


# Jesus, Redeemer and Savior

23

## WE GATHER

 **Leader:** Lord Jesus, you are the Savior and Redeemer of the world. Blessed be your name.

**All:** Blessed be your name for ever.

**Leader:** Our passage from death to new life can only be made in our dying and rising with Christ. Listen as Saint Paul reminds his friends of the Paschal Mystery.

**Reader 1:** "You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead." (Colossians 2:12)


**All:** Lord Jesus, you are the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

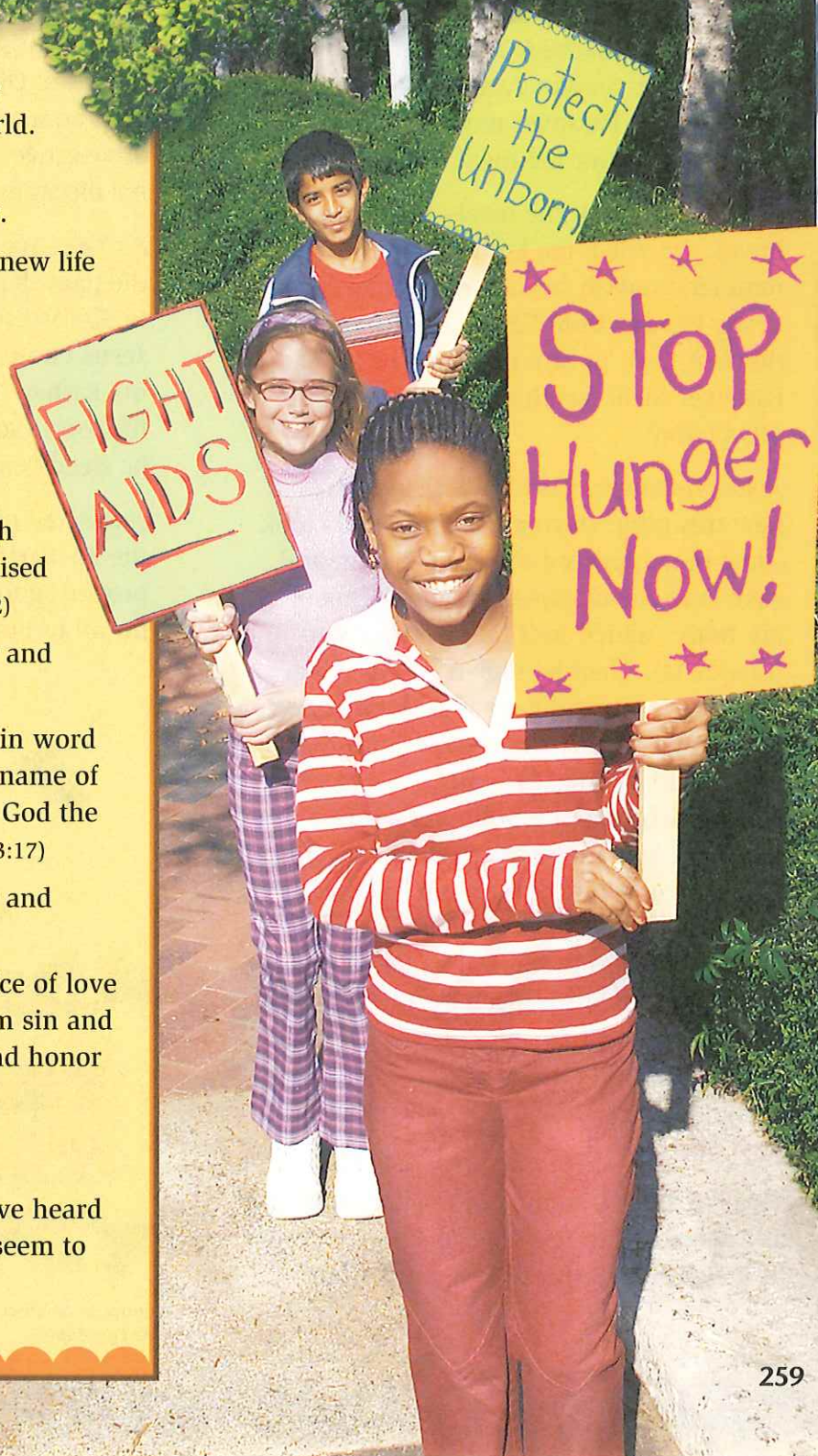
**Reader 2:** "And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17)

**All:** Lord Jesus, you are the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

**Leader:** It is Christ's perfect sacrifice of love and obedience that saved us from sin and grants us salvation. All praise and honor be yours, now and for ever.

**All:** Amen.

 Talk about events that you have heard of or experienced that do not seem to have a clear explanation.



