

"Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,  
radiant in the brightness of your King!  
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!  
Darkness vanishes for ever!"

The Exsultet, the Easter Vigil




This chapter includes the three days from Holy Thursday evening until Easter Sunday.



## The Easter Triduum is also known as the Christian Passover.

### WE GATHER

 *Jesus, take us with you into new life.*

Think about times when people count on a map to guide them in getting someplace. What would their experience be like without a map?

### WE BELIEVE

The Easter Triduum guides us on a journey. We journey with Jesus Christ from Death to new life. When we celebrate the Easter Triduum, we are celebrating the most important three days of the year for Christians. These three days extend from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. They are counted as our Jewish ancestors in faith count their days—from sundown to sundown.

The liturgical celebrations of these three days are seen as one connected liturgy in which we celebrate Christ's passing from Death to new life. These days focus on the whole Paschal Mystery of Christ—his suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. Paschal comes from the word *pasch* which means "Passover." So the Paschal Mystery is the mystery of Christ's sacrifice of himself and of his passing over from Death to life.

**Holy Thursday** The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper is not simply a reenactment of the events of the Last Supper when Jesus gathered to celebrate Passover with his disciples. It is a celebration of the new Passover, Christ's Body and Blood that he shared then and still shares with us today in the Eucharist. It is a celebration of the love and service Christ calls us to everyday.

During this Mass a ceremony of the washing of the feet takes place. This action commits us to follow the example of Jesus' love and service. He washed his disciples' feet as a sign of his love for them.





On Holy Thursday one way that we show our love and service for others is by contributing to a special collection for those who are in need.

**Good Friday** On this day we recall Jesus' suffering and Death. The celebration often takes place in the afternoon around three o'clock P.M.

We hear the Passion of Christ read from the Gospel of John, and we offer ten general intercessions that include prayers for the whole world. We also show reverence to the cross, for upon it hung the Savior of the world. The cross is the sign of Christ's Death and of the victory he wins for us by his Death. The cross is a symbol of the salvation Jesus Christ offers to the world.

Because the Liturgy of the Eucharist is not celebrated on Good Friday, a short communion service takes place and then all depart in silence.

**Holy Saturday** During the day we spend time thinking and praying. We remember that Jesus died to save all people and we thank God for this gift. We pray especially for those who will celebrate the Easter Sacraments. On Sundays and very important feast days, the Church begins the liturgical celebration on the night before with a vigil.

On Holy Saturday evening we gather with our parish for the celebration of the Easter Vigil.

The Easter Vigil is the most important vigil of the year and it is the highpoint of the Triduum. It begins after sundown on the Saturday before Easter Sunday. It is a time of watchful waiting. Two beautiful symbols of our faith are a central part of this night: light and water.

Throughout the history of salvation, fire has been a symbol of the presence of God. On the night of the Easter Vigil, a fire is made outdoors or in the back of the Church. The priest prepares the Paschal candle by marking the year on it. Then the Paschal candle is lit from this new fire and the priest says, "May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds."

The fire represents the fire of the burning bush, and the Paschal candle reminds us of the pillar of fire that accompanied the Israelites on their journey out of Egypt. The Paschal candle is more, though. It is a symbol of the risen Christ among us. It is a reminder of our own passing with Christ from Death to life, from darkness to light.

