

Easter Sunday –Jesus has RISEN!

April 12, 2020

the  
empty  
tomb.



# THE GOOD NEWS

WEEKLY

Easter (A)  
John 20:1-9 or Matthew 28:1-10  
or Luke 24:13-35 • April 12, 2020

## GOSPEL THEME

Jesus is risen!  
Alleluia!

# easter cryptogram

Decode this Scripture quote by solving the letter substitution. The solved cryptogram will tell you the message that Mary Magdalene brought back to the disciples on Easter morning.

“

A B C D F G F F H  
I J F K L M N

!”



**Key:** A = I; B = H; C = A; D = V; F = E; G = S; H = N;  
I = T; J = H; K = L; L = O; M = R; N = D.

# JESUS and the CATERPILLAR

**E**VER watch caterpillars? They crawl around in the grass, on leaves, and sometimes on fruit and vegetables. Not much speed in a caterpillar. Some folks even think they're creepy.

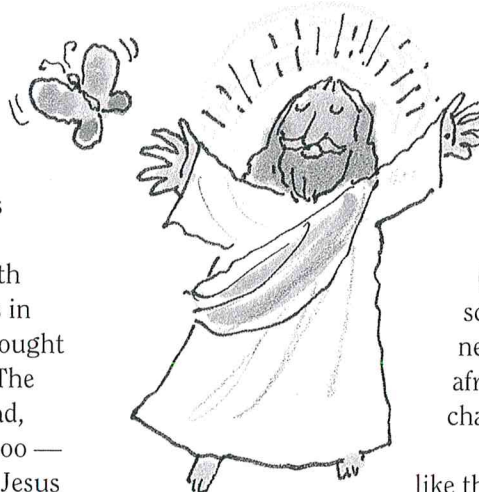
At some time in a caterpillar's life it stops crawling around. It makes itself a little bag called a chrysalis, snuggles into it, and goes to sleep. It sleeps so still and soundly that it seems like it could be dead.

When it awakens, it begins to stir around inside the chrysalis. Soon it wriggles out and stretches. And behold! A miracle! It has wings! It's a butterfly! It's no longer a pokey old caterpillar that can't go places. Now it can move fast. It can go

where it could never go before. The butterfly can see and do things that it could not see or do when it was a caterpillar. It has **new life!**

That's how it is with Easter. Jesus' body was in the tomb. Everyone thought he was dead for good. The apostles weren't just sad, they were frightened, too — frightened that maybe Jesus wasn't their Savior at all. They feared they might have put too much hope and trust in him, and now he had let them down. The apostles were also scared that the people who crucified Jesus might come after them, too. So they hid.

When Jesus rose from the dead their fear ended and their hope began again. Death was not the end for Jesus! He rose from the dead. Sort of like the caterpillar, he had to die and go through a dark time before he could be someone so amazing and wonderful that people would remember him and try to follow him for all



time to come.

You, too, can follow the examples of the caterpillar and Jesus. When change comes in your life (like going to a new school or moving to a new house) try not to be afraid. Instead, see it as a chance to have a new life!

Another way to be like the caterpillar and Jesus is to think of your life as a time

of preparing to be with God after you die. The idea of death isn't scary when you think of it as something like the caterpillar's chrysalis or Jesus' time in the tomb. After death comes a new and fuller life with God forever. Just as Lent prepares us for Easter, so this life on earth prepares us for life in heaven.

Now isn't that a reason to rejoice and sing Alleluia on Easter Sunday?

*From the book, Lent Is for Children, by Julie Kelemen, ©1987, Liguori Publications.*



# SHARING the GOOD NEWS

Activity for Class  
or Family



You are probably celebrating Easter in a special way. Sometime during your celebration, however, talk about the message of this most important holiday in the Church. Easter is about rising from death, about new life, abundant life, special life.

Every Christian experiences many Easter risings in life. Spring is an Easter rising after the death of winter. Birth is an Easter rising after nine months of waiting and hope. We rise again after disappointments to find new avenues opening up for us.

