



Easter Sunday  
The Resurrection  
of the Lord

April 12, 2020

I have risen,  
and am with you still!



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**NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:**

***Acts:2:42-47: Four signs of church: teaching, common life, breaking bread, prayer***

***1 Peter:1:3-9: Even though you do not see him, you believe in him.***

***Jn:20:19-31: Blessed are they who have not seen and have believed.***

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**EASTER 2020**

**(Message from Fr. Alapaki)**

Aloha Kakou,

*In this year of the stay-at-home order due to the COVID19 virus, it is very sad that we as a community, as the body of Christ at St. Rita Church cannot celebrate our highest Holy Days of the year together. I hope we can come together in Spirit by watching our Mass on the internet or the Bishops's Mass online.*

*On the night before our Lord was betrayed, he gathered with his beloved disciples and broke the bread blessed it and said, "take this and eat of it for this is my body which will be given up you." Likewise, he took the chalice in his scared hands and said, "Take this and drink of it all of you, for this is my blood which will be shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me."*

*After the meal Jesus went off to pray as he was troubled by the events which were about to take place. He prayed to his Father, "If this cup can pass me by. . . but your will, not mine be done." When Judas Iscariot betrayed him, Jesus was arrested and through the night he was humiliated, tortured and condemned to death. Jesus suffered all of this for the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus accepted this humiliation, torture and death out of an extreme love for us. He was the sinless one and he was supposed to live forever and ever, but his unjust death and later his glorious resurrection are what saved us.*

*At first his disciples hid in the upper room because they still did not understand what Jesus did for them, but Jesus appears to them and said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has loved me so I love."*

*As we practice social distancing and lockdown in our homes, fear sets in due to the virus, loss of jobs and the seeming collapse of our economy. Today like the disciples, Jesus tells us, "do not be afraid. As the Father has loved me so I love you . . ." As bad as everything seems, all this too shall pass. However we must remain vigilant in our practicing of Social distancing in order to keep ourselves healthy and to not be a source of this contagion for others. We must pray and pray fervently to our God for those who are ill, for those who have died and for the discovery of an antibody that can cure this malady. We must also pray for all those in the medical field and our first responders who are risking their lives to care for these people, and we must pray for all those who have lost their jobs or whose businesses are in grave danger due to the shutdown.*

*We must remember that, when Jesus hung on that cross and died, all hope seemed to disappear. Everything seemed to be lost. Even the apostles despaired.*

*However, on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead and defeated Satan and sin and death, once and for all. Just so, the pestilence that plagues us today will pass. We need to trust that God is working through our medical staff and scientists to defeat this virus. We are a people of hope because our Lord rose from the dead and promised us that he will never leave us orphaned. We must remember that we are the Body of Christ and our prayers are powerful because they are said in the holy name of Jesus. We must remember that we are brothers and sisters of each other in Christ and as Jesus loved us so much that he suffered and died for us, so we too must love as Jesus loved, especially our brothers and sisters who are suffering. Even though we suffer, Jesus promises us the fullness of life.*

*Jesus is risen from the dead! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*God Bless you all and Happy Easter!*

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***We will be live streaming the following Masses @ Facebook.com/stritananakuli***

***EASTER VIGIL @ 8 P. M./ EASTER SUNDAY @ 10 AM:***

***You can also watch Easter Sunday Mass with Bishop Larry @ Noon on KHNL (Channel 8)***



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MASKS, MASKS, MASKS!**: Cathy Agor is willing to make masks for the first 50 people who are willing to **donate \$5.00 (per mask) to St Rita's Bldg. Fund.** Just send your check to Mele In the church office with the number of masks you would like and then Cathy will mail them to you. Let's stay safe people!

**ST. RITA'S PRAYER GROUP: Aloha Mai Kakou St. Rita Ohana!** Some exciting news! St. Rita's Prayer Group had our first virtual prayer group meeting on Thursday, April 2, 2020. It was an amazing time for us to do what we normally do every Thursday when we meet for prayer meeting: praise and worship, share scripture readings, give a praise report of what God is doing in our lives, and pray for the concerns on our heart. With this Cornoavirus Pandemic that we are being faced with, we want to continue to encourage each other and build each others faith in God. Join our virtual prayer group on Thursday evenings. Send Mele Ahuna your email address (via e-mail [ahuna@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:ahuna@hawaii.rr.com)) and we can invite you to our Google Hangout! Hope to see you soon! A Hui Hou! St. Rita's Prayer Group.