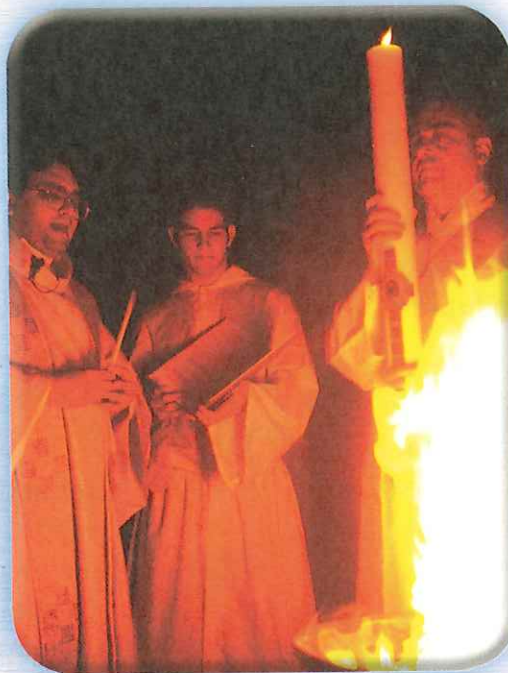
TRIDUUM



The Paschal candle is carried into the dark church with great reverence. The deacon or priest sings "Christ our light" three times. The assembly responds "Thanks be to God" each time. Often those assembled light small candles from the Paschal candle, and the light of Christ spreads throughout the whole assembly.

Then the deacon or a parish member chants the Exsultet, or Easter Proclamation. To *exult* means to "rejoice with great joy and triumph." The Exsultet is a proclamation of our Easter faith. It is like a map of the celebration of Easter. The Exsultet proclaims God's plan, and notes that we are part of that plan.

"This is our passover feast," we hear. We also hear, "This is the night when first you saved our fathers: you freed the people of Israel from their slavery."



The waters of the Red Sea remind us of the waters of Baptism. Most importantly, we hear,

"This is the night when  
Jesus Christ  
broke the chains of death  
and rose triumphant  
from the grave."

This is the most beautiful and exciting night of the year! It is fitting that on this night new members of the Church are baptized, confirmed, and receive the Eucharist for the first time.

Water is another symbol that is very important to the Easter Vigil. It is important to the newly baptized and to all of us who renew our baptismal promises and are sprinkled with water. It is a symbol of our new Easter life. We, too, are risen with Christ.

**Easter Sunday** Our joy continues at the Easter Sunday Eucharist as we pray:

"May the risen Lord  
breathe on our minds  
and open our eyes  
that we may know him in the  
breaking of bread,  
and follow him in his risen life."

### WE RESPOND


What can you do to help others to believe and experience the new life that comes from Christ?

How can you spread the light of Christ in your home? your school? your parish? the world?



## We Respond in Prayer

**Leader:** Let us rejoice in the Resurrection of Jesus.

 **Resucitó/He Is Risen**

Refrain:

Resucitó, resucitó, resucitó, aleluya.  
Aleluya, aleluya, aleluya, resucitó.  
(*He is risen, alleluia.*)

**Leader:** Let us pray the great Easter Proclamation.

**Group 1:** "Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!  
Exult, all creation around God's throne!  
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!  
Sound the trumpet of salvation!"

**All:** (*Sing Refrain.*)

**Group 2:** "Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,  
radiant in the brightness of your King!  
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!  
Darkness vanishes for ever!"

**All:** (*Sing Refrain.*)

**Group 3:** "Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!  
The risen Savior shines upon you!  
Let this place resound with joy,  
echoing the mighty song of all God's people!"

**All:** (*Sing Refrain.*)

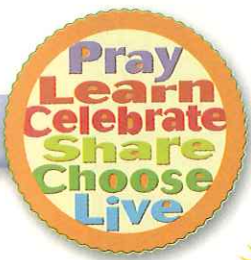
**Group 4:** "Most blessed of all nights, chosen by  
God to see Christ rising from the dead!

Of this night scripture says:  
'The night will be as clear as day:  
it will become my light, my joy.'"

