



**Daily** Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation  
**Weekly** worship song, reflection and small group questions

**THIS WEEK AND UPCOMING WEEKS:**

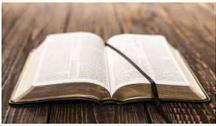
**Lectionary year B – Easter to Pentecost – 4 April to 29 May**

- Week 1:** Sunday 4 April **EASTER DAY- The resurrection of the Lord**
- Week 2: Sunday 11 April - See and believe
- Week 3: Sunday 18 April - Witnesses
- Week 4: Sunday 25 April - The Good Shepherd
- Week 5: Sunday 2 May - The vine and the branches
- Week 6: Sunday 9 May – Love each other
- May 13 – **ASCENSION DAY**
- Week 7: Sunday 16 May – Jesus prays for His disciples.
- Week 8: Sunday 23 May – PENTECOST – The work of the Holy Spirit
- Week 9: Sunday 30 May - Trinity Sunday – Jesus teaches Nicodemus

**WEEK 1: SUNDAY 4 APRIL**  
**EASTER DAY**  
 The resurrection of the Lord



DAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
Resurrection of the Lord <i>Easter Day</i>	*Acts 10:34-43	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	I Corinthians 15:1-11	John 20:1-18



John 20:1-18

New International Version

**The Empty Tomb 20** Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary

Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" <sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

**Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene** <sup>11</sup> Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. <sup>13</sup> They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." <sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

## WORSHIP

Have you seen Jesus my Lord?

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifDdXCn\\_Dlw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifDdXCn_Dlw)

## FOR REFLECTION:

### DAILY DEVOTIONS, REFLECTIONS AND SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS WRITTEN BY REV GAVIN

I wonder how many times we look for Jesus in the wrong place? I wonder how many times while reading the news, we pray prayers like 'God where are you? Please show yourself to me'. I wonder how many times we look up the latest cases of Coronavirus in SA or the world, and pray 'Lord where are you? Please show me'. I wonder how many times we have conversations with people around us about what is happening in the world today, hoping to see glimpses of Jesus? Perhaps, if we truly long to see Jesus, we should stop looking in the wrong places. When we look to these places hoping to see Jesus, it is like looking in the tomb on resurrection Sunday. It's not that Jesus is not in the midst of the greatest struggles and sufferings, but that if we long to find Jesus, we should look for the Jesus who has risen. The tomb cannot be ignored, but let the tomb remind us that it doesn't have the power to hold Jesus. Then we can turn and look for the risen Christ. Let us find Him in Scripture, song, silence and friendships. Let us actively search for the risen Christ, by not only looking at the tomb.



## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. Share a moment where you were tempted by the question, "Where are you Lord?"
2. What are the times and places where you and Jesus find each other? Where do you best recognize the voice of Jesus?
3. Jesus asks Mary to name her tears, "Why are you crying?" What would your current response to His question be?
4. What does the instruction from Jesus to not hold onto Him mean for you at present?
5. Jesus says, "Go and tell..." How are you responding to His words?





It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

**BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDRENS PASTOR**  
jennyb@bmc.org.za

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April

**Pray daily:** Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

**Scripture Reading:** John 20:1-18

Allow children/teens to read out loud for the family.

#### **Activity/Family Moment:**

Activity: an Easter egg hunt!

Hide Easter eggs around the garden or home. Make sure everyone has the same amount of eggs at the end.

If possible, make sure that each family member has **1 hollow chocolate egg each**. When you have finished your hunt come together as a family and take out the hollow chocolate egg. Everyone should unwrap their eggs together.

Parents say something like “this Easter egg has a lot of symbolism to it. We know that it’s chocolate and is going to taste yummy. What do you think is inside?” (Younger children might think it’s filled with chocolate). Tell everyone to take a big bite. Look it’s hollow or empty! This reminds us that on Easter day, the tomb where Jesus was laid to rest was empty. Why? Because he rose. He is alive!

For older children: If you have a marshmallow egg take a bite and show him different colours of the egg. Normally they look like a normal egg. This represents life. We are the white bit, and we need Jesus which is the yellow bit. We are protected by God and the Holy Spirit which is the chocolate covering.

## START YOUR DAY WITH *Devotionals Daily*

- **Monday**, April 5, 2021: [Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24](#); [Genesis 1:1-19](#); [1 Corinthians 15:35-49](#)  
**Memory Verse:** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever (Ps 118:1)  
**Prayer:** Father, thank you for a creation that you have declared as good. Help us in the blessing of ourselves and others with your conviction of our goodness. Amen.
- **Tuesday**, April 6, 2021: [Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24](#); [Genesis 1:20-2:4a](#); [1 Corinthians 15:50-58](#)  
**Memory Verse:** For what is mortal must be changed into what is immortal; what will die must be changed into what cannot die” (1 Cor 15:53)  
**Prayer:** Father, inspire us to grow into who you have created us to be. Inspire us to allow those we live with to become more fully who you mean them to be. Amen.
- **Wednesday**, April 7, 2021: [Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24](#); [Song of Solomon 3:1-11](#); [Mark 16:1-8](#)  
**Memory Verse:** Do not be alarmed. I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He is not in the tomb – he has been raised.” (Mark 16:6)  
**Prayer:** Father, may we hold those we love closely to ourselves now and always. Amen.
- **Thursday**, April 8, 2021: [Psalm 133](#); [Daniel 1:1-21](#); [Acts 2:42-47](#)  
**Memory Verse:** How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God’s people to live together in harmony! (Psalm 133:1)  
**Prayer:** Father, may we be found in those places which bring greater harmony within us, amongst us and through us. Amen.
- **Friday**, April 9, 2021: [Psalm 133](#); [Daniel 2:1-23](#); [Acts 4:23-31](#)  
**Memory Verse:** God is wise and powerful! Praise him for ever and ever. (Dan 2:20)  
**Prayer:** Father, we are forever reliant on your presence, wisdom and power. Praise be your name. Amen
- **Saturday**, April 10, 2021: [Psalm 133](#); [Daniel 2:24-49](#); [John 12:44-50](#)  
**Memory Verse:** “I have come into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in darkness.” (John 12:46)  
**Prayer:** Father, search my heart with your Light so that I may not remain in darkness. Amen.