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## Looking Ahead

In this chapter, the Holy Spirit will help you to ▶



**EXPLORE** how two people helped Jesus before he was crucified.



**DISCOVER** the meaning of the Paschal Mystery.



**DECIDE** to live as a person of hope.

# Jesus Is Risen!

**?** When things are not going so well, what do you do?

This Bible verse helps you know what to do.

*May your kindness, LORD, be upon us;  
we have put our hope in you.*

PSALM 33:22

**?** Why can we place our hope in God?



## Disciple Power

### Hope

When we hope, we place our trust in God. We know that God always keeps his Word. God always keeps his promises.


## The Church Follows Jesus

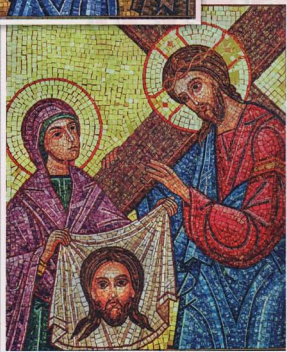
# Veronica and Simon

Do you remember the story of Jesus carrying his Cross? The story is retold prayerfully in the Stations of the Cross. Look for the Stations of the Cross in your parish Church. Here is part of that story.

As Jesus walked up the hilly streets of Jerusalem, he stumbled and fell to the ground three times. There was a man named Simon in the crowd who saw Jesus fall. He reached down, picked up the heavy Cross, and helped Jesus carry it. Simon was from Cyrene, a northern city in Africa. He had come to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

Veronica and other women disciples of Jesus were there. As Jesus walked by, Veronica offered Jesus a cloth to wipe the sweat and blood from his face. Jesus saw that she and the other women were worried about him. He told the women not to worry. Jesus' words to the women gave them hope. We remember Simon and Veronica for their acts of kindness to Jesus.

 How could you have helped Jesus on his way to the Cross?



## The Stations of the Cross

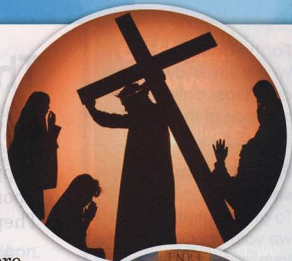
Three hundred years after Jesus lived, the mother of the Emperor became a Christian. Helena and other Christians went to Jerusalem to find the holy places where Jesus died and was buried. They walked through the narrow, rocky streets up to the hill of Calvary. They marked holy places, or stations, along the way where they stopped to pray. These places became the Stations of the Cross.

Many Christians who could not travel to Jerusalem marked stations on their church walls. Walking along and praying the Stations of the Cross became a popular devotion.

Today, especially during Lent, many Catholics gather to pray the Stations of the Cross. They remember Jesus' great love for us.

**?** Why do the Stations of the Cross help us remember Jesus' love for us?

Constantine holding the cross and St. Helena, c 1459–1517



### Activity

Look on page 373 in your book and read the Stations of the Cross. With your classmates, act out the Fifth and Sixth Stations of the Cross. First, think about these questions:

- What words might Simon say to Jesus?
- How might Jesus answer?
- What words might Veronica say to Jesus?
- How might Jesus answer her?

### Faith Focus

Why is Jesus' dying on a cross called "the sacrifice of the Cross?"

### Faith Vocabulary

**sacrifice**

To give something that we value to God out of love.

# The Paschal Mystery

Jesus' last meal with his disciples was the Passover meal. We call this meal the Last Supper. During the meal, Jesus told the Apostles that one of them would betray him. They all said, "Not I, Lord."

After the meal ended, Jesus and the Apostles went to a garden on a hillside near Jerusalem to pray. There Judas, one of the Apostles, betrayed Jesus. Judas brought the leaders of the Jewish community and Temple guards to the garden. Judas kissed Jesus. This signaled the guards to arrest Jesus.

The leaders took Jesus to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. Pilate questioned Jesus but could not find Jesus guilty of any crime. But Pilate ordered that Jesus be put to death on a cross because the crowds demanded it.

**?** Why do you think Jesus was betrayed?

Night Prayer, Jesus praying in the garden

## Jesus Dies on the Cross

The soldiers mocked Jesus. They placed a crown of thorny branches on his head. After the soldiers beat him, they led Jesus out of Jerusalem to a place called Golgotha. There they nailed Jesus onto a cross.