**All:** (*Sing Refrain.*)

TRIDUUM





# PROJECT DISCIPLE



Write the day of the Triduum (HT = Holy Thursday, GF = Good Friday, HSE = Holy Saturday Evening) that corresponds to each statement.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The priest prepares the Paschal Candle by marking the year on it, and the candle is lit and carried into the dark church with great reverence.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Around 3p.m. a celebration often takes place at which we recall Jesus' suffering and Death.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ At an evening Mass we celebrate the events of the Last Supper—when Jesus gathered to celebrate Passover with his disciples.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ During Mass a ceremony of the washing of feet takes place.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ A short communion service takes place because the Liturgy of the Eucharist is not celebrated.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ New members of the Church are baptized, confirmed, and receive the Eucharist for the first time.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The Easter Vigil is celebrated after sundown.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ We hear the Passion of Christ read from the Gospel of John, offer ten general intercessions for the whole world, and show reverence to the cross.



## What's the Word?

*"You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do." (John 13:13-15)*

### DISCIPLE CHALLENGE

- Circle the names the disciples use for Jesus.
- Why does Jesus ask his disciples to wash one another's feet?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Take Home

One of the most ancient traditions of the Catholic Church is the veneration of the cross on Good Friday. The cross is the sign not only of Christ's Death, but also of the victory Christ won for all humankind by his Death. Place a cross or crucifix in a prominent place in your home. Remember to always treat this symbol of our faith with reverence.



# UNIT TEST

Choose a word from the box that best completes each sentence.

1. Jesus' birth in the town of Bethlehem in Judea fulfilled the words of the prophet \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The great prophet \_\_\_\_\_ told King Hezekiah that God would not allow foreign nations to destroy Judah; he would always be with the people of Judah.
3. \_\_\_\_\_, the son of Elizabeth and Zechariah, was sent by God like the prophets before him to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah.
4. God called the prophet \_\_\_\_\_ from the southern kingdom of Judah to go to the northern kingdom of Israel and tell the people there to live justly or their kingdom would be destroyed.
5. King \_\_\_\_\_ began a reform of religious practices in Judah, banned pagan practices, and returned true worship to the Temple in Jerusalem.
6. The prophet-priest \_\_\_\_\_ told the people that God would purify those who remained true to him and would shepherd them back from exile to the promised land.
7. In the Book of \_\_\_\_\_ we are reminded that God alone can provide lasting happiness.
8. When Jews celebrate the festival of \_\_\_\_\_, they recall that through God's help Esther saved God's people.
9. In the Book of \_\_\_\_\_ we read about God's rescue of his people through the brave actions of a remarkable woman.

Judith

Amos

Ecclesiastes

Ezekiel

Herod

Isaiah

John

Josiah

Malachi

Micah

Purim



## Grade 6 Unit 3

**Underline the correct answer.**

10. God sent the prophet (**Jonah/Elijah**) to the northern kingdom of Israel to show the people that the gods worshiped by King Ahab were false gods.
11. The prophet (**Hezekiah/Jeremiah**) was accused of blasphemy, rejected, and imprisoned, but he never lost hope because he knew that God is always with his people.
12. The prophet Elijah anointed a man named (**Elisha/Isaiah**) to carry on his work among God's people.
13. When Judah was invaded a third time, the city of Jerusalem—including the Temple—was destroyed and even more people were deported to (**Babylon/Assyria**).
14. The Book of (**Wisdom/Lamentations**) contains five poems describing the destruction of the kingdom of Judah and the sufferings of the people.
15. When Judas (**Maccabeus/Malachi**) rededicated the Temple, he asked the people to remember the event with a “feast of lights” that Jews celebrate today as the festival of Hanukkah.
16. During (**King Haman's/Herod's**) reign over Judea, an angel of God was sent to Mary to tell her she would be the Mother of the Son of God.

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

- 17–18. In the Book of Jonah we read of a prophet who is swallowed by a huge fish. What symbolic meaning does the story of Jonah have for us as Christians?

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- 19–20. The prophet Isaiah, preaching to God's people in exile in Babylon, said that salvation would come only through the suffering of a servant of the Lord—a servant without sin. How are these words of Isaiah's important to Christians?

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**EASTER**

“The love of God has been poured into our hearts  
by his Spirit living in us, alleluia.”

