



## Celebrating Easter

### Engage: Page 147

- ▶ Sing a simple Alleluia together. **Ask:** *What other joyful symbols do we see around us at Easter? (colorful eggs, lilies, Easter baskets)*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text. **Say:** *In this session we will learn about Easter, the time of year when we rejoice that Jesus is risen!*
- ▶ Together find Easter on a calendar. Invite your child to count 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Page 148

- ▶ **Ask:** *What is the most joyful time you remember? What made this occasion so joyous? (being with family and friends, going to a special place, having fun)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Reflect During Easter. **Say:** *The gift of eternal life gives us hope and faith to know that when we die, we will live with Jesus forever.*
- ▶ Read aloud Eternal Life in Heaven. Invite your child to complete the picture and share it with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *It is hard when someone we love dies. We miss the person very much. Ask: How does it make you feel knowing that, because of Jesus, those we love are loved by God who wants them to live with him forever? Discuss your child's response.*

### Reflect: Page 149

- ▶ Discuss how the joy of Easter is a small taste of the joy of Heaven. **Say:** *When we go to Mass during the Easter season, we sing joyful songs to express our joy that Jesus is risen from the dead.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Easter. Compare a Sunday Mass to Easter Sunday. Ask your child to tell what he or she sees and hears at each Mass.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph of What We Experience. **Say:** *The color white reminds us of Jesus' new life. When we are baptized, we wear a white garment to symbolize our new life. Have your child read aloud the activity directions and complete the Resurrection symbol.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. **Ask:** *How does Jesus come close to us? (in the sacraments) Say: Remember that the sacraments are about love, belonging, forgiveness, and friendship—all special things that help us be the people Jesus wants us to be.*



### Art Exploration: Page 259

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows a bouquet of lilies.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the lilies symbolize.
- ▶ **Say:** *White lilies in your home or church at Easter remind us of the risen Jesus.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 259. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the questions.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Celebrate Easter. **Ask:** *Why do you think spring is the perfect season to celebrate Easter?* (There is new life in nature just as Jesus rose to new life.)
- ▶ Read aloud Alleluia and allow time for your child to write a prayer.
- ▶ Invite your child to think about what happened on Easter morning. **Say:** *Imagine coming face-to-face with the risen Jesus. What do you say to Jesus? What does Jesus say to you? How does being with Jesus make you feel?* Invite your child to spend a few moments speaking heart-to-heart with the risen Jesus Christ. Close by singing together a simple Alleluia.

### Respond: Page 150

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways to spread joy to those he or she meets today.
- ▶ 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.