



CELEBRATING EASTER AT HOME

EASTER 2021

To prepare for the ritual, the holy water should be poured into a small bowl, and, if one is available, an instrument to sprinkle people with holy water (such as a small brush) can be kept close by. A main candle may be placed before everyone, if one is available, and tapers may be distributed to those present.

The ritual begins with those present making the sign of the cross.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Easter opening prayer is then read by the leader:

Leader: O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son,
have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity,
grant, we pray,
that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may,
through the renewal brought by your Spirit,
rise up in the light of life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

The Gospel of Easter Sunday is then read by a member of the household:

Reader: A reading from the holy gospel according to John

All answer: Glory to you, O Lord

All present may trace the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips and heart.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.'

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Reader: The gospel of the Lord.

All answer: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The members of the household may take some time to share on what the Resurrection of Christ means for them.

The members of the household then renew their baptismal promises. A single main candle may be lit, and people may also light tapers (small candles).

The leader then introduces the renewal of baptismal promises:

Leader: Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so I ask you:

Leader: Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?

All answer: I do.

Leader: Do you renounce the lure of evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you?

All answer: I do.

Leader: Do you renounce Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?

All answer: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

All answer: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose from the dead, and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

All answer: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

All answer: I do.

Leader: May almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us, by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.

All answer Amen.

The members of the household are then blessed with holy water. This may be done using an instrument to sprinkle water on them, such as a small brush, or they may dip their hand in the water and make the sign of the cross.

The members of the household then pray for the Church and for the world, with a reader leading the intercessions:

Reader: For those who today are renewing their baptism, that they may be enlightened by Christ, the Light of the world, and be renewed in the new life of the children of God. We pray to the Lord.

All answer: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those suffering under the pandemic, that the hope which comes from the resurrection of Jesus may bring them consolation, strength and peace. We pray to the Lord.

All answer: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the light of Easter may shine on our political leaders, that their deliberations and decisions may always reflect the common good. We pray to the Lord.

All answer: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For priests, deacons, and lay people, that the mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ may give them new energy in their task of evangelization and leadership of the people of God. We pray to the Lord.

All answer: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For our families and our Christian communities, that this time of Easter may be an occasion for all to strengthen the bonds that unite them in Christ. We pray to the Lord.

All answer: Lord, hear our prayer

The intercessions conclude with the Our Father:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The leader then invokes God's blessing on everyone present:

Leader: May Almighty God bless us through today's Easter Solemnity,
and, in his compassion, defend us from every assault of sin.

All answer: Amen.

Leader: And may he, who restores us to eternal life
in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten,
endow us with the prize of immortality.

All answer: Amen.

Leader: Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close,
may we who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast
come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit,
to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy.

All answer: Amen.

Leader: And may the blessing of almighty God come down on us
and remain with us forever: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All answer: Amen.

Leader: Let us share with one another a sign of peace.

The members of the household may then share the joy of Easter with a sign of peace, such as a hug, handshake, kiss, etc.

HAPPY EASTER!

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Evaluation form*

1. How was your experience of this celebration?
2. What did you like the most?
3. What would need to be improved?
4. Would you be ready to relive a similar experience?
5. Other comments, suggestions

* Please complete this evaluation form and send it to j.vezina@ssmd.ca or by facsimile to 705-674-9889 **by April 21, 2021.**