Introductory Rites, Pentecost Vigil Mass




This liturgical chapter celebrates the entire  
Easter season.



**During the Easter season, we celebrate our new life in Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit.**

### **WE GATHER**

 *Lord Jesus, may we rise with you to new life in the Holy Spirit!*

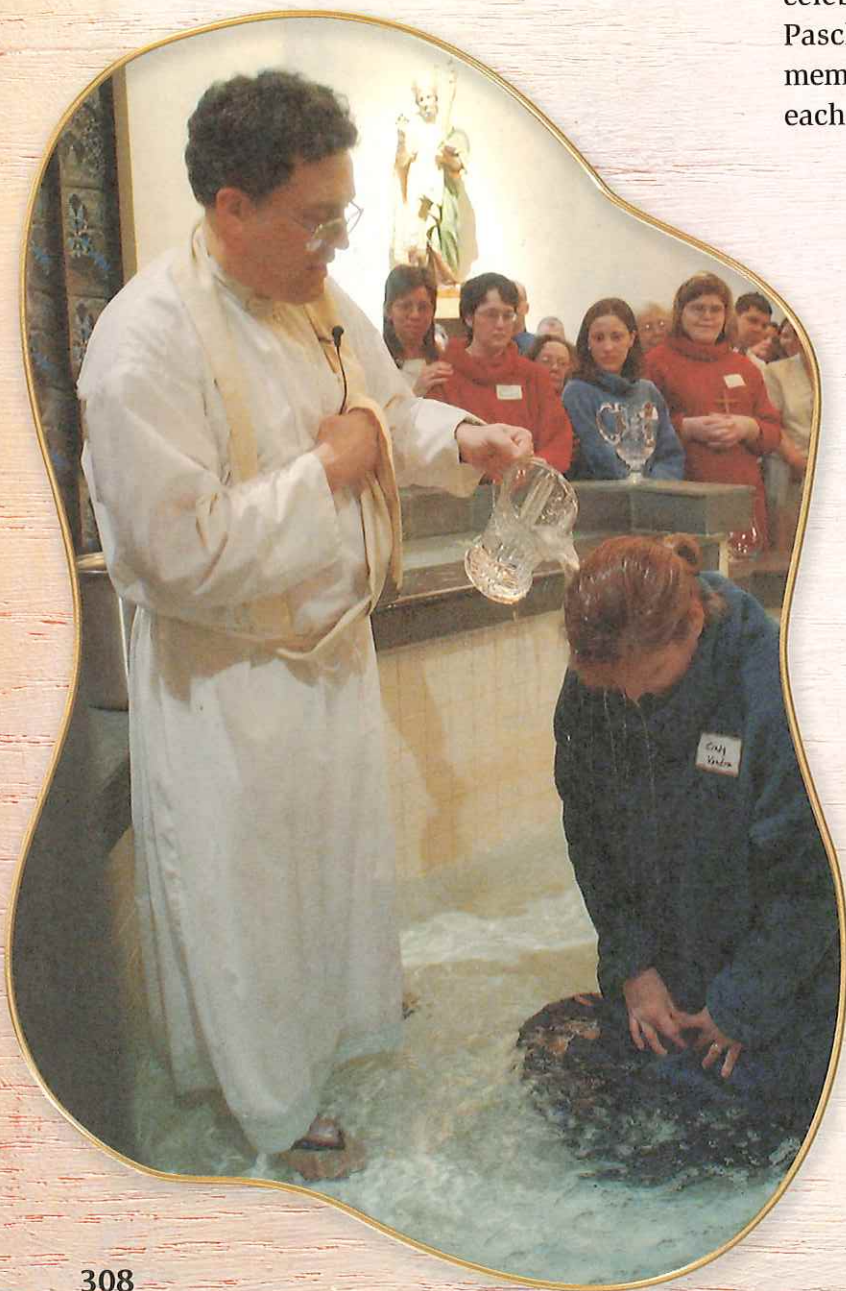
Think of a time when a person was welcomed into your family. How did you celebrate?

