share the Gospel of Christ! By holding intimately close to Jesus and trusting him, just as his closest disciples did in today's Gospel, we show what it means to be "Easter people." We know that God will turn our hurts and sacrifices into something beautiful in time and we, too, will rise.

### Reflect & Discuss:

- † How can you share the love of Christ by helping someone you know carry their cross?
- † What can you do to allow Christ to carry more of the load of your cross? Can you recognize when Christ is working through others to help carry your cross?
- † When something bad in your life turned out good, how did this affect your faith in God? How have you experienced a time when you saw and believed as the disciple John did?
- † Think about a time when you prayed, and things did not go as you wanted. As God always brings something good out of bad for those who believe and have faith, what good things did you discover?