

Sunday Message

Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection

THE WORD

Year B • 31 March 2024 • Psalter Week 1

THE EMPTY TOMB

JOHN 20: 1-9



The Gospel reading tells the story of the first Easter. A mixture of excitement and confusion as Mary Magdalene discovers the empty tomb and then runs to break the news to Simon Peter and the disciple who Jesus loved.

Those closest to Jesus receive the news first and then slowly, news of this great event spreads throughout the towns and countryside. We read St. Paul's letter in the second reading encouraging us to look higher, all the way to the top, to Christ. Christians are to think of what's above, not what's on earth. We're to live where Christ is – as a parish, as a community. We're a risen community, we're an Easter people and through our baptism, we share in Christ's new life and risen life of the first Easter. ■

LEARN

The resurrection of Jesus Christ represents the ultimate triumph over death and sin. Christians learn that death is not the end but a transition to a new and everlasting existence.

DO

Do one thing this week that celebrates the joy of Easter. Don't let this important event pass without acknowledging its significance in our lives.

SAY

"I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures."
(1 Cor 15: 3-4)



REFLECT

I think we all have experience of happy people in our lives. They're the ones who are involved in the world, indeed you might even describe yourself as a happy person! Such a person enjoys festivals of life – like birthdays, first communions, confirmations, graduations, and marriages. An involved person sees problems like poverty, racism and hunger and tries to solve them. But occasionally such a person is tempted to lose hope – perhaps feeling abandoned by others in the struggle for justice and misunderstood by even the closest friends and relatives. Suffering and violence continue to grip our world and witnessing the torment of people due to war and violence breaks our hearts. The challenge of Easter today is to understand human suffering in the light of Jesus' resurrection. We must take God's part in protecting against the violence and the suffering that are accepted so readily as inevitable.

Christians see help against despair in the celebration of Easter. The resurrection of our Lord is the central mystery of our faith, our chief festival of life. It gives hope to those who've lost it. Theologian and scholar Harold A. Buetow describes it as the day on which Jesus snatched victory from the jaws of defeat, vindicated his life and teachings and confirmed our faith. It's the most exciting event in world history. It isn't only an event that happened once in the past: it's the power of God that's seen constantly in people's lives. The resurrection is a sign of God's loving interest in our world. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia.
You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia.
Too wonderful for me, this knowledge,
alleluia, alleluia.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who on this day,
through your Only Begotten Son,
have conquered death
and unlocked for us the path to eternity,
grant, we pray, that we who keep
the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection
may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit,
rise up in the light of life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 10:34, 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household:
'You must have heard about the recent
happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth
and how he began in Galilee, after John had
been preaching baptism. God had anointed
him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and
because God was with him, Jesus went about
doing good and curing all who had fallen into
the power of the devil.

Now I, and those with me, can witness to
everything he did throughout the countryside
of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to
the fact that they killed him by hanging him on
a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised
him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by
the whole people but only by certain witnesses
God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those
witnesses - we have eaten and drunk with him
after his resurrection from the dead - and he
has ordered us to proclaim this to his people
and to tell them that God has appointed him to
judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that
all the prophets bear this witness: that all who
believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven
through his name.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 117(118):1-2,16-17,22-23

Response:

This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice
and are glad.

Or Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

SECOND READING Colossians 3:1-4 (or 1 Cor 5:6-8)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Colossians.

Since you have been brought back to true life
with Christ, you must look for the things that are
in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right
hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things,
not on the things that are on the earth, because
you have died, and now the life you have is
hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is
revealed - and he is your life - you too will be
revealed in all your glory with him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice
and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and
Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.

Death with life contended; combat strangely
ended!

Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.

Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the
way.

The tomb the Living did enclose;

I saw Christ's glory as he rose!

The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.

Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you
into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.
Victorious king, thy mercy show!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, our passover, has
been sacrificed;
let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 20:1-9 (or Mark 16: 1-7)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

It was very early on the first day of the week and
still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the
tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved
away from the tomb and came running to Simon
Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus
loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the
tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they
have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go
to the tomb. They ran together, but the other
disciple, running faster than Peter, reached
the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen
cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in.

Simon Peter who was following now came up,
went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths
on the ground, and also the cloth that had
been over his head; this was not with the linen
cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then
the other disciple who had reached the tomb
first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till
this moment they had failed to understand the
teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the
dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Dear brethren (brothers and sisters), through
the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with
Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him
in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten
observance is concluded, let us renew the
promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once
renounced Satan and his works and promised
to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And
so I ask you:

Priest: Do you renounce Satan?

All: I do.

Priest: And all his works?

All: I do.

Priest: And all his empty show?

All: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in God, the Father
almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

All: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only
Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered death and was buried, rose again from
the dead and is seated at the right hand of the
Father?

All: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the
holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the
body, and life everlasting?

All: I do.

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ,
who has given us new birth by water and the
Holy Spirit
and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins,
keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord,
for eternal life.

Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Exultant with paschal gladness, O Lord,
we offer the sacrifice
by which your Church
is wondrously reborn and nourished.

Through Christ our Lord

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed,
alleluia;

therefore let us keep the feast with the
unleavened bread
of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look upon your Church, O God,
with unfailing love and favour,
so that, renewed by the paschal mysteries,
she may come to the glory of the resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

