



## Celebrating Easter

### Engage: Page 147

- ▶ Display an Easter lily or a look at a picture of one. **Ask:** *Have you ever seen a lily like this at Mass?* **Say:** *On Easter, Jesus Christ rose from the dead, giving all of us new life. The lilies we see at Easter time are a symbol of our new life with God.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text. **Ask:** *When does the Easter season begin? (at the Easter Vigil)* **Say:** *The Easter Vigil is the Mass that begins the Easter season with a celebration of light. In this session we'll learn more about Easter, the time of year when we rejoice knowing that Jesus is with us always.*
- ▶ Together find the date of Easter on a calendar and mark off the next 50 days to identify the season. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Page 148

- ▶ **Ask:** *Why is Easter a special time? (because Jesus rose from the dead)* **Say:** *The snow melts, trees begin to bud, and baby animals are born in the springtime. Springtime is also when we celebrate Easter. Just as there is new life in God's creation, we celebrate the new life we share with Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Celebrate During Easter, stopping before the activity directions. **Say:** *Easter is a time to rejoice and remember that Jesus died for each one of us. We celebrate Jesus' Resurrection on Easter and every Sunday of the year.*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions. Review the color key, making sure your child understands which number goes with which color. Then color one piece of the window together. Invite your child to complete the activity. Together read the hidden word.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *God gives us peace. How can you share peace with others? (by helping a friend, being kind, obeying parents)*

### Reflect: Page 149

- ▶ **Ask:** *Have you heard the word Alleluia before? Where have you heard it? The word Alleluia means "praise the Lord." We sing Alleluia to praise God and to rejoice in the new life Jesus has given us.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Easter. Sing aloud the Alleluia melody used in your parish. **Ask:** *How does this song make you feel?*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. Discuss the symbols of Easter. Invite your child to complete the Easter lily activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *The White House has had this tradition since 1878. The event now involves thousands of families.*



### Art Exploration: Page 237

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows the risen Jesus Christ and the women who went to the tomb on Easter morning.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how it makes him or her feel.
- ▶ **Say:** *Easter is a time to celebrate how Jesus saves us all.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 237. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs of Celebrating Easter. **Ask:** *What do we celebrate on Easter Sunday? (Jesus' rising from the dead) What is one of the ways that we celebrate? (singing and praying Alleluia)*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions and allow time for your child to complete the picture. **Say:** *We can meet Jesus when we are with our families, at Mass, or anywhere.*
- ▶ Have your child trace his or her hand on white construction paper. Show your child how to make a lily. Cut out the tracings and wrap the fingers around a pencil to curl them slightly. Cut a yellow craft stem into three equal pieces and twist together to form the stamen, then twist the stamen onto a green craft stem. Wrap the paper hand around the craft stem until the thumb touches the pinky finger. Glue and tie a ribbon around the base of the flower.

### Respond: Page 150

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways to give of himself or herself to help others.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.