*It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.*

*... Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit," and when he had said this he breathed his last.*

LUKE 23:44, 46

Jesus' Death on the Cross is called the Crucifixion. Jesus freely made a **sacrifice** of his life to save all people from their sin.

**?** Why do we call Jesus' dying on a cross "the sacrifice of the Cross"?

### Activity

Look at the picture of Jesus praying in the garden. Tell Jesus how you feel about his sacrifice. Write your prayer to Jesus.

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## Catholics Believe

### The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed passes on to us the faith of the Apostles. In the Apostles' Creed, we profess that Jesus descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into Heaven.





### Faith Focus

Why does the Paschal Mystery of Jesus give us hope?

### Faith Vocabulary

#### Paschal Mystery

The Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ is known as the Paschal Mystery.

## Jesus Rises to New Life

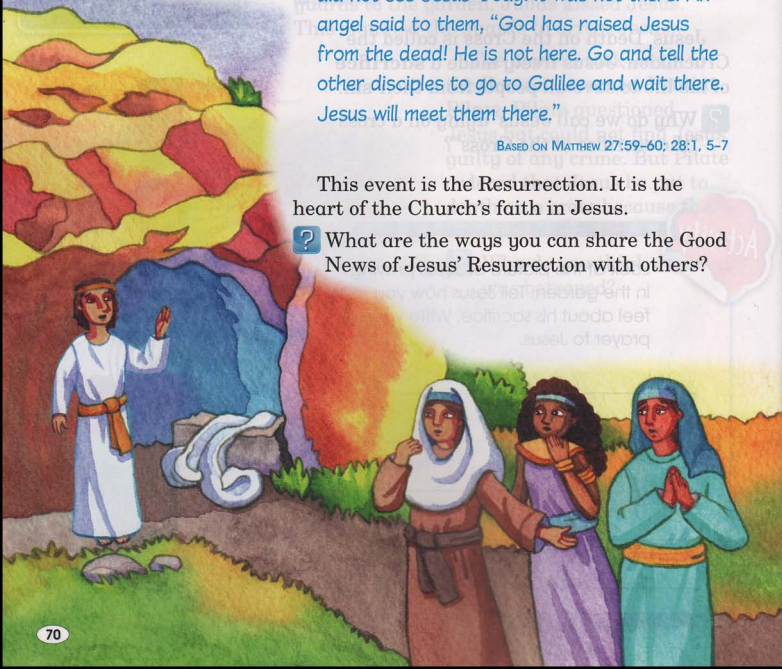
After Jesus died and was buried, his disciples thought they had lost him forever. Three days later, they heard some amazing news. They learned that Jesus was alive. He had risen from the dead. Here is what Matthew's Gospel describes:

*Three days later, some women who were disciples of Jesus went to the tomb where the body of Jesus was placed. When the women arrived at the tomb and looked into it, they did not see Jesus' body. It was not there. An angel said to them, "God has raised Jesus from the dead! He is not here. Go and tell the other disciples to go to Galilee and wait there. Jesus will meet them there."*

BASED ON MATTHEW 27:59-60; 28:1, 5-7

This event is the Resurrection. It is the heart of the Church's faith in Jesus.

**?** What are the ways you can share the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection with others?



## Jesus Returns to His Father

The Risen Jesus stayed with his disciples for forty days. During that time, he appeared to his disciples many times. When it was time for him to return to his Father in Heaven,


*[Jesus] led them out as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them. As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven.*

LUKE 24:50-51

We call Jesus' return to his Father the Ascension. The word *ascension* means "a rising up."

The suffering or Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus is called the **Paschal Mystery**. The Paschal Mystery is Jesus' passing over from death to a new and glorified life.

Because of the Paschal Mystery, we hope in the promise of everlasting life. We can hope that after we die, we will live forever with God, the angels, Mary, and all the Saints in happiness with God.

 How would you tell someone about Jesus' love for us?

### Activity

Think about someone you care about who has moved away. What would it be like to see the person again? Write two sentences telling this person why you are so glad to see him or her.

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## Faith-Filled People

### Saint Joseph of Arimathea

Joseph of Arimathea was a disciple of Jesus. After Jesus died, he asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Joseph helped place Jesus' body in a newly made tomb in the side of a mountain. It was a tomb Joseph had made for himself.

### Faith Focus

Why do we light the Paschal candle at Easter?

## The Paschal Candle

Each year the Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery of Jesus. On Holy Saturday evening, we celebrate the Easter Vigil. The church is in darkness. The priest blesses a new fire outdoors. He then uses the fire to light a special candle. It is the Paschal candle.

