

Week of April 12 Catechesis At Home - The Easter Story

Encountering the Risen Lord Jesus Christ

V: Alleluia! He is risen!

R: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The above call and response is how we end Mass during the Easter Season. We can use it when we greet one another, too. It is a well known dialogue between Christians. And boy do we need some Alleluias, don't we? It's been a rough Lent this year. But, maybe, due to the cancellation of so many things, you've actually had a chance to spend more time in prayer. We've all had to fast from Sacramental Communion, which, if you are like me, has been REALLY sacrificial. Almsgiving is the last of the three pillars of Lent...have you continued to add change to your Ashes to Easter or Operation Rice Bowl box? It's not too late! The Church will accept those donations when we re-open the office. In the meantime, think about how you might help a neighbor or donate some food to one of the local food pantries. Giving is not just for Lent!

And by the way, the eight days including Easter Sunday and Divine Mercy Sunday are known as the Octave of Easter (8 days). This Octave is meant to be celebrated as ONE LONG CONTINUOUS FEAST! So, think about that as you prepare meals, as you take a break from school, as you play music in the home. Put a special table cloth on the table and use the fancy dishes all week, light candles, or have a vase of flowers. If you check the Blog "Letters Home" you can see our decorations and maybe get some ideas.

Easter Sunday is full of family and Church traditions: Mass, egg hunts, baskets of candy, a fancy meal, visiting extended family, etc. Well, some of those we can't do in person, but make an effort to stream Mass online or watch on TV, get dressed for Easter Mass as you would normally, remember, even if we aren't present in the Church "where two or three are gathered" ([Mt 18:20](#)) in His name, Christ is present! He is present in your home with you and your family! The King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Risen from the Dead is HERE!

So, now we look at our lesson for Easter Week. You can do this anytime during the week of Easter. Easter Sunday may be a little too busy to do it that day. We are going to experience the Resurrected Lord along with two of His disciples. You may be very familiar with this Scripture story, or you may not be. Either way, it is nice to reflect upon it. This is the Road to Emmaus. It happens to be the Gospel reading for Wednesday of Easter Week, so you might want to shoot for doing this on Wednesday.

Read the Scripture [Luke 24:13-35](#). Read it from your Bible. It doesn't matter if you don't have the "official" Catholic bible.

OR

You can stream the audio of the Gospel reading from our web site: [LISTEN](#). (Right-click or Option-click it to save it for later.)

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(If you have very young children, 5 and under, you can use a children's Bible version; anyone 6 and up should hear the regular version)



Active Listening Questions

After reading the scripture passage ask the following questions (General answers in parentheses, but work with what they give you!):

1. What day did this story take place? (Easter Sunday)
2. Where were the disciples leaving? (Jerusalem)
3. What were the disciples doing? (walking and talking)
4. Who joined them? (Jesus)
5. Did they know who it was? (no)
6. Why do you think they did not recognize Him? (take any reasonable answers, let everyone speculate a bit on why – the explanation is at the end of the lesson)
7. What did Jesus do for the disciples as they walked along? (He explained the Scriptures to them)
 - a. Note: He was talking of what we call the Old Testament. THE NEW TESTAMENT HAD NOT BEEN WRITTEN YET. He was explaining all the references to the Messiah (Himself) in the prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures that the disciples knew from their own schooling and upbringing.
8. What did Jesus do when they got to Emmaus? (acted as if He was going further)
9. What did the disciples do? (urged Him to stay with them)
10. Why did the disciples do that? (they liked what He was saying, they were learning and understanding more than they'd ever before, they were curious about him, they wanted to be nice, etc.)
11. What happened next? (Jesus joined them and blessed and broke the bread. The disciples recognized Him, Jesus disappeared)
12. Why do you think that is when they recognized Him? (accept reasonable answers and give your own)
13. Why do you think Jesus disappeared then? (ponder...Hmmm... Offer your thoughts and unanswered questions)
14. What did the disciples say and do next? (“Were not our hearts burning within us?”; they ran back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples)

Unpacking the Story (this might be done on another night if your family is not accustomed to discussing things for long, you make that call since you know your kids!):

This story gives us lots to think about and make some comparisons.

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1. We are all on a journey...(remind them that you have your questions that came up at the end of the last section). This life on earth is one big adventure and journey to our heavenly home. As Christians, we want Jesus to journey with us, to teach us and lead us. This story shows us that He does exactly that!
2. We don't always recognize Him when He IS with us. When has Jesus been "hidden" from you? How were you feeling at the time? Can you relate to the confusion and sadness the disciples were feeling? (Indicate your questions that came up throughout this lesson and that you have regularly throughout the day and life)
3. We encounter Jesus in the Scriptures. Even in the Old Testament, we find evidence of Jesus! When we listen to and study Scripture we experience Jesus teaching us! We pray to the Holy Spirit before we read the Bible to help us understand and appreciate what God has ready for us to hear.
4. Do you invite Jesus to stay with you? Do you invite Him into your life?
 - a. Do you bless your food before you eat?
 - b. Do you pray daily?
 - c. Do you follow His commandments?
 - d. Do you treat others as you want to be treated?
 - e. Do you show others Jesus by your words and actions?
5. Jesus was made known to the disciples in the breaking of the bread. This is the Eucharist. Do you celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays, other Holy Days of Obligation? During this time of not being able to go to Mass, are you making a Spiritual Communion? Do you share meals with your family when possible?
6. After receiving the Eucharist, the disciples ran back to tell the others of their encounter with the Risen Christ. At the end of Mass we are dismissed to "Proclaim the Gospel by your life." And we respond, "Thanks be to God." This is our way of saying, "Yes, Lord, I will tell others about You!" Do you? Do you tell others about Jesus and your relationship with Him? Do you accompany others on the journey?

Teaching on the Appearance of the Lord's Resurrected Body

We understand from this passage and other Scriptures ([Jn. 20:14, 21:4](#)), about the Risen Lord, that He appeared different from before He was crucified. The Church tells us in the [Catechism of the Catholic Church \(CCC\) paragraphs 645 & 646](#) that Jesus' resurrected body was a physical body (He ate, drank, breathed, etc.) and bore the signs of His Passion and Death (the holes in His hands, feet, and side), yet at the same time His body was glorified in the sense that He was not bound by space and time (He disappeared from their midst in Emmaus and appeared in the locked Upper Room with the Disciples, both without walking away but simply leaving).

"In his risen body he passes from the state of death to another life beyond time and space. At Jesus' Resurrection his body is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit: he shares the divine life in his glorified state ([CCC, 646](#))."

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And because of Jesus' Resurrection, when we are baptized, we are made sharers in this divine life and we also will be resurrected at the end of time ([CCC, 655](#)).

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