## WE BELIEVE

### Jesus gave us a new covenant.

Many people said that Jesus was the Messiah. This worried some of the authorities in Jerusalem who feared that Jesus might lead a revolt against the Roman government.

Despite the political tension Jesus and the disciples went to Jerusalem as the feast of Passover approached. They were a family to one another. So like every other family, they prepared the Passover meal. At sundown they gathered for the meal.

Everything about the meal—the unleavened bread, the wine, the lamb, the bitter herbs—reminded Jewish families of the great events of the Exodus from Egypt. It also reminded them of their covenant with God. The Passover meal has the same meaning for Jews today.

Jesus, however, gave the Passover meal a new meaning. During the meal Jesus took some bread, prayed over it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying, “This is my body, which will be given for you” (Luke 22:19). Then he took a cup of wine, prayed over it, and gave it to them saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you” (Luke 22:20). Jesus was giving his followers a new covenant and a new covenant meal. The Passover celebration now had a new meaning. As the priest of the new covenant, Jesus was offering himself as the Paschal lamb. Jesus told his disciples to “do this in memory of me” (Luke 22:19). We call the Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples on the night before he died the **Last Supper**.

Jesus’ disciples continued to share this meal as a memorial to Jesus. Jesus was with them as they broke the bread and drank from

the cup. Christ’s own Body and Blood were present under the appearances of bread and wine. Jesus’ love and his sacrifice would forever be remembered in the celebration of the Eucharist. For Christians the Eucharist is the new Passover of God’s people.

Jesus knew that the next day would be one of suffering and of death. So he went to the Mount of Olives with his disciples. In these final hours, Jesus prayed to his Father in the olive grove called Gethsemane. Jesus asked his disciples to pray also.

As he prayed, Jesus asked to be relieved of the pain that he would suffer, yet he wanted to do his Father’s will. During his prayer Jesus chose to be obedient to and to trust his Father. Jesus freely chose to offer his life for us so that we might be freed from sin.

Jesus had given himself in the Eucharist and was now preparing to give his life for all of humanity.

**Key Word**

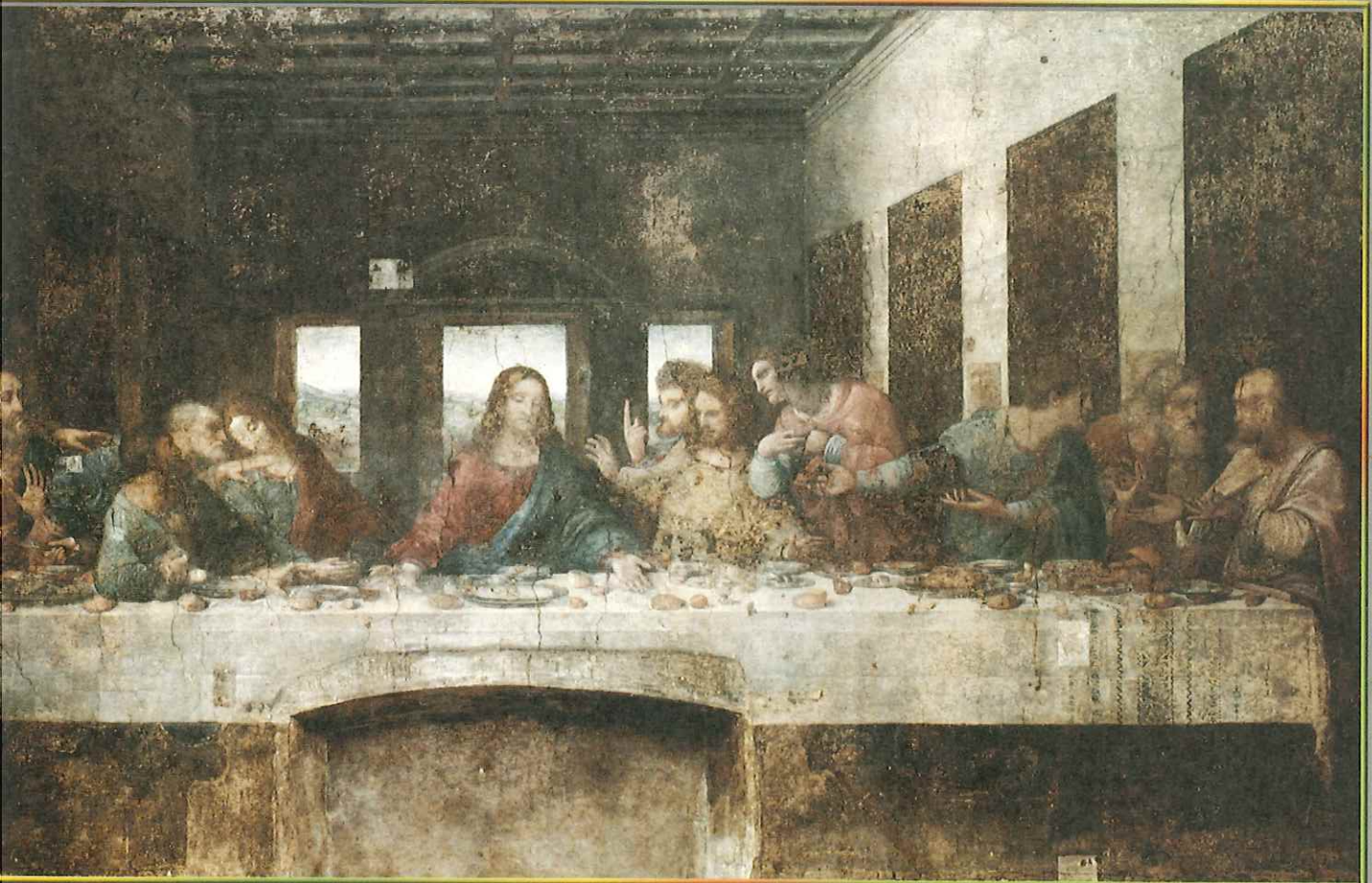
**Last Supper** (p. 330)

Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519),  
*The Last Supper*





Illustrate the Passover of the Jewish People and the new Passover that has been given to us by Jesus Christ. What can you do to remember Jesus' Last Supper this week?



## Jesus gave his life for us.

While Jesus was praying in Gethsemane, Judas, one of his Apostles, entered with Temple guards. Judas had promised to hand over Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. Judas had told them that the one he kissed was the one they were looking for. So Judas greeted Jesus with a kiss. Jesus said, "Friend, do what you have come for" (Matthew 26:50). Then the guards arrested Jesus.

First they took Jesus before Caiaphas, the high priest. Caiaphas insisted that Jesus was guilty of blasphemy, of referring to God in a disrespectful or irreverent way. Then this group took him before Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. When Judas learned what had happened to Jesus because of his betrayal, he regretted what he had done. He tried to return the thirty pieces of silver and said, "I have sinned in betraying innocent blood" (Matthew 27:4). But it was too late to stop what had begun!

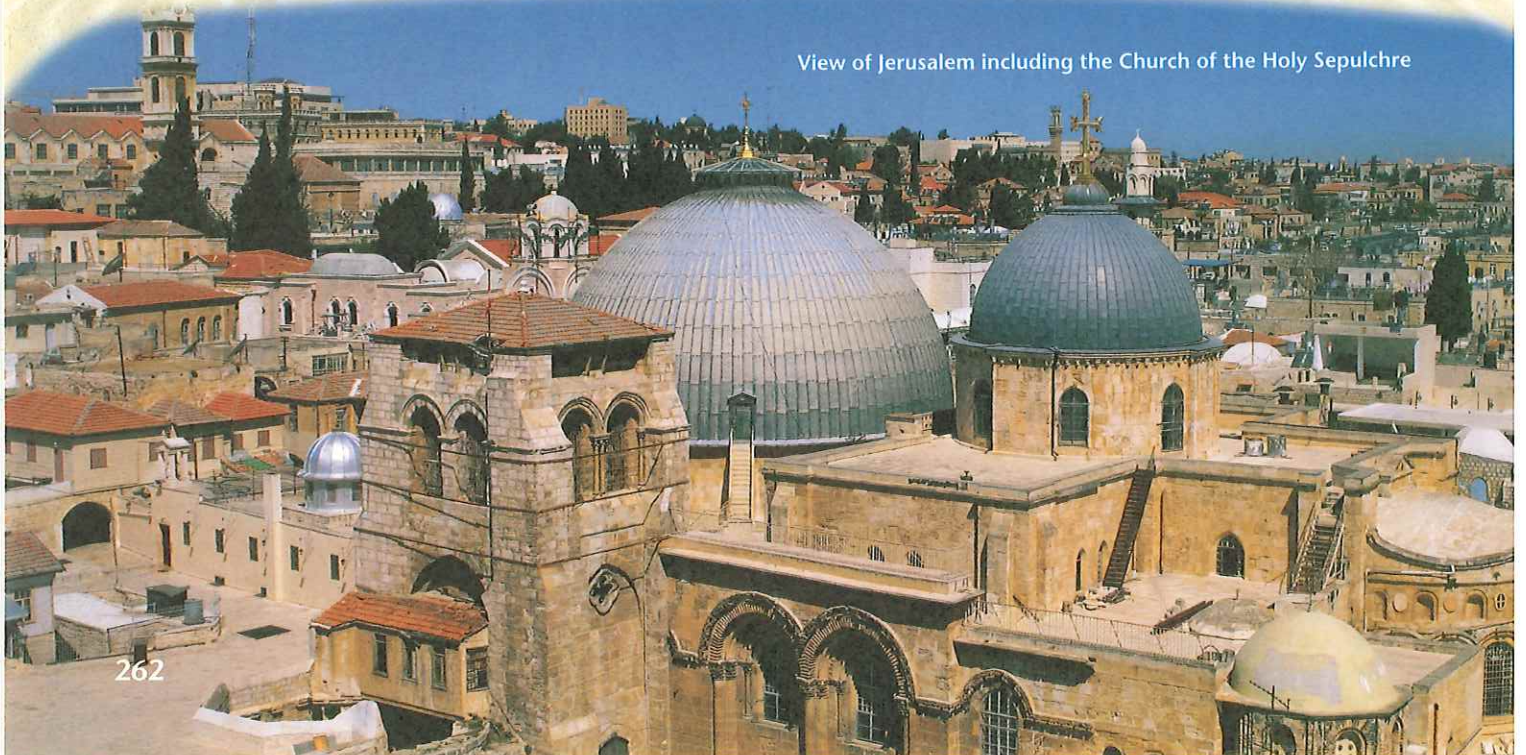
Pilate found nothing for which to condemn Jesus. However, Pilate feared that there would be unrest or even a revolt unless he took action. Pilate ordered that Jesus be whipped and crucified.

