**Children’s liturgy – Easter Sunday (Year B)**

**Preparing the worship space**

Colour: white

Props: card, pens and pencils

**Song suggestions:** This is the day that the Lord has made (Celebration Hymnal for Everyone, 731); Now the green blade riseth (Celebration Hymnal for Everyone, 513).

**Welcome:** Today is Easter Sunday when we celebrate because Jesus is risen from the dead. We are filled with hope and joy and we look for new life.

**Opening prayer:** Living God, we are filled with joy as we celebrate the rising of your Son. Inspire us to make our world a better place for everyone as we look to the future with hope. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Acts 10:34, 37-43

**Psalm:** Psalm 117, 1-2, 16-17, 22-23 r 24

**Gospel acclamation:** *everyone stands and sings together.*

**Gospel:** John 20:1-9

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. She went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!”

Then Peter and the other disciple went to the tomb. The two of them were running, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and saw the linen wrappings, but he did not go in. Behind him came Simon Peter, and he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there and the cloth which had been round Jesus' head. It was not lying with the linen wrappings but was rolled up by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in; he saw and believed. (They still did not understand the scripture which said that he must rise from death.)

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below\*)*

**Gospel reflection:**

What do you remember from today’s reading?

Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb where Jesus’s body has been laid. But she sees that the stone, which blocked the entrance of the tomb, has been moved. What does she think has happened? How do you think this makes her feel?

She runs back to tell the disciples, and Peter and John run to the tomb to see what has happened. When they get there they see that the tomb is empty except for the cloths that had been wrapped around the body.

The disciples realise that Jesus is risen from the dead and they believe in him.

Jesus died; yet Jesus lives. This fills us with great hope. It reminds us to look for signs of new life and people doing good in the world, even when things are difficult. The risen Jesus is working with us to change things into justice, peace and love.

Where have you seen kindness and people working to make the world a better place?

Where can we see new life springing up in nature around us?

What hopes do you have for the world this Easter? How can you help make them happen?

**Intercessions:** *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or*

*you can use the suggestions below.*

Filled with hope, we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may be inspired to make the difficult decisions and changes that are needed so that all people can live life to the full. Lord hear us…

We pray for all members of our global family: that they may be filled with hope for the future and inspired to work together to make their dreams a reality. Lord hear us…

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that through our actions we may bring hope and joy to the people we know and to our brothers and sisters around the world. Lord hear us…

**Closing prayer:** Risen Lord, we give thanks for the new life that you have given us. Help us to live as you have shown us, with respect and love for all your people. Amen.

**Activity suggestions**

Share the accompanying activity sheet with the children.

Plant seeds with your group. Talk about how new life bursts out of a tiny seed, bringing new plants, and fruits and more seeds. Make links to the new life Jesus brings and how we can plant seeds of hope in our world.

Encourage the children to write their own Easter prayer.

Remind the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about in the liturgy. Invite them to think together over the next week about what they hope for the world and one thing that they will do to try to achieve that.

\*Gospel passage taken from:

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