### **WE BELIEVE**

The Easter season is a special time to rejoice in the new life we have in Christ. It is a time for bringing new members into the Church—for celebrating the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, both of which lead to the table of the Eucharist. And during the Easter season the whole Church grows in their experience of the risen Christ, and through liturgical celebrations, reflects with joy on Christ's Paschal Mystery. We welcome the new members of the Church and pray with them each week.

The Easter season lasts for fifty days. During this time we celebrate the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. We hear stories of the risen Jesus' appearances to his disciples. We learn about the beginning of the Church from the Acts of the Apostles.

**Easter Monday in Nigeria** The day after Easter Sunday is an important day of worship in Nigeria. In many towns and villages, Catholics and other Christians gather in a common place which they name "Galilee" for the day. They believe that, like the Apostles and first disciples, they are to be in "Galilee" to meet the risen Lord. Christians of all faiths gather together to celebrate Christ's Resurrection with preaching, singing and dancing, sharing a meal, and participating in all types of sports and games. This "Galilee" gathering is possible because Easter Monday is traditionally a public holiday in Nigeria.





**Ascension** During the season of Easter we recall the last event of Jesus' public life, his Ascension. Jesus ascended, or returned to his father in Heaven forty days after he rose from the dead. Thus the Church celebrates the Feast of the Ascension around forty days after Easter. In many dioceses of the United States this feast is a holy day of obligation. We read about Jesus' Ascension in the Acts of the Apostles.