Jesus was crucified between two criminals. The dying Jesus was insulted by the soldiers, chief priests, and scribes. They said that if he were the king of Israel he would be able to save himself.

When Jesus took his last breath, the veil of the sanctuary in the Temple was torn in two. The soldier who stood in front of Jesus and watched him die said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:39). We further read in the Gospel of Mark that there were women watching from a distance. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of the younger James, and Salome had followed Jesus when he was in Galilee. Other women followers who had come with Jesus to Jerusalem were there, too.

After Jesus died, his body was placed in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, a follower of Jesus. A heavy stone was rolled across the entrance of the tomb. It was Friday, the day before the Jewish Sabbath. Christians call the day that marks Jesus' Death Good Friday because it was on this day that Jesus died to save us. This is why we call Jesus our Redeemer. By his Death and Resurrection Jesus gained our salvation and brought us the hope of new life.

View of Jerusalem including the Church of the Holy Sepulchre



Let us make an imaginary pilgrimage now to the Holy Land. Let us walk where Jesus walked during the last days of his life.

Our first stop is the *Chapel of the Cenacle*. The word *cenacle* comes from a Latin word meaning “dining room.” In the Upper Room on the second floor, Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with his Apostles. At this meal, Jesus gave us the gift of his Body and Blood, the Eucharist.

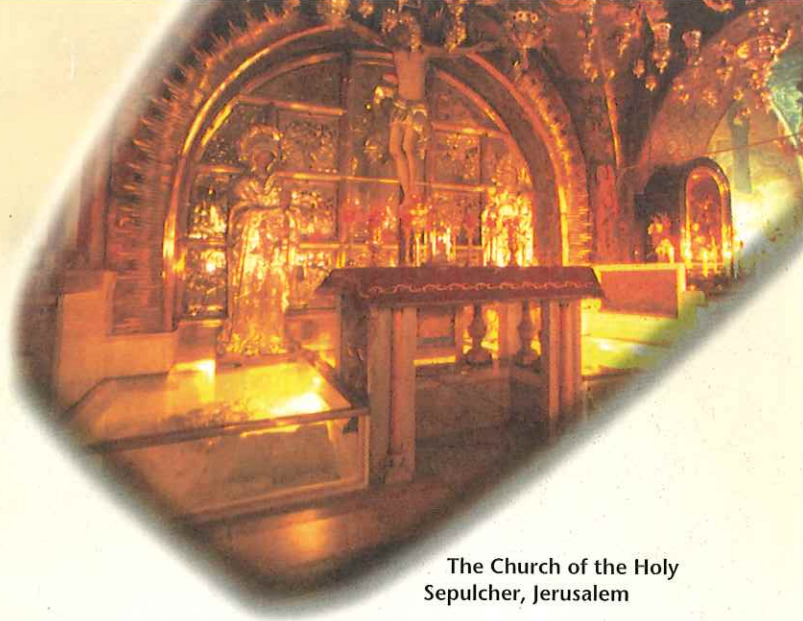


The Chapel of the Cenacle, Jerusalem

Our second stop is the *Garden of Gethsemane*. This garden was a special place for Jesus. This was where he went after the Last Supper to prepare for his eventual suffering on the cross. It was here that he endured the agony in the garden.




The Garden of Gethsemane, Jerusalem



The Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Jerusalem

Our last stop is the *Church of the Holy Sepulcher*. This is an impressive stone building with a shining dome. It combines two churches. The upper chapel of the church is said to be the site of Jesus’ Crucifixion. The site of Jesus’ tomb is said to lie beneath the dome, but the actual tomb was destroyed.

