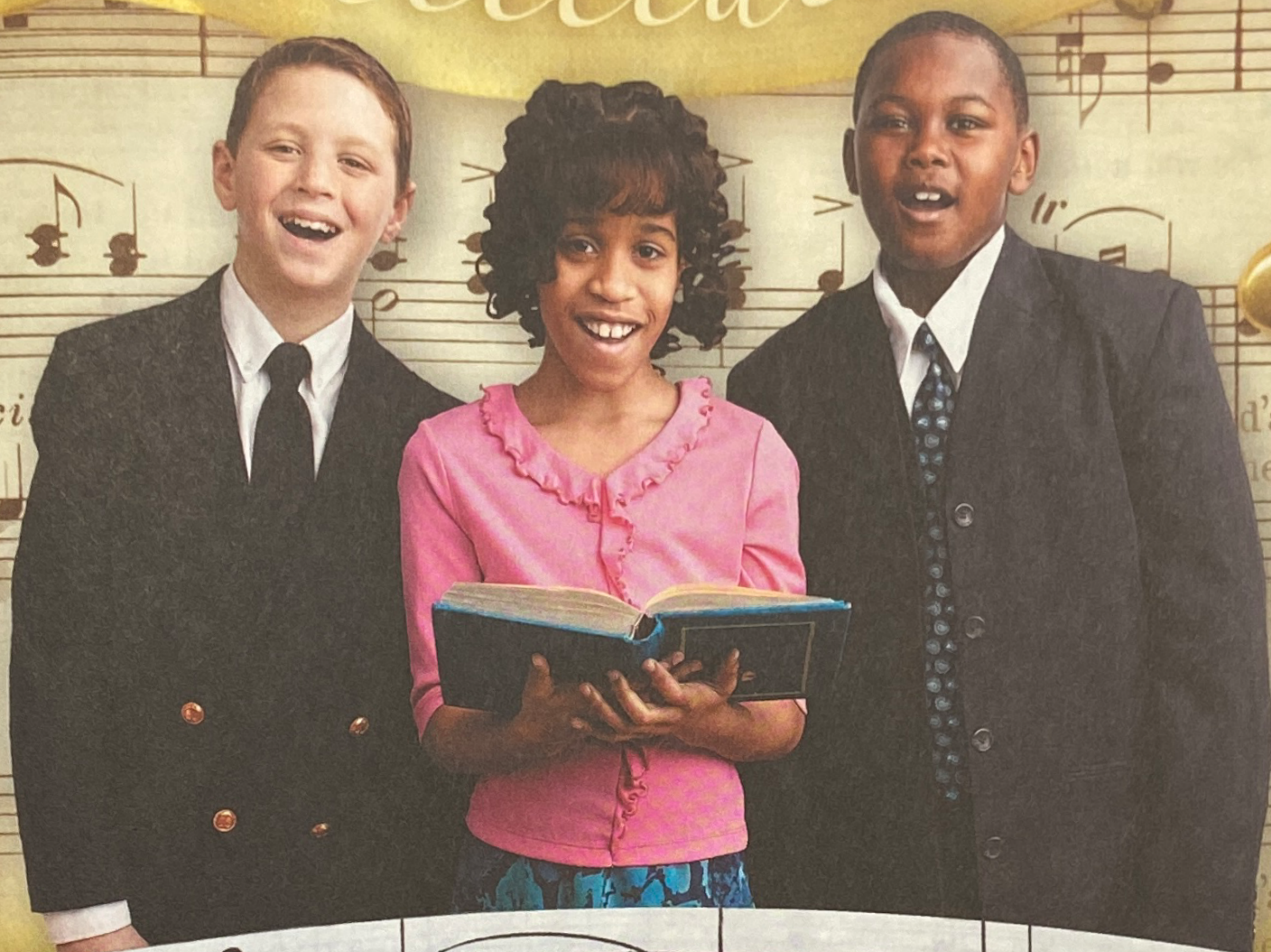


alleluia



Let us shout out our joy and happiness,
and give glory to God, the Lord of all,
because he is our King, alleluia.



This liturgical chapter celebrates the entire
Easter season.

EASTER

The Easter season is a special time
to rejoice over the new life we have in Christ.

WE GATHER

✚ Lord, we praise you with our hearts
and voices.

What are some exciting or joyful school
or neighborhood events that you have been
a part of? What make these times so happy
and full of fun?