The older we get, the more Easter risings we experience. Take time this week to discuss this idea of dying and rising with your class or family. Here are some tips:

- 1 Remember a time when you grieved a terrible loss only to discover that you were on your way to something better.
- 2 Could you have foreseen at the time of your sorrow that anything good could come from it?
- 3 Have everyone write down one thing they were very sad about during the past year.
- 4 Discuss the things on those lists. How does each person feel about their sadness now? Has it gone away? Why?
- 5 Have a happy and holy Easter celebration!



## A Special Way to Celebrate Easter...

Rhea Connors is the twelve-year-old daughter of Jaime Connors and Brian Hamilton. Rhea has planned a different sort of Easter celebration this year. She is well-known by parishioners at Saint Joseph's Church where she is sometimes the lead singer in the gospel choir on Sundays.

Rhea has also appeared on stage at several local functions in the past two years. She is a young lady of unusual talent and gentle faith. She believes that the Lord expects her to use her talent to God's glory.

For the past few weeks, Rhea has been practicing special Easter hymns and other songs to entertain the patients at the Mount Carmel Nursing Home.

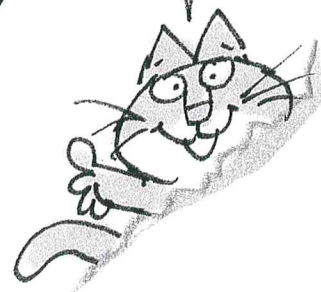
Rhea said, "These people miss celebrating Easter with



their families. I hope my singing can bring the beauty of the season into their lives." Following Rhea's Easter concert at the home, a baked ham dinner will be

served to all the residents. Rhea and her family will join in the feast. "I can't think of a better way to spend Easter," said Rhea's dad, Mr. Hamilton.