 If you were in these sacred places, what would you pray for?

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What would you say to Jesus, who died and rose here, and is with us now, today?

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## Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

As it had been foretold in the Scriptures, Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day after his Death. The mystery of Jesus' being raised from the dead is called the **Resurrection**.

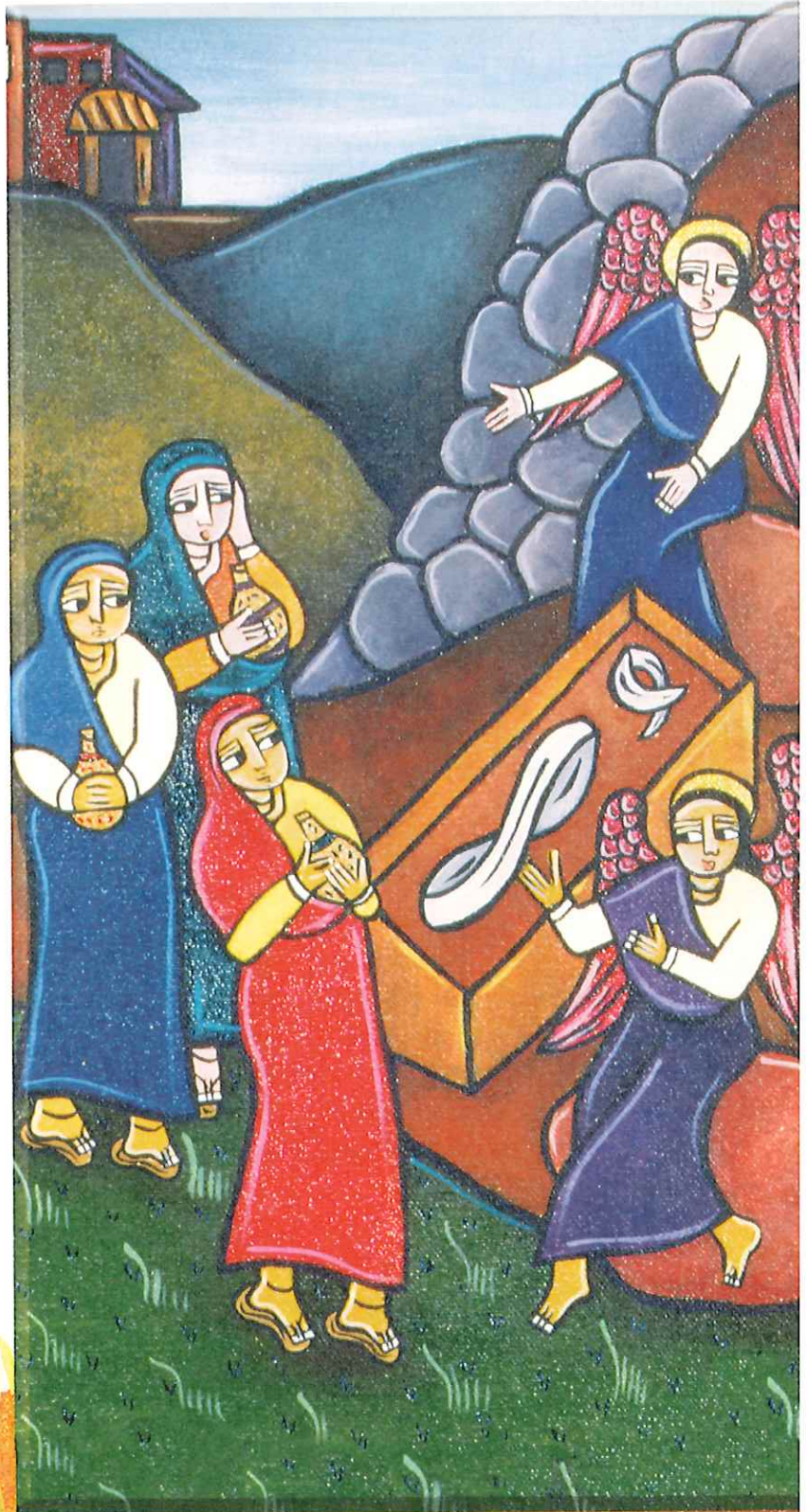


Mark 16:1-11

“When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, ‘Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, ‘Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold, the place where they laid him. But go and tell his disciples and Peter, “He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you. . . . When he [Jesus] had risen, . . . he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, . . . She went and told his companions who were mourning and weeping. When they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.”’

Key Word

**Resurrection** (p. 331)




*The Holy Women at the Sepulchre* by Laura James (Contemporary Artist)



We can read in the Gospel of Mark that the risen Christ appeared to other disciples, too. They also told the group what they had seen. But the group of disciples did not believe until Christ also appeared to them.

