

Jesus Christ: Paschal Mystery



Based on Chapter 8, "The Saving Death and Resurrection of Christ,"
(United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, pages 89-100)

I. **Lesson of Faith** (taken from pages 89-90)

The Prayer leader either reads to those gathered "Singing the Lord's Praises -- with a Challenge" or asks them to read silently.

The Prayer Leader then invites all to share briefly on the following:

In various Gospel passages, Jesus warned his disciples that suffering and death are part of his way to the Father's Kingdom.

How does Sister Thea Bowman's story of faith in suffering help you to understand this teaching of Jesus?

II. **From the Catechism** (taken from page 96)

Prayer leader invites private meditation on the following thoughts & questions:

The second and divine person of the Blessed Trinity, Jesus Christ, surpasses all human persons, even the holiest, because as head of all mankind, he is able to offer himself and take on the sins of all. (cf. CCC 616)

III. **Meditation** – 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Reader proclaims the Gospel and allows for a silent moment of meditation.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. After that he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one born abnormally, he appeared to me. The Word of the Lord.

After a moment of silence, the Reader then prays the Response.

IV. **Response** (based on Doctrinal Statements on page 98)

Our response is: *Jesus Christ will come in glory to judge the living and the dead.*

Jesus Christ died in accordance with the Scriptures (Response)

(1 Corinthians 15:3)

Jesus, the Suffering Servant, gave his life as ransom for all in loving obedience to the Father. (Response) (Isaiah 53:5)

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, became man and truly died for our sins. He was buried but His body underwent no corruption. (Response) (CCC 637)

In his human soul united to his divine person, he entered the realm of the dead and opened up the gates of heaven for the just who came before Him. (Response) (CCC 637)

Christ rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and will come again to gather the nations at the end of time. (Response)

V. For Discussion (based on page 98)

The Prayer Leader introduces the discussion questions to groups of two or three. Groups discuss for three to five minutes.

How would you help people come to faith in the Resurrection of Christ?
Why is it so central to your faith?

VI. Prayer – *Prayer Leader introduces:*

Together let us offer an Easter Sunday prayer from the Byzantine liturgy.

Now that we have seen the resurrection of Christ,
let us adore the all-holy Lord Jesus, the only Sinless One,
we bow in worship before your cross, O Christ,
and we praise and glorify your resurrection, for you are God,
and we have no other, and we magnify your name.
All you faithful, come: let us adore the holy resurrection of Christ,
For behold, through the cross joy has come to the world!
Let us always bless the Lord, let us sing his resurrection,
for by enduring for us the pain of the cross, he has crushed death by
his death. Amen.