**OPERATION RICE BOWL: Happy Easter!**: We prayed, fasted and gave alms—and now we celebrate the Risen Lord! Our Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl challenges us as we begin the Easter season to share what we have with our global family. Don't forget to a mail in your Rice Bowl donations? Visit [www.crsricebowl.org](http://www.crsricebowl.org) for more.

**WORD OF LIFE:** "Those who die in God's grace and friendship live forever with Christ. Heaven is not an abstract idea, but a true and lasting relationship with God that is beyond all earthly description and understanding. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead and everlasting life by preparing now, in hope, for our passage from this life into eternal life." *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Catholic Consideration for our Earthly Passing"*

## WEEKLY READINGS

### **Apr 12 Sun: Easter Sunday**

Acts:10:34a, 37-43; Ps:118; Col: 3:1-4 or 1 Cor: 5:6b-8; Jn:20:1-9

### **Apr 13 Monday within the Octave of Easter**

Acts:2:14, 22-33; Ps:16:1-2a, & 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; Mt:28:8-15

### **Apr 14 Tuesday within the Octave of Easter**

Acts:2:36-41; Ps:33:4-5, 18-19, 20 & 22; Jn:20:11-18

### **Apr 15 Wednesday within the Octave of Easter**

Acts:3:1-10; Ps:105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Lk:24:13-35

### **Apr 16 Thursday within the Octave of Easter**

Acts:3: 11-26; Ps:8: 2ab & 5, 6-7, 8-9; Lk:24:35-48

### **Apr 17 Friday within the Octave of Easter**

Acts:4:1-12; Ps:118:1-2, & 4, 22-24, 25-27a; Jn: 21:1-14

### **Apr 18 Saturday within the Octave of Easter**

Acts:4:13-21; Ps:118; 1 & 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21; Mk:16:9-15

## **Alleluia!**

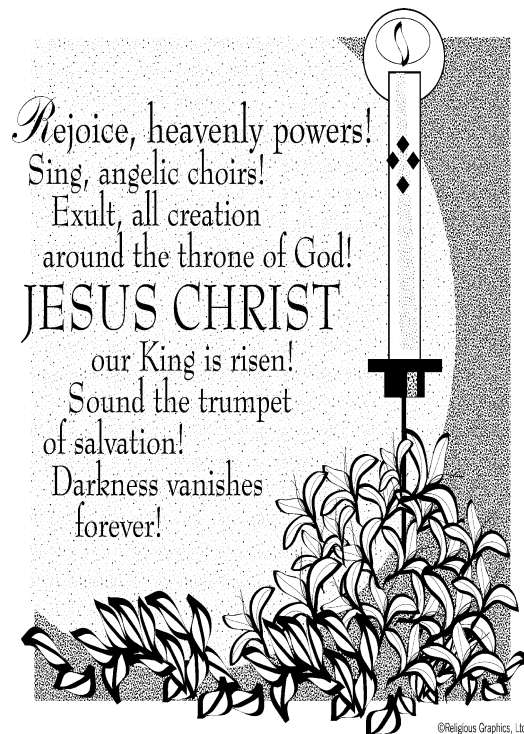
*Alleluia! is back. We can sing it every Sunday until the earth journeys around the sun again. We are focused today on a new kind of light, the light of Christ, the Morning Star that will not ever set. Though our earth spins like a top through twenty-four-hour cycles of day and night, the Church insists that this day that the Lord has made will not end. Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.*

## NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

*The reading from Acts of the Apostles reminds us that we, too, bear witness to the risen Lord. The presence of Christ is with us, making us new, transforming us, turning us into stewards of the Good News. There is no more time for holding grudges, disliking others, seeking vengeance, maintaining old prejudices, tolerating bias. We are Christ's joy and instruments of his peace. Our world is reordered. Reflect on how we are called to let Christ's forgiveness, reconciliation and love permeate our lives. We are Easter people. Rejoice! He is risen! Alleluia!(International Catholic Stewardship Council)*