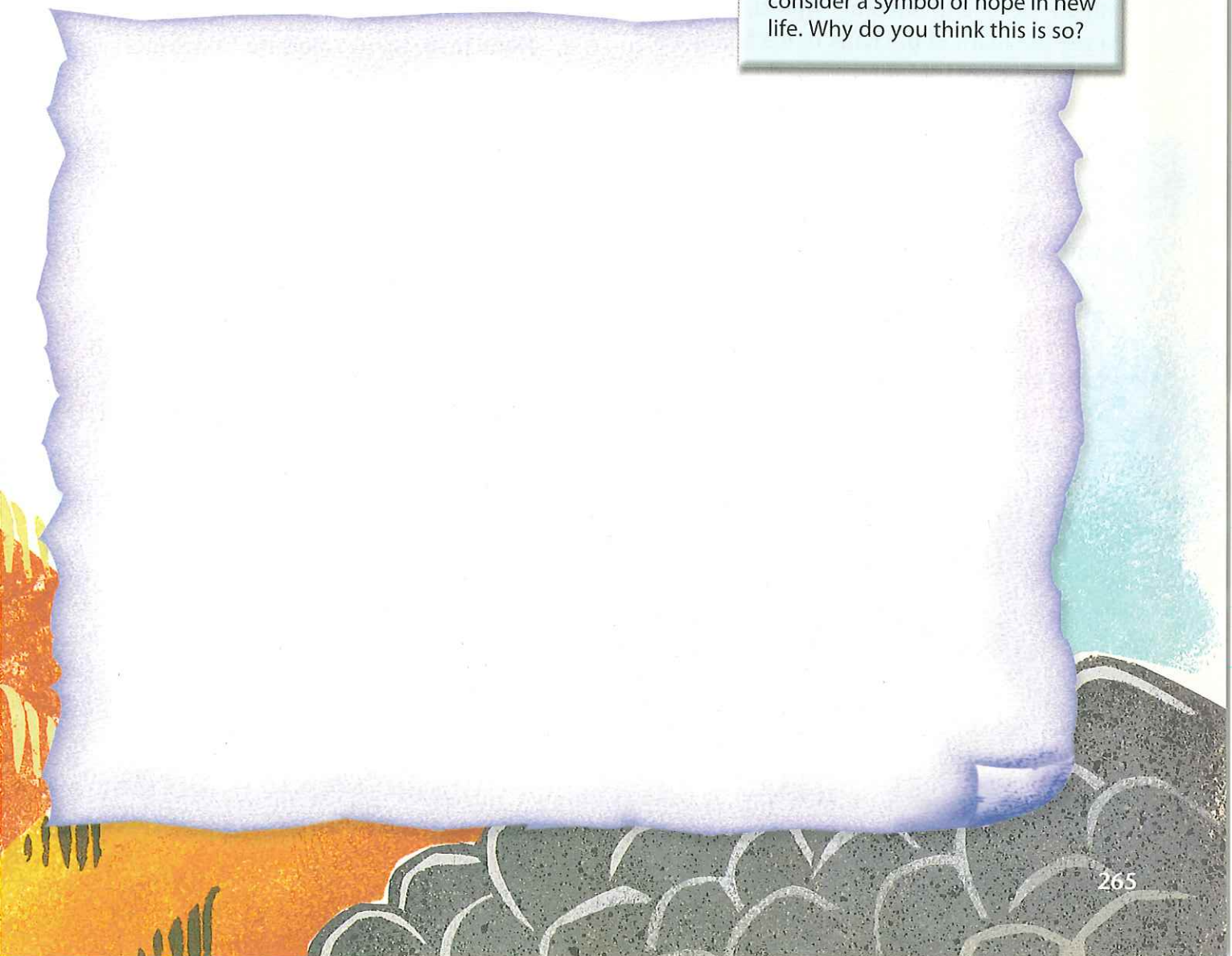
We believe in Jesus Christ and his Resurrection through the gift of faith. By faith we not only believe in Jesus risen among us, but also live as his disciples each day.

 Pretend that you are a news reporter in Jerusalem. You are interviewing Mary Magdalene and the other women on the day of Jesus' Resurrection. Plan your interview here. With a group role-play the interview.

## As Catholics...

In the Gospel of Luke, we read that Mary Magdalene was one of the many people Jesus healed. She became one of his closest followers. She often traveled with Jesus and the Apostles, and she was present at Jesus' Death and burial. In the Gospel of John we read that the risen Jesus first appeared to Mary and sent her out to tell the other disciples the Good News of his Resurrection. Mary Magdalene is a symbol of hope in the new life that comes from Christ. We honor Mary as a saint. Her feast day is July 22.