WE BELIEVE

On Easter Sunday the celebration of the
Mass is very festive. It is a joyous time with
bells ringing and flowers filling the church.
There are other signs of new life, too. During
this Mass we listen to the Gospel reading
about Jesus' Resurrection.

📖 Mark 16:1-10

Narrator: "When the sabbath was over,
Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of
James, and Salome bought spices so that
they might go and anoint him. Very early
when the sun had risen, on the first day of
the week, they came to the tomb. They
were saying to one another,

Women: 'Who will roll back the stone for
us from the entrance of the tomb?'"


Narrator: "When they looked up, they saw
that the stone had been rolled back; it was
very large. On entering the tomb they saw a
young man sitting on the right side, clothed
in a white robe, and they were utterly
amazed." He said to them,

Young man: "Do not be amazed! You seek
Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has
been raised; he is not here. Behold, the
place where they laid him. But go and tell
his disciples and Peter, 'He is going before
you to Galilee; there you will see him, as
he told you.'" (Mark 16:1-7)

Narrator: The women ran from the tomb
not knowing what to think. Later that
morning the risen Christ appeared to Mary
Magdalene, and she went and told his other
disciples. But they did not believe. Christ
appeared to two other disciples, and still
the others did not believe. But when the
risen Christ appeared to the Apostles, the
Apostles and disciples finally believed.





 In groups talk about why the other disciples might not have believed. Imagine you are among the first disciples to see the empty tomb or to see the risen Jesus. What might you be thinking? What might you be feeling? Who or what helps you to believe in the risen Christ?



We celebrate Christ's Resurrection every Sunday. The risen Christ is among us, and there are signs of new life all around us. However, the Easter season is a special time to remember and rejoice over the new life we have in Christ.

The deep purple used during Lent is changed to a brilliant white and joyous gold. White and gold are the colors of light, life, and Resurrection. Gold is the most precious metal there is, and we often use it as a sign of God and Heaven.

We sing, "Alleluia!" The word *alleluia* means "Praise God!" All during Lent, we did not sing or say alleluia in the liturgy.

Now during the Easter season, we say it and sing it over and over again! Jesus is risen, Alleluia! He has conquered death forever, Alleluia!

In the Easter season the first reading during the Mass is from the Acts of the Apostles, not the Old Testament. The Acts of the Apostles records the life of the Apostles after Jesus' Ascension into Heaven. It tells of the beginning of the Church. During this reading we hear of the wonderful way the first Christians spread the Good News of Christ and formed a community of faith.





The season of Easter lasts fifty days and ends on Pentecost Sunday. As in all the seasons of the year, we remember Mary and the saints for their belief in Christ and witness to his Good News. We enter into the month of May sometime during the Easter season.

Honoring Mary In many areas of the world, May is a special month of devotion to Mary. We honor and celebrate Mary because she is the Mother of the Son of God. Her trust and faith in God teach us how to be disciples, and we ask her to pray with and for us. There are many popular devotions to Mary. For many people the month of May has been a time for the crowning of Our Lady's statue. We call Mary Queen because her Son Jesus is the King of Kings whose Kingdom will never end. In fact, all followers of Christ are promised the "crown of glory" (1 Peter 5:4) and "the crown of life" (James 1:12).

In a May crowning, a statue of Mary may be crowned with a wreath of flowers or a simple crown. The May crowning ceremony is often celebrated in grottos, outdoor shrines, or parish gardens. It does not take place during the liturgy. Many times there is a procession accompanied by singing, Scripture readings, and requests for Mary to pray for us. We rejoice with her that one day we, too, may receive the "crown of glory."

WE RESPOND

How can you follow the examples of Mary and the saints? What will you do this week to give witness to Jesus?



We Respond in Prayer

Leader: We praise you, Lord, in this daughter of Israel,

All: Mary, your faithful one and our mother.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, ‘Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?’” (Luke 1:41–43)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Leader: Pray for us, holy Mother of God.

All: That we may become worthy of the promises of Christ.

Holy Mary

Refrain

Holy Mary, we come to honor you.

We crown you this day,
the queen of our hearts.

Mary, you are filled with the Lord’s own grace.

Salve Regina, Holy Mary.

We crown you this day
the mother of our Savior.

You show us the way
to Jesus Christ our Lord. (Refrain)

We crown you this day
the virgin blest and chosen.

The gift of your life
has shown us how to love. (Refrain)