## Reflection

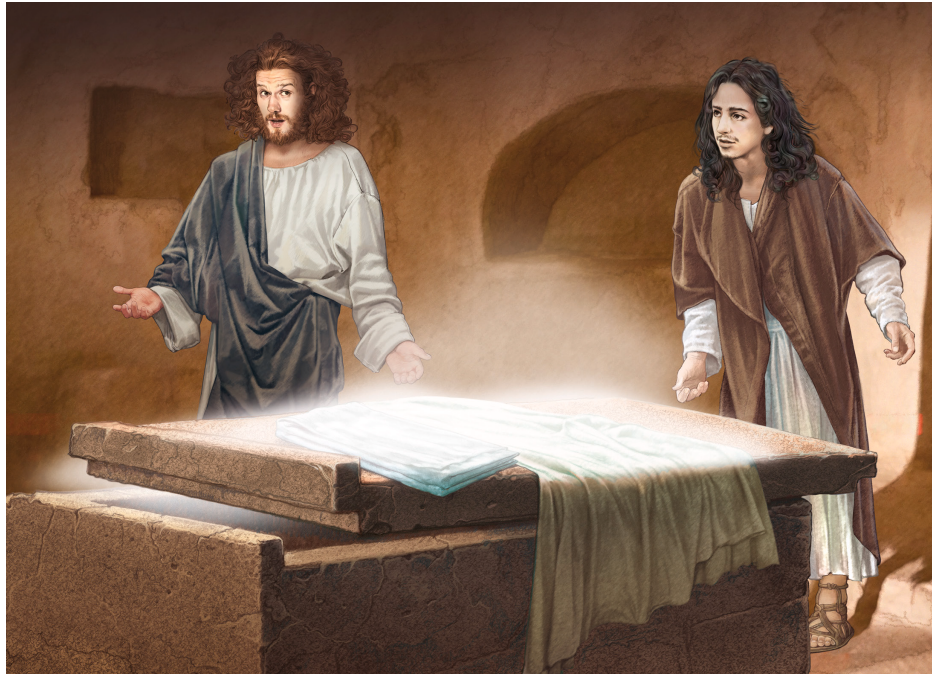
*We have a new day, a new life, a new bread. We can name those few privileged days that are truly new beginnings. We can remember how deeply moved we were or how high we were, depending on how we are affected by unmistakable joy. Easter is the first day of the rest of the life of the Church. It is a day for high celebration and quiet meditation. The repeated refrain of the responsorial psalm can be our refrain too: "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad." The first day of the new creation began when Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, rose from the dead and shed peaceful light on all humankind. There is no end to this first day of the rest of our lives. The rest of our lives must bear witness to this. Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.*



REJOICE  
and be glad

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# EASTER SUNDAY



## Living Our Salvation

Lord of heaven and earth,  
the Resurrection of your Son is a promise  
that you will not abandon us to sin  
and death  
but will transform all creation  
until it has at last become your  
perfect kingdom.  
Continue the work you have begun.  
Refashion us now, today.

Liberate us from whatever is luring us  
into the grave.  
Share your life-giving power with us  
so that we will rejoice in your love,  
live in hope of our future together,  
act with the unwavering courage of Jesus,  
and marvel at all you accomplish.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 12, 2020

New Beginnings



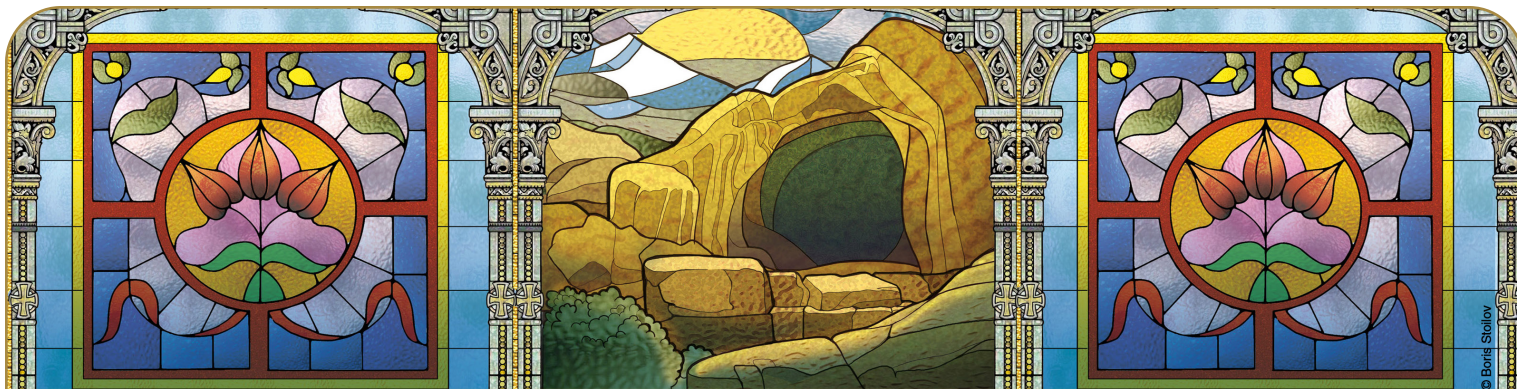
*Today's Readings: Acts 10:34a, 37–43; Psalm 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23; Colossians 3:1–4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b–8; John 20:1–9 or Matthew 28:1–10.* Today we rejoice, feast, and spend time with family and friends. Easter Sunday is a day of beginnings. In John's Gospel, two disciples rush to the empty tomb, where it dawns on them that something tremendous has happened. In Matthew's Gospel account, the women are given only a few moments with the Risen Christ before he sends them to evangelize.