Think of a person that you consider a symbol of hope in new life. Why do you think this is so?



## Christ appeared to his disciples.

Later on the day of Jesus' Resurrection, the risen Jesus appeared to his disciples to strengthen them and to increase their faith in his Resurrection. He wanted his disciples to believe in all that he had told them and in all that he had done.

Jesus came and stood among the disciples. He showed them his side and his hands and said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you" Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the holy Spirit." (John 20:21, 22) This began the new life in which humanity now can share because of Jesus' Resurrection.

Thomas, one of Jesus' Apostles, was not with the others when Jesus appeared to them. He said to the other Apostles, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe" (John 20:25).

When all of the disciples, including Thomas were together again, Jesus appeared. He told Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe" (John 20:27). Thomas told Jesus he believed Jesus was the Lord, his God. But Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed" (John 20:29).



## Jesus Is Risen

Refrain:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

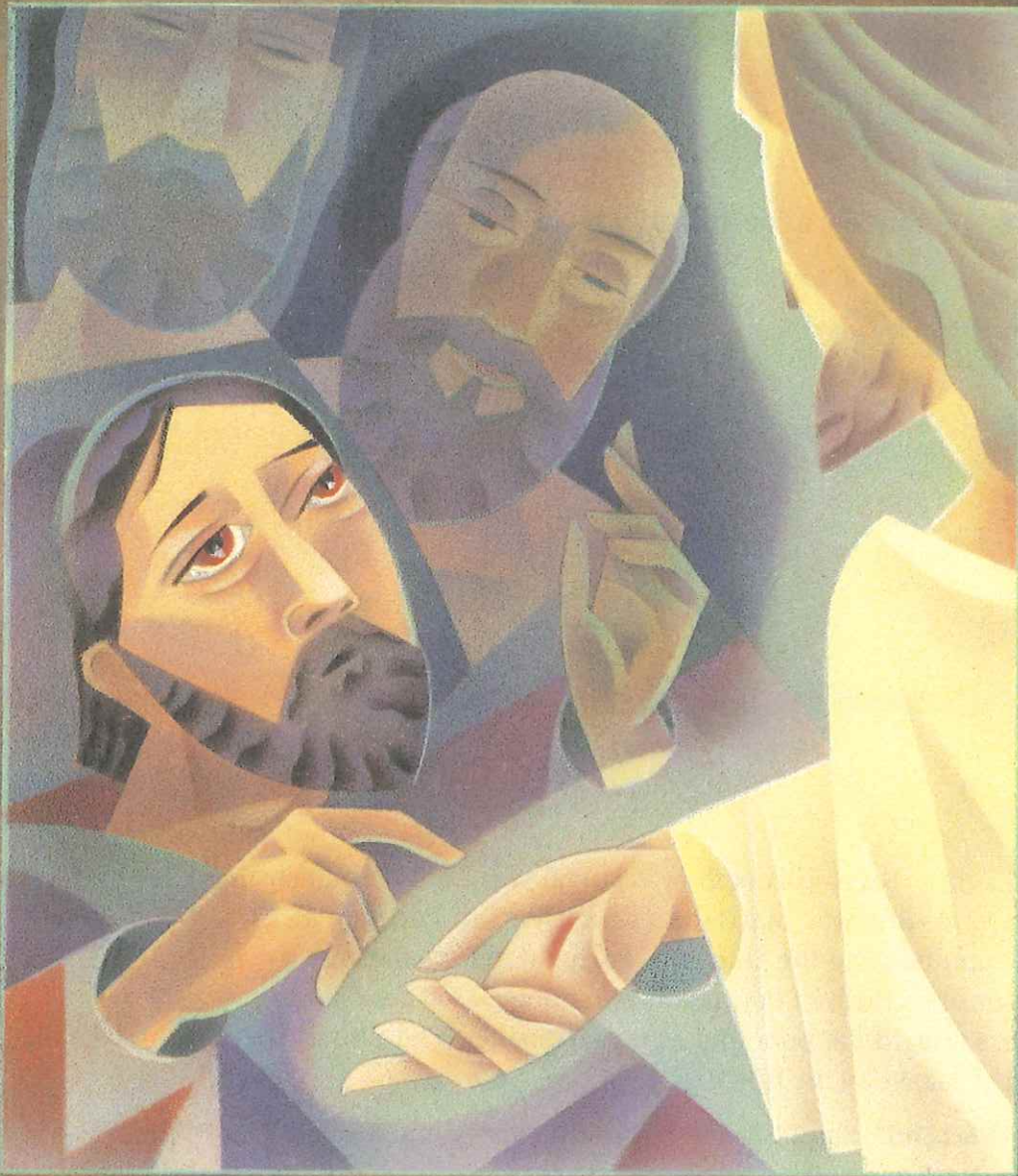
Jesus is risen, alleluia!

