

PREPARING AT HOME

March 26-April 1, 2018

Focus reading: John 20:1–18 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=383890803>)

Other lectionary readings: Acts 10:34–43; Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24; 1 Corinthians 15:1–11

Theme: Love Comes to Life

Some people have a tradition of waking up Easter morning and putting on new clothes. Easter baskets or eggs may await. Easter Sunday is often celebrated as a happy day from start to finish, but John's gospel and Prospect's early morning Easter worship service declare that truly we start Easter by facing the darkness and staring into the emptiness. There was no joy when Mary first saw the empty tomb. Instead of finding her Lord, she was met with absence. The fear, anxiety, and grief were overwhelming. Which one of us does not understand that? Whether the emptiness is brought on by the loss of a job, a divorce, or the death of a loved one, it is hard to see through tear-stained eyes the new life that awaits us. Even those who "believe" (verse 8) do not yet "understand" (verse 9). In the midst of emptiness and loss, Jesus comes to Mary; yet she does not recognize his voice until he calls her by name. The One who knows Mary intimately gives her holy work to do, telling her to share with others the Good News that Light has triumphed over darkness. Jesus is alive! God's steadfast Love truly does endure forever!

HOLY WEEK

We pass through many emotions on this week leading up to Easter. Participating in the Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service and/or the early Easter morning service and breakfast will help your child to move through those emotions. Even as we remember the sad moments – like Jesus' death on the cross – we know that joy is ahead in the new life of Easter. Remembering and telling the Easter story becomes more meaningful when we first remember the events that led to it, including the darkest hours.

EGG DECORATING

Easter eggs are thought to be a symbol of the tomb and the new life that sprang from it. Use a yellow crayon to write words of hope and life on the eggs before coloring them.

PRAYER

God of Easter,
Help us to see beyond the darkness
and empty tomb
to the new life you have for us
and then to share that Good News with others.
Amen.

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