It is a symbol of Jesus, the Light of the world. It represents the light of Christ. From it, we light candles throughout the church. Our celebration of Easter has begun.

The Paschal candle tells a story. There are five red grains of incense on the candle. They remind us of the five wounds of Jesus—on his hands, his feet, and in his side. The Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. They remind us that Jesus is the beginning and the end of everything. The numbers for the year tell us that Jesus is with us now.

We light the Paschal candle and place it near the altar during the Easter season. The Church also lights the Paschal candle for Baptism because it brings people into the light of Christ.

**?** When you see the Paschal candle, what will it mean to you in your life?



At our Baptism, we were made sharers in the Paschal Mystery. We live in hope that Jesus' promises will come true. We hope to live forever in everlasting happiness with God.

I Follow  
**Jesus**

**Activity**

### A Banner of Hope

Design a banner with pictures or words that tell about the Paschal Mystery.

You are the savior of the world.

3. The Resurrection is the source of our hope.

4. Jesus' return to his Father in Heaven is called the Ascension.

We adore you, O Christ,  
and we bless you.

**Reflect**

**My  
Faith  
Choice**

This week, I will share my belief in the Paschal Mystery, by showing that I am a person of hope. I will

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**Pray, "Dear Jesus, I place my hope in you. I know that you are always with me. Amen."**

## Chapter Review

### ▶ TO HELP YOU REMEMBER

1. Jesus suffered and died on the Cross to save all people from their sins.
2. Three days after Jesus died and was buried, Jesus rose from the dead.
3. Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he ascended, or returned, to his Father in Heaven.

### Recall

Complete each sentence using the words below.

**Crucifixion Ascension tomb Paschal Mystery**

1. The Death of Jesus on the Cross is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The women disciples went to the \_\_\_\_\_ and learned that Jesus was not there.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus.
4. Jesus' return to his Father in Heaven is called the \_\_\_\_\_.

### Reflect

*In what special way could you show Jesus that you are grateful for his gift of the Paschal Mystery?*

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### Share

Read the Apostles' Creed with a partner. Find the words that say we hope to share in Jesus' Resurrection. Share with your class the words that you choose.

# Prayer of Adoration

*In a prayer of adoration, we acknowledge that God shares his life and love with us, now and forever.*

**Leader** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All** **Because by your Holy Cross you have saved the world.**

**Leader** Your sacrifice shows your great love for all people.

**All** **You are the Savior of the world.**

**Leader** Your Resurrection is the source of our hope.

**All** **You are the Savior of the world.**

**Leader** We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All** **Because by your Holy Cross you have saved the world. Amen.**



# With My Family

## This Week . . .

In **Chapter 5**, "Jesus Is Risen!" your child learned:

- ▶ The Paschal Mystery is the suffering or Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ. It is the source of our hope of everlasting life and happiness with God.
- ▶ At Baptism, we are made sharers in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus.
- ▶ Jesus suffered and died on the Cross and was raised from the dead to save all people from sin. Forty days after the Resurrection, Jesus returned, or ascended, to his Father.
- ▶ When we practice the virtue of hope, we place our trust in God.

For more about related teachings of the Church, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 599–655, and the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, pages 89–100.

## Sharing God's Word

**Read together** Luke 23:24–46 and Luke 24:1–12, Luke's accounts of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. Or read the adaptation of the story on pages 68–70. Talk about why Jesus' dying on the Cross is called the sacrifice of the Cross. What does this say about Jesus' love for your family?

## We Live as Disciples

**The Christian home** and family is a school of discipleship.

Choose one of the following activities to do as a family, or design a similar activity of your own.

- ▶ Next Sunday when you are at church for Mass, look for the Stations of the Cross. Visit the Stations one by one. Talk about the story each Station tells of Jesus' great love for us.

- ▶ Use a lighted candle as part of your family mealtime prayer. Talk about how the lighted candle is a sign that Jesus rose from the dead and is always with your family as he promised.

## Our Spiritual Journey

**The life journey** of a Christian is a journey of sacrifice and hope. We make sacrifices because of our love for God and for each other. These sacrifices profess our hope that Jesus' promise of a life of eternal happiness will be ours. We profess our faith that at the moment of death, life is changed, not ended. Pray the prayer on page 75 with your family this week.



For more ideas on ways your family can live as disciples of Jesus, visit

[BeMyDisciples.com](http://BeMyDisciples.com)