

# ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 3

The Church

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**Our Sunday Visitor**

# The Paschal Mystery



## Let Us Pray

**Leader:** Loving God, help us to give of ourselves.

“Offer praise as your sacrifice to God;  
fulfill your vows to the Most High.”

**Psalm 50:14**

**All:** As we think about your great sacrifice on the Cross, Jesus, we cannot imagine how great your love is for us. Fill us with your love today. Amen.



## God's Word

Jesus was talking to the disciples at the Last Supper. He said, “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” **Based on John 15:12–13**

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### What Do You Wonder?

- Each time you go to Communion, is Jesus really offering his love to you?
- How can you love others as Jesus loves you?



# Being True to Our Promises

## What does it mean to make a sacrifice?

Jesus made a promise to his Father. A promise can be easy or difficult to keep. You may need to give something up to keep a promise. Read this story about keeping promises.

### Catholic Faith Words

**sacrifice** giving up something out of love for someone else or for the common good (the good of everyone). Jesus sacrificed his life for all people.



Circle what Lindsey promised.

## Lindsey's Promise

One day, Lindsey was faced with a difficult choice. She was having fun with her friend when suddenly she stopped and looked at her watch.

"It's late. I have to go," Lindsey said.

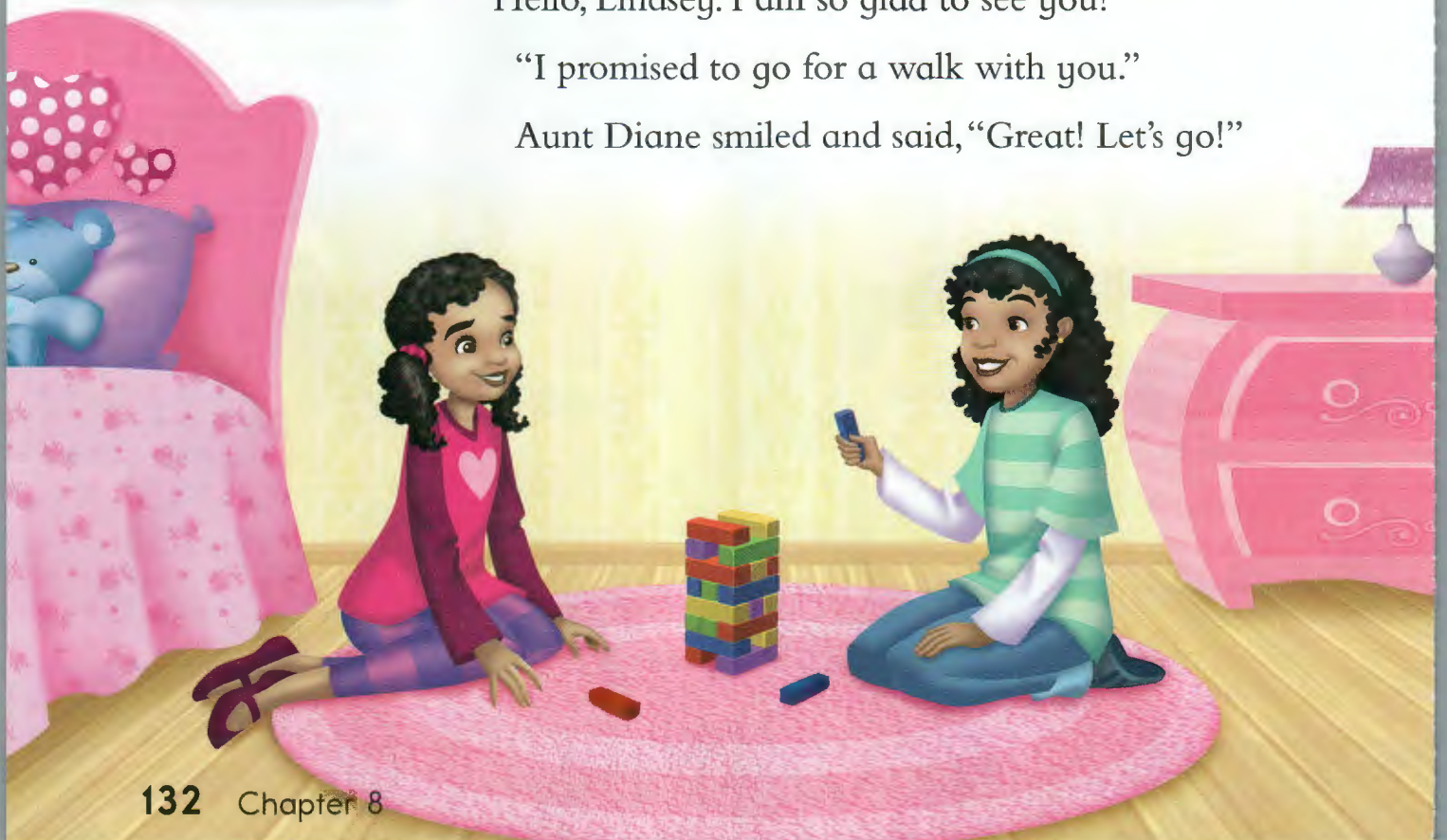
"Call and say you're playing," Sarah said.