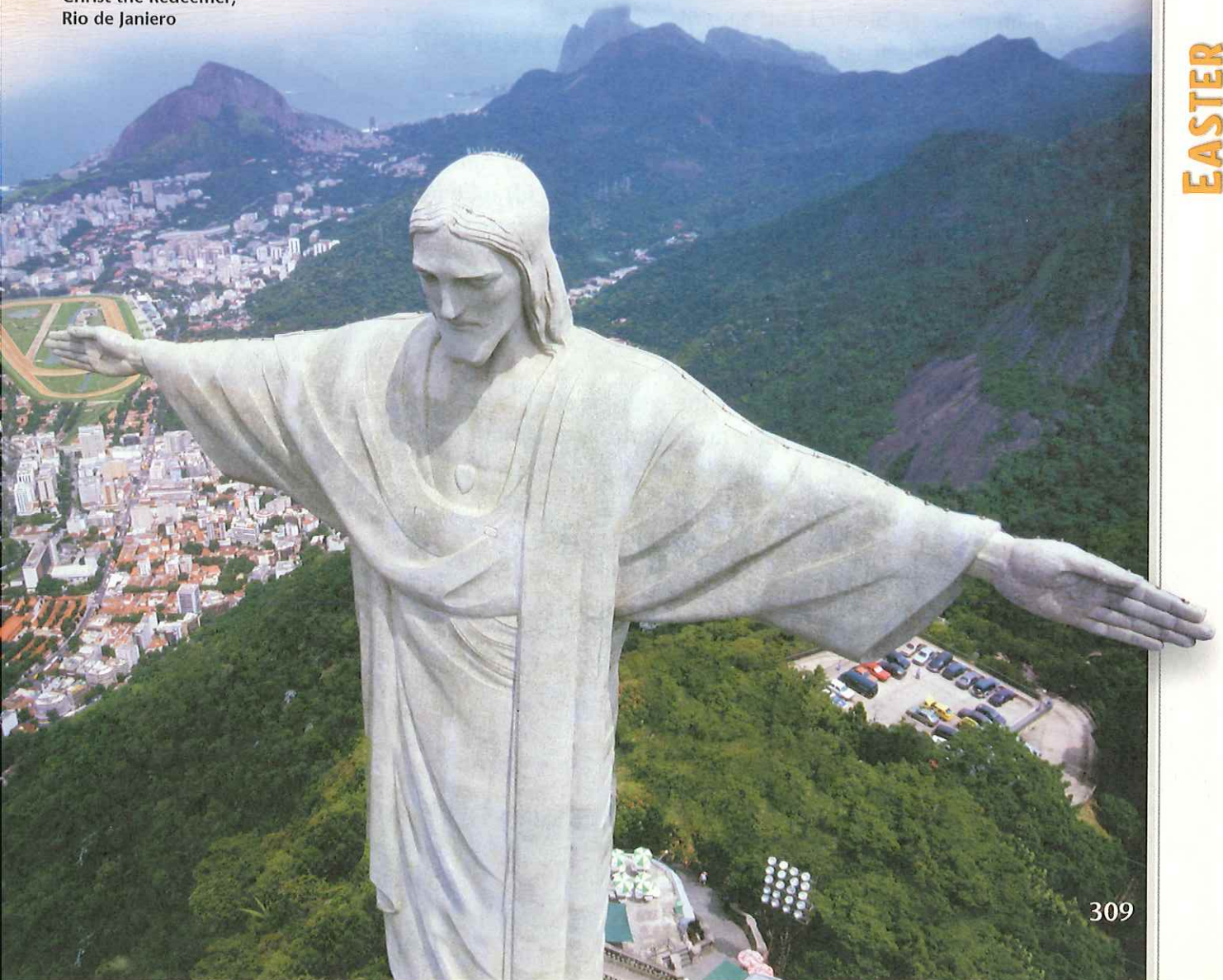


Acts of the Apostles 1:3-12

Forty days after his Resurrection, the risen Jesus had gathered with his Apostles outside of Jerusalem. He told them, "'You will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight." (Acts of the Apostles 1:8-9).

The Apostles went back to the upper room and waited in prayer.

Christ the Redeemer,  
Rio de Janeiro



**EASTER**



**Pentecost** Fifty days after Easter we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. The word *Pentecost* comes from a Greek word meaning “fiftieth.” Pentecost is celebrated on the last Sunday and final day of the Easter season. On Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples. We also celebrate the beginning of the Church, and we rejoice because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts today.



What a difference the Holy Spirit made in the lives of the Apostles! During Jesus’ trial and Death, the Apostles were afraid. After his Resurrection, they remained hidden. When the Holy Spirit came, the Apostles began to remember the words of Jesus and to act on them. They began preaching and teaching. They were no longer alone. Neither are we alone because the Holy Spirit will be with us always.


The Apostles and Mary spent the time between the Ascension and Pentecost in prayer. The Church keeps the days between Ascension and Pentecost as days of waiting and prayer for the Holy Spirit. During this time the liturgy is full of prayerful longing for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

The Jewish feast of Pentecost was celebrated fifty days after Passover, as a thanksgiving for the harvest. The “first fruits” of field and orchard were blessed and shared. So it is fitting that on this feast God the Father and God the Son, chose to share the “first fruits” of Jesus’ Resurrection—the Holy Spirit, the power sent from on high. This Gift of the Holy Spirit was a great gift of God’s love. The Apostles now shared in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

### WE RESPOND

Pray this prayer together.

“Father,  
let your Spirit come upon us with power  
to fill us with his gifts.  
May he make our hearts pleasing to you,  
and ready to do your will.”

 Prepare for the feast of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Write a prayer, a poem, a favorite quotation from Scripture, or a “Spirit-filled” action you can do.





## We Respond in Prayer

**Leader:** Lord, send out your Spirit.

**All:** And renew the face of the earth.

**Reader:** A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul  
to the Corinthians

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord. . . As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:4–5, 12–13)

The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

### Envía Tu Espíritu

Refrain:

Envía tu Espíritu, envía tu Espíritu,  
envía tu Espíritu,  
sea renovada la faz de la tierra.  
Sea renovada la faz de la tierra.

