

# Children's liturgy – Easter Sunday (Year A)

## Preparing the worship space

Colour: white

Props: Card, glue, tissue paper, eco-glitter etc for making Easter cards, pebbles for the pebble prayer craft activity.

## Song suggestions:

Jesus Christ is risen today (267, Laudate)

Sing to the mountains (282, Laudate)

**Welcome:** Today is a very special day. It's Easter Sunday when Jesus rose from the dead. We are celebrating and thinking of new life.

**Opening prayer:** God of life, we celebrate the rising of your Son today and the new life that you bring into the world. We thank you for all the good things that you have given to us. Help us to share them with others. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Acts 10:34, 37-43

**Psalm:** Ps 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 r. 24

**Gospel acclamation:** *everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

**Gospel:** John 20:1-9

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. She went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

Then Peter and the other disciple went to the tomb. The two of them were running, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and saw the linen wrappings, but he did not go in. Behind him came Simon Peter, and he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there and the cloth which had been round Jesus' head. It was not lying with the linen wrappings but was rolled up by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in; he saw and believed. (They still did not understand the scripture which said that he must rise from death.)

**Gospel reflection:** What do you remember from the reading that you have just heard?

Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb where Jesus has been buried, but when she gets there the body has gone. How do you think she felt when she realised this?

She fetches Simon Peter and John and tells them that Jesus has gone. They reach the tomb and see that it is empty. The disciples finally realise that Jesus has risen from the dead and they believe in him. They know that he is the Son of God.

Jesus is risen from the dead, giving new life to us all. How does that make you feel?

Easter is a time of joy and celebration. How will you celebrate Easter today?

Around the world people celebrate Easter in different ways. For instance, in Brazil people eat a special food called paçoca, which is prepared by mixing crushed nuts and other ingredients together into a paste.

In Ethiopia people wear traditional white clothes called yabesha libs and eat special sourdough bread called dabo. They bake enough of this bread to offer a slice to everyone who comes to visit the house.

Do you know of any other Easter traditions from other countries?

Although we live in different countries, and speak different languages, and eat different food, we are all God's children. We are part of one big global family and we are called to care for one another as sisters and brothers.

We are filled with hope today because Jesus' resurrection shows us that nothing is impossible for God.

We hope we can help each other to be the best people we can be and to live full and happy lives, wherever we are in the world.

We pray that through God's grace we can care for one another and work together to make the world a better place for us all, and especially for those of us who are poor.

What is your hope for the world this Easter? How can we make it happen?

**Intercessions** *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

God fills us with hope on this Easter Sunday and so we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may be inspired to make the changes that are needed so that all people may live in peace and safety. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for people who are poor around the world: that they may be filled with hope as they try to change their lives for the better. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may share the joy and hope of Easter with our brothers and sisters around the world by reaching out with love to all. Lord, in your mercy...

**Closing prayer:** Living God, we know that all things are possible for you. Fill us with hope for a future where all people may live their lives to the full. Inspire us to work together to make this change happen. Amen.