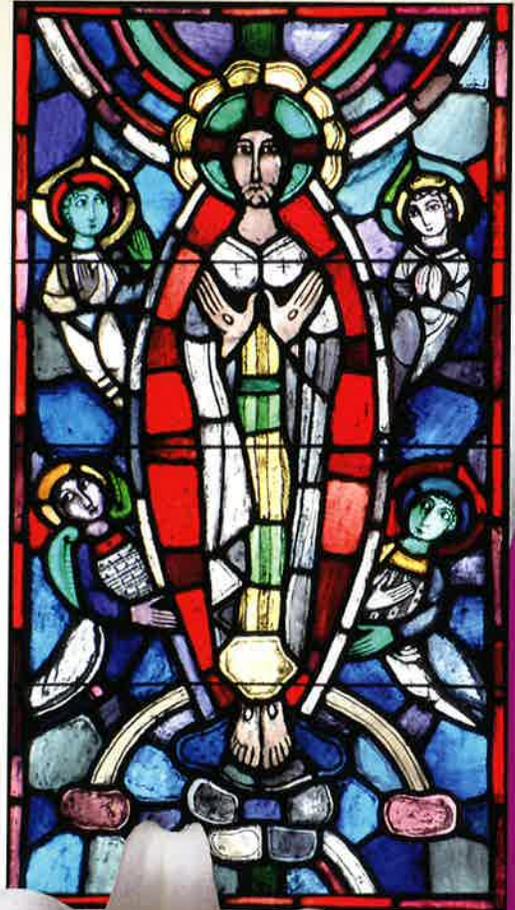


Celebrating Easter

During the Easter season, we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. We are joyful that Jesus has risen from the dead. We pray “Alleluia! Alleluia!” and sing about welcoming the risen Christ into our lives and for God’s merciful love.

Easter is the most important day of the Church year. It is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring. During this season we also celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, the day Jesus ascended into Heaven. The Easter season begins with the celebration of the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday and continues for the next 50 days, ending on Pentecost Sunday.



Prayer

Dear Jesus, this Easter season help me to remember the mercy that you have given us and to show mercy to others.

Show Mercy During Easter

Easter is a time to reflect on God's merciful love. On the Second Sunday of Easter, we celebrate God's **mercy**—the mercy that Jesus showed to Thomas, the apostle, when he wanted a sign that Jesus had truly risen.

Thomas was not with the apostles when Jesus appeared. He wanted to see Jesus with his own eyes. The next time Jesus appeared, Thomas was present. He saw and believed. Jesus loved Thomas and showed him mercy.



We have not seen Jesus, but we are blessed by faith in him. We are called to show mercy to others and to treat others with love.

Blessed are they who have not seen and have believed.

adapted from John 20:29

Do I show compassion and forgiveness to others? How can I show mercy to my friends and my family?

The Mercy of Friendship

Write a prayer for a friend who needs your compassion and forgiveness.



Reading God's Word

Do not doubt, but believe in me. *adapted from John 20:27*



Mass During Easter

When you go to Mass during Easter, pay special attention to praying the **Lamb of God** during the Breaking of the Bread. Before receiving Holy Communion, we call on Jesus, the Lamb of God, to have mercy on us. Jesus gave up his life for the Salvation of the world.



What We Experience

When you look around your church at Easter, you may see images of the Lamb of God. This reminds us of Jesus' great sacrifice. Joyful music is played because the parish rejoices that Jesus is with us always. White is the liturgical color of the season and represents the joy of Christ's Resurrection. The priest wears white or gold vestments, the altar cloth is white, and the white lilies symbolize our new life in the risen Christ.



What Lamb of God Means to You

Choose three of the words below to write a short paragraph to describe what the Lamb of God means to you.

Lamb	sacrifice	God	Easter
mercy	Jesus	church	communion



Did You Know?

The feast of the Ascension is celebrated 40 days after Easter Sunday.



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Faith Summary

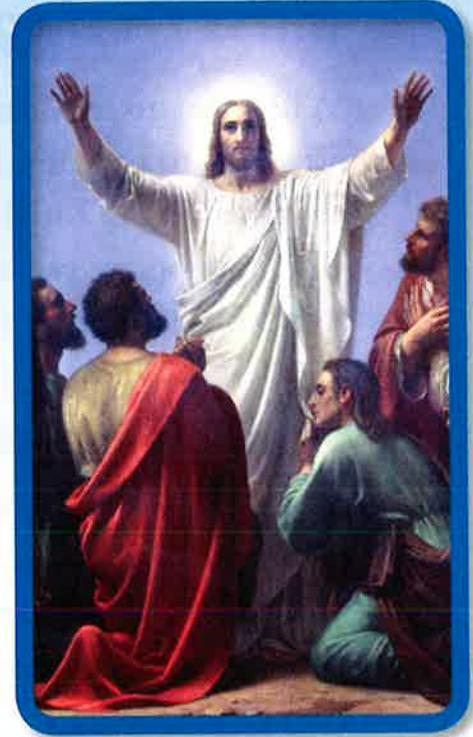
Easter is a time to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection and how Jesus showed mercy to Thomas. It is also a time to reflect on God's merciful love. We pray to the Lamb of God to have mercy on us and to show others mercy.

Words I Learned

Lamb of God
mercy

Ways of Being Like Jesus

Jesus showed mercy to others. *Forgive others, even when it is difficult.*



Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank you for your love and mercy. Help me to love others and show mercy just as you did.



With My Family

Activity Decorate your home with signs of Easter. Place a potted lily on the table and play joyful music as a reminder of our new life in Christ.

Faith on the Go Ask one another: *How does Easter make us feel? How do we share how we feel with others?*

Family Prayer Use Easter to invite family members to grow in prayer by finding “quiet time” as a family. Close your eyes and invite God into your heart.