Now it no longer could be denied,  
seeing his feet and his hands and his side.  
"Indeed you are Lord! You are God!" they  
cried.


"Conquering death, you have risen!" (Refrain)

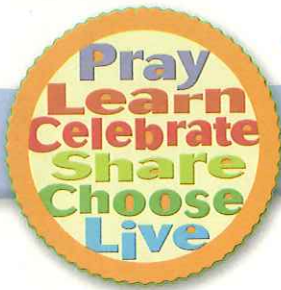
As disciples of Christ we are called to believe everything we have learned about Jesus from the Gospels and the other writings of the New Testament. We are called to believe that Jesus Christ died and rose to new life. We believe that Jesus is the Son of God, our Savior. We are called to believe what the Church teaches us about Christ.

The Holy Spirit that Jesus breathed on his Apostles is the same Holy Spirit who gives us life. The Holy Spirit guides us as we live each day. Jesus has not left us alone, but is with us always. We believe that through the risen Jesus we have new life and the hope of sharing this life with him forever.




### WE RESPOND

 Think about the appearances of Jesus after his Resurrection. Prepare a short advertisement using your favorite appearance to convince the public that Jesus is risen!



# PROJECT

## Show What **you** Know

You are a journalist living in the time of Jesus. Write a news article to explain the  Last Supper and Resurrection.

### Saint Stories

Saint Elizabeth of Portugal was born a Spanish princess in 1271. She was married to King Denis of Portugal at age twelve, and became the Queen of Portugal before she was a teenager! Saint Elizabeth of Portugal is remembered for her charity and kindness toward the poor and as a peacemaker. The Church celebrates her feast day on July 4.

➔ **DISCIPLE CHALLENGE** Saint Elizabeth showed charity and kindness to others. How can you do the same?



### Fast Facts



The letters *INRI* that appear on the crucifix are an acronym of the Latin *Iesus Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum*, which translates to English as Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. Pontius Pilate ordered this inscription to be placed on Jesus' Cross. (See John 19: 19.)

### What's *the* Word?

In the Gospel of Luke there is a story of the risen Jesus' appearance to two of his disciples on the road to Emmaus. Read Luke 24:13–35 with a friend. Take turns reading the verses. Would you have recognized Jesus?

## More to Explore

The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer was founded by Saint Alphonsus Liguori, and serves all around the world to spread the Good News and deepen the faith of youth, young adults, and adults. Its members are priests, brothers, and lay missionaries who follow the example of Christ the Redeemer by preaching God's Word to the poor and abandoned. Known as the Redemptorists, they work in parishes, preach at parish programs, run retreats and conference centers, work with those suffering from AIDS and other terminal illnesses, serve as missionaries throughout the world, and manage Liguori Publications, a Catholic publishing company.



### DISCIPLE CHALLENGE

- Underline the phrase that describes how the Redemptorists follow the example of Christ the Redeemer.
- Circle the name of the Redemptorists' founder.
- Name three ways the Redemptorists serve.

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Visit [www.cssr.com](http://www.cssr.com) to learn more about the Redemptorists.



### Who Am I?

I betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.

I ordered Jesus to be whipped and crucified.

I was first to see the risen Jesus.

I needed to see "proof" before I could believe that Jesus had appeared after his Resurrection.

## Take Home

As a family, read about the Stations of the Cross on page 328. Visit [www.webelieveweb.com](http://www.webelieveweb.com) to find appropriate stations and meditations to use at your parish church, or at a nearby shrine or retreat center that has outdoor stations. Then, pray the Stations of the Cross. At each station after silent reflection, pray:

We adore you, O Christ,  
and we bless you:  
Because by your holy cross,  
you have redeemed the world.

Afterwards, gather together as a family and talk about the experience.

# CHAPTER TEST

**Complete the following.**

1. At the Last Supper when Jesus was celebrating the \_\_\_\_\_ meal with his disciples, he gave them the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The mystery that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ on the third day after his Death is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The risen Jesus appeared to his \_\_\_\_\_ to strengthen them and to increase their \_\_\_\_\_ in his Resurrection.
4. Christians call the day that marks Jesus' Death \_\_\_\_\_, because on this day Jesus died to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Write True or False for the following sentences.**

**Then change the false sentences to make them true.**

5. \_\_\_\_\_ On the evening of the Resurrection, the risen Jesus appeared to all his Apostles.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_ On the night before he suffered and died, Jesus prayed to his Father.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Christians celebrate the Eucharist as the new Passover given to us by Christ.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_ By his Death, Jesus gains our salvation and brings us the hope of new life.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Write a paragraph to answer this question.**

**9–10. What happened at the Last Supper?**

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