

# Jesus Is Alive Again!

## Allelu!

*Growing and Celebrating with Jesus*

### Lesson 24, ages 3-4

#### Lesson 24 Goal

- Your child will learn about the Resurrection of Jesus.

#### Key Points

- Jesus rose from the dead three days after died on the Cross.
- After Jesus rose from the dead, he spent time with his friends and then went to be with God the Father in Heaven.



#### Parent Reflection

Jesus is alive, and it is cause for celebration! Why is Jesus' Resurrection so central to our faith? It matters to us because it gives us hope of resurrection. We do not need to fear death. We can know that when this life ends, we will spend eternity with God. We can be assured that the loved ones we have lost in this life will be together with us once again.

When we unite ourselves with the Paschal Mystery through the Sacrament of Baptism, we die to sin, are "buried" in the water, and are "raised up" to walk a new life in Christ. The "resurrection hope" we are given at Baptism remains with us throughout our lives. Each time we experience failure, we can remind ourselves that Christ has already won our final victory—he has overcome death itself. Therefore, there is nothing we cannot bear if Christ is beside us (see Philippians 4:13).

#### Reflection Question

How is Jesus alive in me as I go about my life at home, at work, and in the community?

## Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

### Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
  - crayons or colored pencils
  - sturdy, round, large paper plate (gray or other earthy color)
  - glue
  - gray (or another color similar to the paper plate)
  - one sheet drawing paper
  - safety scissors
  - Lesson 24 Activity Master – Saint Page (included with this lesson)
- (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

## Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

### Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Pray together: *“Jesus Christ is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! Thanks be to God, Amen. Alleluia!”*

## Discovering

**Jesus Comes Back!** Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about Easter morning.

Ask your child, “Why were Jesus’ friends surprised?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

## Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic

faith.

**1. Easter Surprise!** Turn to the drawing in the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

**2. The Empty Tomb.** Cut the paper plate in half. On one side, help your child cut out an arc-shaped opening in the middle of the straight side of one of the halves. Help him or her glue the two halves together, with the serving sides of the plate facing each other. Crumple the piece of paper and place it near the opening of the tomb. Have your child draw, color, and cut out an angel, and glue the angel above the opening of the tomb. Together, talk about the angel’s announcement who went to visit Jesus tomb but found it empty because he had risen from the dead.

**3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Thomas the Apostle.** Show your child the picture of Saint Thomas on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint Thomas to your child (see page 3).

Ask your child, “Have you ever heard news that was hard to believe? What made you believe it?”

Have your child write and draw about Saint Thomas the Apostle using the Lesson 24 Activity Master.

## Sending

**Pray with your child.** Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child:

*“Jesus Christ is risen. Alleluia! Amen!”*

### Saint Thomas the Apostle

#### A Doubter Believes

When Jesus chose his Apostles to help people understand his message, he asked his friend Thomas to join him. Thomas the Apostle traveled many places with Jesus, and watched him perform many miracles. But after Jesus died and his friends told Thomas that Jesus had risen from the dead, Thomas thought the news was too good to be true.

He said he could not believe that this story was true until he had a chance to touch Jesus himself. He touched the place where Jesus' wrists had been held to the cross. There were marks there, like scars. There were also other marks on Jesus' side. These marks proved that the man

standing next to Thomas was Jesus.

Thomas knew he was very lucky to see Jesus again. He shared this news with other people. He told them that Jesus is divine, which means Jesus is a part of God.

As Thomas grew older, he traveled many places to share this Good News. But he was afraid to travel to parts of the world we now call the Middle East and India. He did not know if people would want to hear what he had to say, but he went anyway. When Thomas arrived, he helped many people learn about Jesus. He even built churches in places where there had never been any.

**DRAW**



**Saint  
Thomas the  
Apostle,  
pray for us!**