

we praise You for Your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of the Father.

Amen

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing the **Gospel Acclamation:**

(Sing to the tune of 'If You're Happy and You Know It')

Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,

As we listen to the story,
let us praise him for his glory.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord.⁽¹⁾

Gospel (Mark 16:1-8)

“A reading from the Holy Gospel According to St. Mark”

Explain and demonstrate – make three crosses: one on your forehead, one on your lips and one on your heart (in this way we think God's word, speak god's word and keep God's word in our hearts) **as we say together “Glory to You, O Lord.”**

“On the first day of the week, when the Sabbath was over, some of the women went to the tomb where Jesus was buried. The women's names were Mary Magdalene, Salome and Mary, the mother of James.

They brought special oil with sweet spices in it to put on Jesus' body. It was very early in the morning, just after the sun had risen, and one of the women asked,
"Who will roll away the huge stone from in front of the tomb for us?"
But when they got there, they saw that the stone had already been moved. The women went into the tomb and they saw a young man sitting on the right side. He was wearing a white robe.
The women were frightened, but the man said,
"Don't be afraid.
You are looking for Jesus, the one who was crucified.
He has risen! He is not here!
Look, this is the place where He was buried .
Now, go and tell his disciples, and Peter,
That Jesus is going to Galilee. Say to them,
'You will see Him there, just as He told you.' "
The women ran away from the tomb. But on the way they did not tell anyone what happened because they were afraid." (2)

The Gospel of the Lord

All say : Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

Today we celebrate Easter- ask the children what they think of when they hear the word Easter. (They may make reference to eggs, this is a good chance to remind them that these represent the stone of the tomb that Jesus rolled away)

Explain that Easter is the most important celebration in our Church because of what we heard in today's Gospel.

Remind them of the events leading up to Easter. On Holy Thursday Jesus celebrated the Last Supper and left us with the gift of Priesthood and his own Body and Blood in the form of the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist.

On Good Friday, Jesus took on the sins of the world and was crucified and died. This filled us with great sadness.

In today's Gospel we hear how Mary Magdalene, Mary and Salome went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away? (How do you think they felt and reacted? Fear, worry, denial, panic)

When Jesus rose from the dead, He overcame death as it once was for us all. By his rising He has allowed us to enjoy eternal life with His Father in Heaven. His dying, destroyed death and that is why Easter is the greatest celebration of all.

What kind of things can you do at Easter to show your great appreciation to Jesus for what he did for us? (The main thing you can do is show his love to others by the way you act and live your lives every single day. Trust in Him and spread His love with everyone you meet. Pray for those in need, especially the sick and lonely this year)

Prayers of the Faithful

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for loving us. Your rising from the dead has destroyed death. May we always strive to follow the path you set for us, leading us to eternal life and happiness.

Lord in Your Mercy
-Hear our Prayer

Lord Jesus,

You are truly the Light of the World. May we never be afraid to bear witness to Your unending love for us. During this Easter Season may we strive to follow Your example and spread the Gospel to others with courage and love.

Lord in Your Mercy
-Hear our Prayer

We now pray together saying:

Our Father, who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name:
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses:
As we forgive those who trespass against us,
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil. **Amen.**

We can also say the following prayer as a **Spiritual Communion**.

(Anyone can do this at any age. Even if you have not made your first Sacramental Holy Communion, you can still make a Spiritual Communion by saying this prayer).

Spiritual Communion (Prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori)

My Jesus,
I believe You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You Sacramentally,
Come at least spiritually into my soul.
I embrace You as if You were already come,
And unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. **Amen.**

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for all You have done for us. By Your death on the Cross and Resurrection we are filled with renewed hope and life. Help us to remember what You did for us as we learn to bear our own crosses with the hope and promise of eternal life and happiness with You.

Jesus is Alive...Alleluia!

For Parents or Carers reading this at home there are some further resources on the Archdiocese website including some craft ideas.

References:

- (1) The Children's Complete Liturgy Book. Katie Thomson. Kevin Mayhew Ltd. P. 349.**
- (2) Sunday. Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children (Year B)**
- (3) Sr. Paule Freeburg. Viewpoint Resources Direct. P 41.**