

Easter

Youth - Liturgy of The Word

Love Crucified Arose



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Please Note: This resource may be integrated into a Eucharistic Liturgy or adapted for a School Assembly or Class Prayer.

Website Background & Information:

Easter Messages from Pope Francis:

1. https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/urbi/documents/papa-francesco_20150405_urbi-et-orbi-pasqua.html (2015)
2. https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/urbi/documents/papa-francesco_20140420_urbi-et-orbi-pasqua.html (2014)
3. https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/urbi/documents/papa-francesco_20130331_urbi-et-orbi-pasqua.html (2013)

Preparation:

- As a focal point, place a big bowl of water in a clear bowl on a table or pedestal draped with a white (or gold) cloth. A large lit candle can also stand next to the bowl.
- There will be a time after the Gospel where students will be asked to renew their Baptismal Promises. You can find the text for the renewal of baptismal promises in a Sunday Missal under the liturgy for Easter Sunday. You could display the promises, otherwise prompt the students to reply at the appropriate times.
- Make space for the Procession of the Gospel. Have a special book from which the Gospel will be proclaimed that will be processed up high from the back of the prayer space to the place of proclamation.
- The Gospel can be dramatized. The Dramatised Bible offers suggestions for this.

Introductory Rite

Welcome & Introduction:

Leader: We come together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

All: Alleluia!

Leader: We give thanks for the new life in Christ that is given to us!

All: Alleluia!

Gathering Song/Hymn: Love Crucified Arose (Michael Card – Signature Songs)

OR Alleluia! Love is Alive (Steve Angrisano, Jesse Manibusan & Sarah Hart)
Because He Lives (Matt Maher – Saints and Sinners)

Opening Prayer:

Leader: God of eternal life,
Through the resurrection
you showed us that your love for us can conquer anything, even death.
May we be faithful to that love, guided by the Spirit,
so that we may always live your mission of love to all whom we meet.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Acts 10:34. 37-43

Responsorial Psalm: Let Us Rejoice and Be Glad (Tom Tomaszek)

OR This is the Day (M. Joncas – As One Voice)

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia (Mass of a Joyful Heart) (Steven Angrisano & Tom Tomaszek – Spirit & Song Disc A)

OR Alleluia (Mass of Renewal) (Curtis Stephan – Spirit & Song Disc A)
Easter Alleluia (Marty Haugen – Song of God Among Us)

This Gospel Acclamation allows time for a procession (approx. 1 minute) from the back of your prayer space to the front holding the Book of the Gospel high. When the Gospel bearer reaches the front, they pause and face the students present and holds it up high for a moment or two. After this moment, they place it where the Presider will proclaim the Gospel.

Gospel: John 20:1-9

Breaking Open the Word:

- Love died on the cross on Good Friday.
What makes this the most awesome of events is that love that was crucified, rose again and gave us another chance.
But another chance at what?
Another chance at everything! Another chance of doing things better. Another chance of being better. Another chance of living the amazing life of love that we are called to live.
- Our life is full of choices. We will make so many choices in our lives, big and little. Some will be good choices and some will be terrible choices.
We have a choice to make in our own lives – do we die to our faith and give in to worldly temptations and suffering that consume us and bring us down OR do we go through the bad stuff and resist temptation to then rise up in a new light to have new life in Jesus?
- Through Jesus' resurrection we have the opportunity for new life. We were given life in the faith at our baptism. At Easter we can renew and reignite that mission to love and be Jesus to the world.
- Let us renew our Baptismal promises now and be Jesus to the world.

At this time, students will be invited to renew their baptismal promises. You can find the text for the renewal of baptismal promises in a Sunday Missal under the

liturgy for Easter Sunday. You could display the promises, otherwise prompt the students to reply at the appropriate times.

Prayer over the Water:

Leader: Lord, we give you thanks for the gift of water, a reminder of our baptism.
Your creation of water brings life to your world
as the waters of baptism bring new life into your family.
May this water of life nourish us, refresh us and bless us in body and spirit.

For small groups – After the renewal and prayer over the water, students are invited to come up a few at a time (depending on the size of the bowl) and place their hands in the bowl of water, wiping their hands together and absorbing the water. They are invited to make the sign of the cross as a reminder of the cross that was made over them and on them at the time of their baptism.

For the whole school – Teachers can have smaller bowls of water taken from the large bowl and stand at designated points for easier access to the water and time constraints. Students are invited to come and dip their fingers into the water and to make the sign of the cross as they move away as a reminder of the cross that was made over them and on them at the time of their baptism.

Song: I Saw Water Flowing – Mass of Renewal (Curtis Stephan – Spirit & Song Disc A)
AND/OR Who Calls You by Name (David Haas – As One Voice)
Come to the Water (Ray Makeever – As One Voice The Next Generation)

Prayer of The Faithful:

Leader: Jesus has risen and offers us hope that we can overcome all the challenging things that may come our way. Let us now offer our prayers to God ...

Reader: For the Church – the body of Christ – to share the joy of the resurrection in their service to others. We pray,

All: Let us rejoice and be glad!

Reader: For all leaders to lead with a heart and mind of peace and justice. We pray,

All: Let us rejoice and be glad!

Reader: For all those who have not heard the joy of the resurrection. We pray,

All: Let us rejoice and be glad!

Reader: For ourselves and our commitment to make a choice to be Christ to the world. We pray,

All: Let us rejoice and be glad!

Leader: Hear our prayers Lord, and grant us the wisdom to always look for the joy of the Risen Christ in our lives. We ask this through Christ Jesus,

All: Amen.

Concluding Rite

Final Prayer:

Leader: God of love,

let us be filled with the joy that the resurrection offers.
Although crucified, your love triumphed over death.
Let our lives be examples of this joy and may this love and joy overflow in abundance.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Blessing & Dismissal:

Leader: May the resurrection of Christ be witness to the endless love that God has for all.

All: Alleluia!

Leader: Let the light of Christ always burn brightly in our lives.

All: Alleluia!

Leader: And let us live life to the full sharing the Easter joy of the Risen Christ with everyone.

All: Alleluia!

Sending Forth Song/Hymn:

Happy Day (Tim Hughes & Ben Cantelon – Spirit & Song Disc H)

OR **Alleluia Festivalé** (Janet Sullivan Whittaker – Spirit & Song Disc H)