Spirit of the living God,  
burn in our hearts,  
and make us a people of hope  
and compassion. (Refrain)

Wind of promise, wind of change,  
friend of the poor,  
empower your people to make  
peace and justice. (Refrain)





Answer the following questions about the season.

1. How long is the season of Easter? \_\_\_\_\_
2. During the season of Easter, what do we recall as the last event of Jesus' public life? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What are we celebrating on Pentecost Sunday? \_\_\_\_\_
4. When do we celebrate Pentecost? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Which feast during the Easter season is also a holy day of obligation in many dioceses in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_



## What's *the* Word?



*"God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses. Exalted at the right hand of God, he received the promise of the holy Spirit from the Father and poured it forth, as you see and hear." (Acts 2:32-33)*

- What two liturgical events does Peter describe in this passage?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Underline the phrase that describes how the Apostles are part of the Easter story.

## Picture This

Design an e-card to send during the Easter season. If possible, include symbols of Easter in your design, such as the Paschal Candle, a flowering plant, a white dove, etc.



## Take Home

The Irish phrase *Cead Mile Failte* (kayd me-lay fall-chuh) means "a hundred thousand welcomes." The season of Easter is a time of welcoming new members into the Church.

How can your family welcome these new members? Make a list here:

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## UNIT TEST

Fill in the circle beside the correct answer.

1. The Church teaches us that \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the two means by which God's Revelation comes to us. The Bible is the other.  
☐ Tradition                      ☐ liturgy                      ☐ the Council of Nicea
2. In the first part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave guidelines that describe the way to live as his disciples. These are the \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ Gospels                      ☐ Beatitudes                      ☐ Lord's Prayer
3. \_\_\_\_\_ did not believe that the other Apostles had seen Jesus.  
☐ The Apostle Thomas                      ☐ Mary Magdalene                      ☐ Joseph of Arimathea
4. On his way to \_\_\_\_\_ to persecute Christians, Saul had an experience that changed his life.  
☐ Antioch                      ☐ Damascus                      ☐ Ephesus
5. One, holy, catholic, and apostolic are the four \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ themes of Catholic social teaching                      ☐ marks of the Church                      ☐ models of holiness
6. The Apostle \_\_\_\_\_ was chosen to take Judas's place.  
☐ Matthias                      ☐ Paul                      ☐ Jerome
7. As a Christian prophecy, the Book of Revelation deals with \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ the ministry of the Apostles                      ☐ the life and work of Jesus                      ☐ Christ's Second Coming
8. The work to promote the unity of all Christians is called \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ ecumenism                      ☐ social justice                      ☐ holiness
9. We call the power of God's love coming into the world and into our lives the \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ Gospels                      ☐ Kingdom of God                      ☐ marks of the Church
10. For Christians the \_\_\_\_\_ is the new Passover of God's People.  
☐ Eucharist                      ☐ Gospels                      ☐ Beatitudes
11. Christians call the day Christ died \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ Sabbath                      ☐ Good Friday                      ☐ Pentecost



## Grade 6 Unit 4

**Write True or False for the following sentences. Then change the false sentences to make them true.**

12. \_\_\_\_\_ The Gospels are effective signs given to us by Jesus through which we share in God's life, which we call grace.

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13. \_\_\_\_\_ It was at Antioch, about ten years after Jesus' Death, that his followers were first called Nazarenes.

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14. \_\_\_\_\_ The Lord's Prayer is one of the most important prayers in the Gospels and of the Church.

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15. \_\_\_\_\_ Catholic social teaching calls us to work for justice and peace as Jesus did.

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16. \_\_\_\_\_ The Apostles are all the baptized members of the Church who share in the Church's mission to bring the Good News of Christ to the world.

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

- 17–18. If you were an early Christian and were arrested for your faith, what would you tell the Roman authorities?

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- 19–20. As members of the Church, each of us is called to take part in her mission. How can you, as a sixth grader, do this?

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