"I made a promise. I have to go," Lindsey said.

At the care center, Aunt Diane smiled brightly. "Hello, Lindsey. I am so glad to see you!"

"I promised to go for a walk with you."

Aunt Diane smiled and said, "Great! Let's go!"



## Sacrifices Show Love

Lindsey gave up an afternoon with a friend because she made a promise. When you give up something or do something difficult out of love, it is called a **sacrifice**. It is not easy to make a sacrifice. It takes a lot of love and courage. You have to be unselfish when you make a sacrifice.

Jesus chose to make the greatest sacrifice of all. He did something that no one else could do. Jesus gave up his life so that people could be saved from the power of sin and everlasting death. He freely gave up his life so that all people could have new life with God forever.



The disciples mourn and pray at the foot of the Cross.

### Share Your Faith

**Think** When have you made a sacrifice for someone? How do sacrifices show love? How did this sacrifice make you feel?

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**Share** your answer with a partner.



# Jesus' Resurrection

## What does the Paschal Mystery mean?

Jesus' loving choice fulfilled God's plan to save his People. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, the Father raised Jesus from Death to new life. This is called the **Resurrection**. The Resurrection showed that God's power is stronger than death.

### Catholic Faith Words

**Resurrection** the event of Jesus being raised from Death to new life by God the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit



Underline what Mary Magdalene saw when she went to Jesus' tomb.



## God's Word

### The Appearance to Mary Magdalene

Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb, but she found it empty. She thought that people had taken Jesus' body away. Then angels spoke to her, and she heard someone call her name. It was Jesus!

When Mary first saw Jesus, she didn't recognize him. Thinking that he was the gardener, she asked where Jesus was. He said, "Mary!"

Then she knew it was Jesus. He told her to tell his friends that he was returning to the Father. Mary went to the disciples and said, "I have seen the Lord," and repeated what he told her.

Based on John 20:11-18

## Christ's Saving Work

Jesus' suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension are called the **Paschal Mystery**. The word Paschal comes from a word that means "passover." Jesus died to save people from their sins at the time of year when members of the Jewish faith celebrate Passover. Jesus was raised from the dead and at the **Ascension** returned to Heaven to be with God the Father forever. He "passed over" from death to life so that all people can have new life with God in Heaven.

The Mass and the other Sacraments are ways that the Church lives out this great mystery. When you take part in the celebration of the Eucharist, you share in the saving power of Christ's Paschal Mystery.

➔ **How is the news of Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension shared today?**

### Connect Your Faith

**Draw a Crucifix** Draw a picture of a crucifix and decorate it using words and images. Look at it during difficult times, and remember Jesus' saving actions.



### Catholic Faith Words

**Ascension** when the Risen Jesus was taken up to Heaven to be with God the Father forever

**Paschal Mystery** the mystery of Jesus' suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension

# Our Catholic Life

## How can your sacrifices help others?



Write down some other ways you can share your time, talent, and treasure.

When you make a sacrifice, you are offering a special gift. Most gifts involve time, talent, or treasure. In addition to helping others, gifts of sacrifice can help you feel good about yourself.