**How will  
you celebrate  
Easter this  
year?**





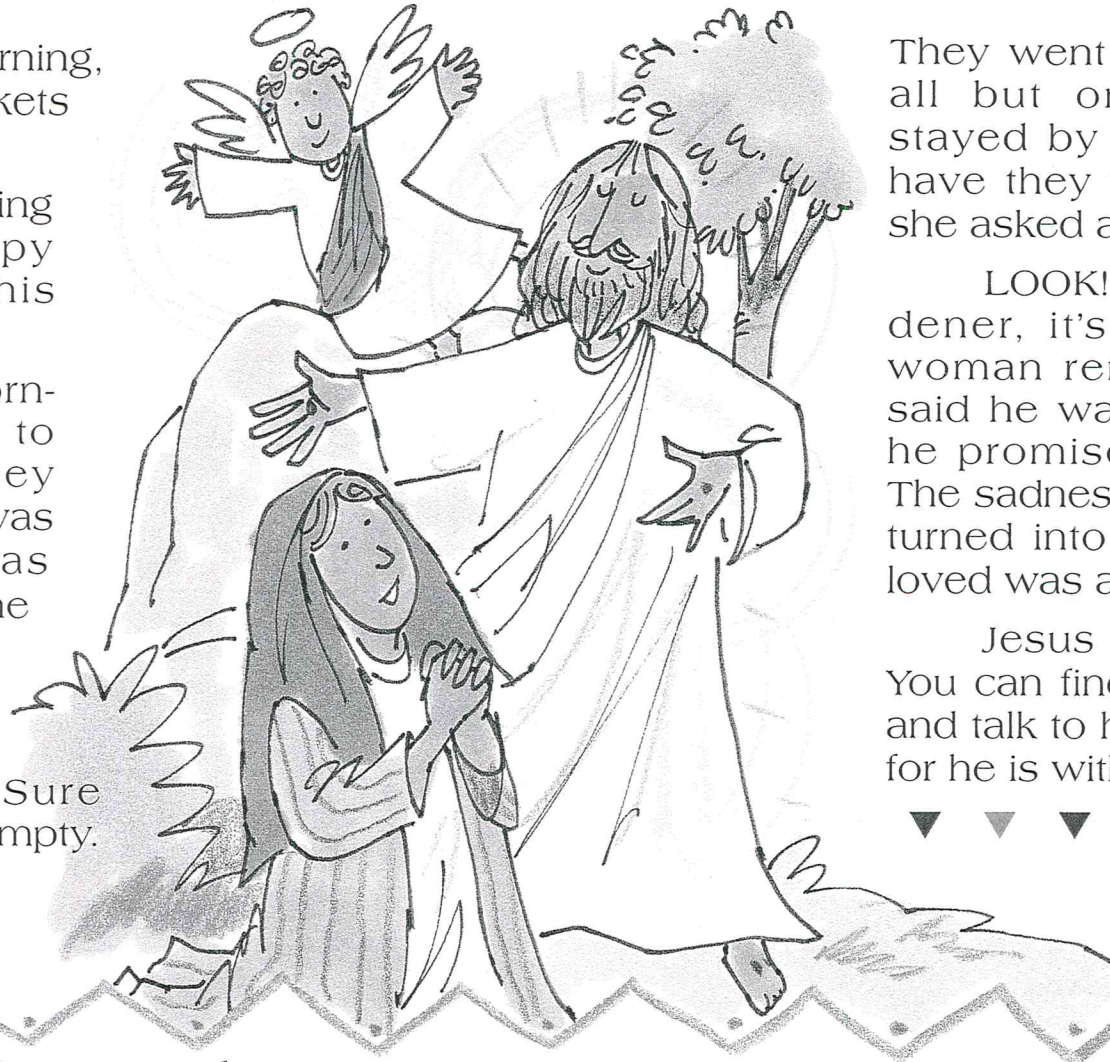
# The First Easter Sunday

On the first Easter morning, there were no Easter baskets or brightly colored eggs.

That first Easter morning began as a very unhappy day. Jesus had died; his friends were sad.

Very early in the morning, two women walked to Jesus' tomb. When they reached that place, Jesus was not there! The tomb was EMPTY! They ran to tell the apostles, "Our Master is gone!"

The apostles ran to see for themselves. Sure enough — the tomb was empty.



They went home very sad — all but one woman, who stayed by the tomb. "Where have they taken our Master?" she asked a gardener nearby.

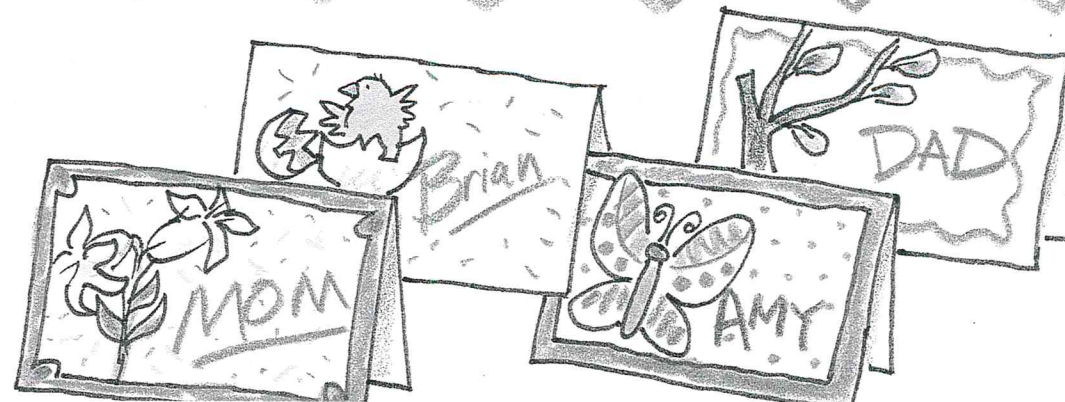
LOOK! That's not the gardener, it's Jesus! Then the woman remembered! Jesus said he was going away, but he promised to come back. The sadness of his friends was turned into joy. The one they loved was alive!

