



# Bringing Home the Word

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord (A)

April 5, 2026

## Learning "Alleluia"

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

I overheard this conversation in a coffee shop:

Child: Mom, I wouldn't have to go to school today. I could stay home with you.

Mom: I know, Joe, but I think Mrs. Burns would miss you.

Child: But won't you miss me, Mom?

Mom: Sure, Joe, but I know you'll be back in the afternoon, and I can be with you then.

Child: But I could help you in the kitchen.

Mom: What do you think you'll be

doing in school today? It's getting close to Easter. I bet Mrs. Burns will let you make bunnies.

Child: Yeah, maybe. Mom, I think my tummy hurts.

Mom: Oh, I think it'll get better once you're busy in school.

Child: Mom, couldn't I stay home with you today? I'll miss you.

Mom: I know you will, Joe, but it's only for a couple of hours. How's your apple juice?

Child: OK. Mom, I think it would be OK if I stayed home today.

By the time they left, it looked as if Joe was going to school. Joe was learning an important lesson in life. Sometimes we have to do what we don't want to; we have to go into what seems to be "the tomb of death" if we're going to find life.

Easter's gospel is that of Peter and John going and finding the tomb empty. Curiously, they didn't become believers until they entered the tomb, until they entered death's home. It's how faith happens: finding life when we expected only death and recognizing the hand of God in it. †

***Sometimes we have to go into what seems to be the tomb if we're going to find life.***

## A Word from Pope Leo XIV

Holy Saturday...is the day in which heaven visits earth most deeply. It is the time in which every corner of human history is touched by the light of Easter.... Nothing can be excluded from [Christ's] redemption. Not even our nights, not even our oldest faults, not even our broken bonds. There is no past so ruined, no history so compromised that it cannot be touched by mercy.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME,  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2025



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- What darkness am I experiencing that needs Easter's light?
- How can I pray for resurrection in war-torn places of the world?

## Sunday Readings

### Acts 10:34a, 37-43

This man God raised (on) the third day and granted that he be visible... to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance.

### Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

### John 20:1-9

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.



# Now You See Him, Now You See Him Differently

*The Redemptorists*

**O**ur Easter gospel is a story of hide-and-go-seek. Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb and finds emptiness. The stone has been removed from the burial opening, and Jesus is gone. When she informs Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved, they run and find emptiness as well, except they find evidence that Jesus had been there in a burial posture. “Now you see him, now you see him differently” continues during these Easter days. For us, it can seem a game; for Jesus, it is a process of inviting his followers to deeper faith. He seems to hide, then he appears, then he vanishes—all so that his followers will keep seeking.

It is this seeking that is so central to Easter grace. Jesus is the primary seeker, and his foundlings are us. He moves through the “Resurrection Narratives” collecting, consoling, confronting, and eventually missioning the early believers, or doubters. In turn, we are the seekers as well. We are invited to keep looking for Jesus, even in the emptiness of life. Jesus

is “translocational.” We would like to grab hold of him, but he would say to us, “Do not cling to me, but go to my new body, my different but real presence in the community, in relationships, and within your own emptiness.”

C. S. Lewis, in his wonderful book *Surprised by Joy*, writes that real joy is more in the seeking than the finding. We are believers because we do not know, but we grow more deeply as humans the more we keep reaching toward, looking for, and hungering after, and always in a spirit of gratitude. Everything ends, and where it ends, Jesus is waiting to find us and be found. He has risen but not disappeared. He has risen from the dead to bring life to the seekers. †

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## Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “Restoring Hope: Healing When You Have Been Hurt by the Church” by Paige Byrne Shortal

When someone has been hurt by the Church, perhaps the deep-down source of the pain is that they couldn’t find Jesus where they were told to look. What if we substitute another word for Jesus? What if we substitute “love”? Is there no love in the men and women who kneel and say their prayers? In the 2,000-year history of Catholic education, hospitals, ministries to the needy, and teaching on justice for the poor? Surely, love is there. And God is love. And Jesus is God. When we’re looking for Jesus in the Church, the word we cannot substitute is “perfection.” We won’t find perfection in the Church—not because Jesus isn’t perfect, but because we aren’t. None of us.

*Catholic Update*—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521, or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).



Lord Jesus, call us out of the darkness and rise in us, that we may be saved and witness to your glory, we pray. Amen! Alleluia!

*The Redemptorists*

## WEEKDAY READINGS

April 6–11

**Monday**, Octave Of Easter: Acts 2:14, 22–33 / Mt 28:8–15

**Tuesday**, Octave Of Easter: Acts 2:36–41 / Jn 20:11–18

**Wednesday**, Octave Of Easter: Acts 3:1–10 / Lk 24:13–35

**Thursday**, Octave Of Easter: Acts 3:11–26 / Lk 24:35–48

**Friday**, Octave Of Easter: Acts 4:1–12 / Jn 21:1–14

**Saturday**, Octave Of Easter: Acts 4:13–21 / Mk 16:9–15



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