## Gifts of Sacrifice



### Gifts of time include paying attention to others.

- You give time when you play with a younger sister, brother, or neighbor.
- You can also visit elderly people in retirement centers.

• \_\_\_\_\_

### A gift of treasure involves giving money to a worthy cause.

- You can give money to the Church or to other organizations that help people.
- You could donate some of your birthday money to the poor.

• \_\_\_\_\_



### Gifts of talent include using your special abilities.

- You can give up some Saturday morning TV shows for choir practice.
- You could make cards for the elderly at a local senior center.

• \_\_\_\_\_

➔ Why do you think gifts of sacrifice can help you become a better person?

# People of Faith

**Saint Mary Magdalene, first century A.D.**

July 22

Saint Mary Magdalene was sick. We don't know what was wrong, but Jesus made her well. She then became one of his followers. Mary was with Jesus as he preached about God's love. She stood at the foot of his Cross as he suffered and died. She went to Jesus' tomb on the first Easter morning and was surprised that the tomb was empty. Jesus appeared to her and told her to tell others that he had risen from the dead. Mary did as she was told. Many people believed in Jesus' Resurrection because of her.



**Discuss:** Who was the first one to tell you about Jesus' Resurrection?



Learn more about Saint Mary Magdalene at [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com)

## Live Your Faith

**Find Your Treasure** On the coins labeled time, talent, and treasure, write a sacrifice that you plan to make for someone.

Time

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Talent

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Treasure

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 Let Us Pray

## Act of Faith

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**All:** O my God,  
I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine  
Persons,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;  
I believe that your divine Son became man,  
and died for our sins,  
and that he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic  
Church teaches,  
because you have revealed them,  
who can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

 Sing "We Proclaim Your Death, O Lord"  
We proclaim your death, O Lord.  
Jesus died for us.  
We profess your Resurrection.  
Jesus lives with us.  
Until you come again,  
we wait in joyful hope!

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## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

The chapter explains that Jesus sacrificed his life to save us and examines how the Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery in each of the Seven Sacraments.

### God's Word



Read **John 15:12-13** to learn more about loving one another as Jesus loves us.

### Catholics Believe

- Jesus died and rose to new life to save all people from the power of sin.
- The Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery in all of the Seven Sacraments.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #613, 1085 at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).

### People of Faith

This week, your child met Saint Mary Magdalene, who was one of the first people to tell others about Jesus' Resurrection.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

**How They Understand Jesus' Sacrifice** It's difficult for third-graders to understand why it was necessary for Jesus to die. The suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ was in atonement for the sins of all mankind. The concept of atonement is still foreign to children this age, and can be difficult for many adults as well. For now, it is helpful for your child to understand that Jesus loved us so much that he was willing to die to show his love.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>

What does it mean that we daily die and rise with Christ?

Life requires many "dyings." We die to being an adolescent, we die to being responsible only for ourselves, and we die to relationships that fail. Jesus' Death and Resurrection help us to understand that in every death, God can bring new life. "Faith in the resurrection of our bodies is inseparable from our faith in the Resurrection of Christ's body from the dead. He rose as our head, as the pattern of our rising, and as the life-giving source of our new life" (*USCCA, 155*).

## LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child how making a sacrifice for someone else can help he or she feel good about themselves.
- Talk about a time you have made a sacrifice for someone else. How did that sacrifice show love?

## LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Mary, help us remember to ask Jesus for help when we are sick. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

# Chapter 8 Review

**A Work with Words** Complete the following paragraph with the correct words from the Word Bank.

1–5. Jesus made a \_\_\_\_\_ to his Father. He gave up his life so that people could be \_\_\_\_\_ from sin and everlasting \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ showed people that God's power is \_\_\_\_\_ than death.

## Word Bank

Resurrection

death

stronger

saved

promise

**B Check Understanding** Fill in the blank with the correct answer.

6. What is it called when you give up something out of love or for a greater good? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the word that means the Father raised the Risen Jesus to new life by the work of the Holy Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Who told the disciples the news that Jesus was returning to the Father? \_\_\_\_\_
9. The mystery of Jesus' suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
10. You share in the Paschal Mystery when you participate in the \_\_\_\_\_.

