

Children's liturgy – Easter Sunday (Year B)

Colour: white

Props: card, pens and pencils

Song suggestions: This is the day that the Lord has made (Celebration Hymnal for Everyone, 731); Now the green blade riseth (Celebration Hymnal for Everyone, 513).

Welcome: Today is Easter Sunday when we celebrate because Jesus is risen from the dead. We are filled with hope and joy and we look for new life.

Opening prayer: Living God, we are filled with joy as we celebrate the rising of your Son. Inspire us to make our world a better place for everyone as we look to the future with hope. Amen.

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

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

Gospel acclamation: Sing the gospel acclamation together. Options include: 'Change your lives and believe in him', Christopher Walker; 'Halle, halle, halle' (Caribbean) from 'Sing With the World', Alison Adam & John Bell; 'Celtic Alleluia' (traditional).

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 cloths, but he did not go in. Behind him came Simon Peter, and he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there and the cloth which had been around Jesus' head. It was not lying with the linen cloths 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 passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below)*

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's reading?

Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb where Jesus's body has been laid. But she sees that the stone, which blocked the entrance of the tomb, has been moved. What does she think has happened? How do you think this makes her feel?

She runs back to tell the disciples, and Peter and John run to the tomb to see what has happened. When they get there they see that the tomb is empty except for the cloths that had been wrapped around the body. The disciples realise that Jesus is risen from the dead and they believe in him.

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is risen from the dead and gives new life to us all?

Easter is a time of joy, celebration and new life. Jesus' resurrection shows us that nothing is impossible to God and this fills us with great hope. Hope that all people will have the chance to live life to the full and have a future free from poverty. Hope that through working together with others we can make the world a fairer, better place for everyone to live.

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.*

Filled with hope, we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may be inspired to make the difficult decisions and changes that are needed so that all people can live life to the full. Lord hear us...

We pray for all members of our global family: that they may be filled with hope for the future and inspired to work together to make their dreams a reality. Lord hear us...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that through our actions we may bring hope and joy to the people we know and to our brothers and sisters around the world. Lord hear us...

Closing prayer: Risen Lord, we give thanks for the new life that you have given us. Help us to live as you have shown us, with respect and love for all your people. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write or draw their hopes for the world in the rays of light.

Cut cloud shapes out of card. Ask the children to write or draw their hopes for the world on the cloud.

Ask the children to write their own Easter prayer.

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about in the liturgy. Ask them to think together over the next week about what they hope for the world and one thing that they will do to try to achieve that.

For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

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