The months following Jesus' Resurrection are busy ones. In the passage from the Acts of the Apostles that we hear today, Peter has entered the house of a Gentile. Filled with the Holy Spirit, this Apostle delivers a powerful proc-

lamation of the Gospel, yet before he finishes, the Holy Spirit comes upon everyone else in the room too. Throughout the Easter season we will hear how the Spirit of the Risen Lord leads and empowers Jesus' followers to inspire more and more people to believe in the Resurrection and to make a new beginning of their lives.

It is now our turn. It is our season of new beginnings. God shared the Spirit with us so that we will "seek what is above" and allow the Spirit to further transform us into just and holy people. God shared the Spirit with us so that we will enter people's houses, enter people's lives, and help them to begin anew.





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, April 13 The Empty Tomb

No one disputes that the tomb was empty. The question is how it became empty. By spreading a false report, some of the religious authorities hope to prevent people from believing that Jesus rose from the dead. When Peter speaks to the crowd, however, he doesn't use the empty tomb as proof of Jesus' Resurrection, but refers instead to the Scriptures and his encounter with the Risen Jesus. How would you explain the true meaning of the empty tomb? *Today's Readings: Acts 2:14, 22–33; Psalm 16:1–2a and 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11; Matthew 28:8–15.*

### Tuesday, April 14 The Spirit of the Risen Lord

Mary Magdalene must let go of Jesus as she knew him in order to encounter him in a new way. Having been crucified and raised, Jesus is no longer confined to time and space, but is now present among and even within his followers through the gift of the Holy Spirit. All who accept this gift become brothers and sisters of the Risen Lord and sons and daughters of God the Father. Send a note of welcome to anyone in your community who was baptized at the Easter Vigil. *Today's Readings: Acts 2:36–41; Psalm 33:4–5, 18–19, 20 and 22; John 20:11–18.*

### Wednesday, April 15 Amazement

The two disciples leaving Jerusalem are amazed by the women's report of the empty tomb. They grow increasingly astonished as the Risen Christ opens the Word and breaks bread with them—and then vanishes. Also astonished are the people in the temple who see the disabled man jumping about and praising God. These stories invite us to rejoice at the enduring power of Christ in the world. *Today's Readings: Acts 3:1–10; Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:13–35.*

### Thursday, April 16 Witnesses

Jesus' followers witnessed his mighty deeds. Two of his disciples witnessed the Risen Lord as they headed to Emmaus. Still more disciples heard the Risen Christ speak words of peace to them and prepare them to minister in his name. A man in the temple area experienced the Risen Lord acting through Peter. Peter urged the people who witnessed that healing to acknowledge the saving power of the Risen Lord. Thank someone who has been an especially strong Christian witness for you. *Today's Readings: Acts 3:11–26; Psalm 8:2ab and 5, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:35–48.*

### Friday, April 17 Bolder than Ever

Peter seems as impulsive as ever as he dives into the water to swim to the Risen Lord. This man of action then rushes to drag over the net laden with fish when Jesus asks for more food. The Holy Spirit strengthens this natural tendency of Jesus' lead disciple. After a night in the custody of religious authorities who wish to silence him, Peter goes on to speak as boldly as ever. Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you do something brave today. *Today's Readings: Acts 4:1–12; Psalm 118:1–2 and 4, 22–24, 25–27a; John 21:1–14.*

### Saturday, April 18 Dealing with Disbelief

The extended ending of Mark's Gospel account is reassuring to those who struggle to believe in the Risen Lord. Even Jesus' closest followers did not initially believe in the Resurrection. Jesus had to appear to them and empower them with his Spirit. Once that happened, it became "impossible" for them not to share the story of Christ. Read and reflect on a Gospel passage for this week. Imagine you are one of those early disciples. Ask God to strengthen your faith. *Today's Readings: Acts 4:13–21; Psalm 118:1 and 14–15ab, 16–18, 19–21; Mark 16:9–15.*