Jesus is the Living One. You can find him in your heart and talk to him in your prayers, for he is with you always.



## "NEW LIFE" PLACE CARDS

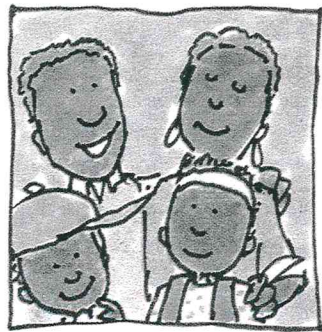
The day Jesus rose from the dead was the first Easter Sunday. Every Easter, we celebrate his promise of new life. You can make your Easter meal more special by making "New Life" place cards for your table, using these symbols. Color them brightly and add the names of all who will share your Easter meal with you.





# Family Page

Here is a little Easter play that the whole family can take part in. It will help you to feel the joy of Jesus' friends when they realized that he still lived.



## explaining GOD'S WORD

Easter (A) • John 20:1-9 or Matthew 28:1-10 or Luke 24:13-35 • April 12, 2020

### JESUS IS ALIVE!

**CAST:** Jesus; Mary Magdalene; her companion; Peter and John; the angel.

**SCENE:** The tomb of Jesus.

*(The play opens as the two women [looking very sad] walk slowly toward the tomb.)*

**Woman:** How could they have killed our Master? He was so good.

**Mary:** I'll never forget how he helped me when everyone else was against me. There will never be another like him. Ah, here we are at the tomb.  
*(As they approach the tomb, they notice that the stone has been moved. They look inside.)*

**Woman:** Look! He is not here! They have taken him away.

**Mary:** We must hurry back and tell the others!  
*(The two women run back to Peter and John.)*

**Mary:** The Lord has been taken from the tomb! We don't know where they have put him!  
*(Peter and John jump up and run with Mary to the tomb. John enters the tomb.)*

**John:** Peter, it's true. He has been taken away.  
*(Sadly, the two apostles turn and go home. Mary remains at the tomb, weeping. Enter, an angel in dazzling robes.)*

**Angel:** Woman, why are you weeping?

**Mary:** Because the Lord has been taken away, and I don't know where they put him.

*(Enter Jesus, behind Mary. She turns and sees him but doesn't recognize him.)*

**Jesus:** Why are you crying?

**Mary:** Sir, if you know where they took him, tell me.

**Jesus:** Mary!

**Mary:** Teacher, it is you!

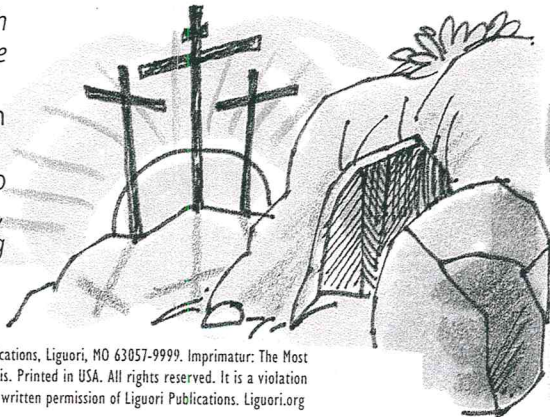
**Jesus:** Do not hold on to me; I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go tell the others that I live. I will see them soon.

*(Mary runs back to the disciples.)*

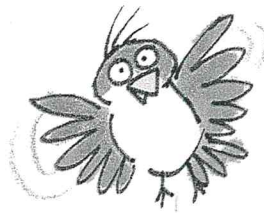
**Mary:** I have seen the Lord! He is alive!

*(They jump up and hug each other and laugh for joy.)*

**All:** Jesus lives! Praise God!



## Easter Egg Hunt



Hidden in this picture are eight Easter eggs. How many can you find?

