

# Celebrating Easter

During the Easter season, we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection. Our sadness over his Death on the cross is taken away as we welcome the risen Christ into our lives. We rejoice and sing Alleluia—Jesus is risen from the dead!

The Easter season begins with the celebration of the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday and ends 50 days later on Pentecost. During this season we also celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, the day Jesus ascended into Heaven.

The word *Easter* has its roots in ancient times. Most believe it has to do with springtime celebrations and the beginning of new life.

Today when we hear the word, we think of Jesus' Resurrection. Every spring we joyfully celebrate Jesus' victory over death and the gift of new life it brings to us.



## Prayer

*Dear Jesus, thank you for all you have done for us. Help us share your love and peace with everyone we meet.*

## We Live in Peace During Easter

After Jesus died and was buried, the disciples remained together. They stayed behind locked doors, frightened that the people who killed Jesus would also come looking for them. One day, after his Resurrection, Jesus appeared to his friends in the closed-off room. He greeted them by saying, “Peace be with you.” The disciples were so excited to see him.

*adapted from John 20:19–21*

### Gift of Peace

Just like the early disciples, we have also received Jesus’ **gift of peace**. He tells us:

Peace I leave with you;  
my peace I give to you.

*John 14:27*

Take a moment to think about what this means. What does it feel like to have Jesus’ gift of peace?

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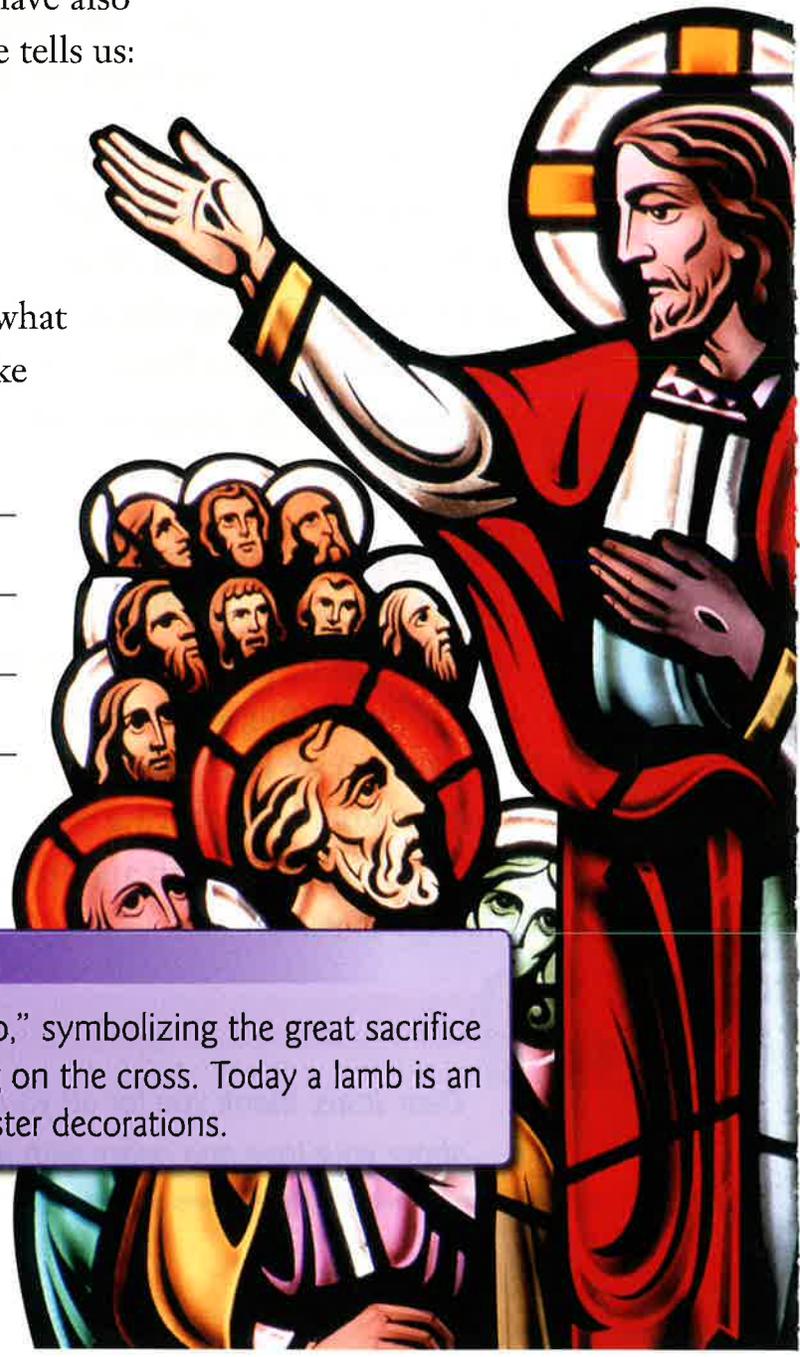


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### Did You Know?

Jesus is called “the Lamb,” symbolizing the great sacrifice he made for us by dying on the cross. Today a lamb is an important symbol in Easter decorations.



## Mass During Easter

During the Easter season, we hear Scripture readings about Jesus' Resurrection. We also hear about how Jesus appeared to Mary and the disciples. On the Ascension we hear about Jesus ascending into Heaven, and on Pentecost we hear about the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus' disciples.

We hear the words "peace be with you" during the Sign of Peace at every Mass. Just as Jesus did, the priest shares peace with us and invites us to share that peace with those around us.

### What We Experience

During the Easter season, we see a white cloth on the altar, and the priest wears white or gold vestments. White, the liturgical color of the season, symbolizes the joy of the Resurrection. The Paschal Candle is placed in a special location. This candle, which reminds us of Christ's light among us, remains lit in the sanctuary during each Mass through Pentecost. The flowers at church remind us of our new life in the risen Christ. On Pentecost a red altar cloth and vestments are used. Red reminds us of the Holy Spirit.



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## Faith Summary

The Easter season begins with the Easter Vigil. During Easter we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven and the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' followers. Easter is a time for us to share Jesus' gift of peace with others.

### Words I Learned

gift of peace

### Ways of Being Like Jesus

Jesus shares the gift of peace with us. *Share peace with others by lending a helping hand to someone in need.*



### Prayer

*God, thank you for the gift of new life we receive through Christ's Resurrection. May we always live with Easter joy.*

## With My Family



**Activity** Do something as a family to share Jesus' peace with others, such as performing an act of kindness for someone each day. After completing the activity, talk about why it is important to share Jesus' peace with others.

**Faith on the Go** Ask one another: *How can I best share the gift of peace with the people in my life?*

**Family Prayer** Grow as a family by praying together during the Easter season. Each day ask Jesus, the risen Christ, to help you share his peace with others.