



RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

EASTER DAY

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

OR Jeremiah 31:1-6, following

A reading from Acts.

³⁴Peter began to speak to 「Cornelius and his household」:

“I truly understand that God shows no partiality,

³⁵but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him.

³⁶“You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ— he is Lord of all.

³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:

³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,

⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

⁴²“He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.

⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Word of God, word of life. or The word of the Lord.

FIRST READING (Acts)

In this marvelous text, Peter summarizes the whole of salvation history in ten verses! Bring to it a profound sense of joy and wonder, and help the hearer to revel in the love of God as we have known it in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

OR: Jeremiah 31:1-6

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹At that time, says the LORD,
I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

²Thus says the LORD:

The people who survived the sword
found grace in the wilderness;

when Israel sought for rest,

³the LORD appeared to him from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

⁴Again I will build you, and you shall be built,

O virgin Israel!

Again you shall adorn yourself with your tambourines

and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.

⁵Again you shall plant vineyards

on the mountains of Samaria;

the planters shall plant

and shall enjoy the fruit.

⁶For there shall be a day when sentinels will call

in the hill country of Ephraim:

“Come, let us go up to Zion,

to the LORD our God.”

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

FIRST READING (Jeremiah) *Jeremiah = jehr-eh-MY-uh Samaria = suh-MEHR-ee-uh*
Ephraim = EF-rum

In a moving declaration of an everlasting love, God promises Israel a glorious future. For many it will be the first scripture of Easter. Consider a solid pause between verses 1 and 2 to set up the poetic declaration that follows. Bring all the strength and joy one can muster to this hope-full word.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4

OR Acts 10:34-43, following

A reading from Colossians.

¹If you have been raised with Christ,
seek the things that are above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
²Set your minds on the things that are above,
not on the things that are on earth,
³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed,
then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Word of God, word of life. or The word of the Lord.

OR: Acts 10:34-43

A reading from Acts.

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「I truly understand that God shows no partiality,
³⁵but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness
is acceptable to him.

³⁶“You know the message he sent to the people of Israel,
preaching peace by Jesus Christ—
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³⁷That message spread throughout Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:
³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power;
how he went about doing good
and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,
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³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem.
They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,
⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day
and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people
but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses
and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

SECOND READING (Colossians) *Colossians = kuh-LOSH-unz*

The text is only three sentences. Allow the assembly time to appropriate each implication of the resurrection. Read at a very deliberate pace.

SECOND READING (Acts)

In this marvelous text, Peter summarizes the whole of salvation history in ten verses! Bring to it a profound sense of joy and wonder, and help the hearer to revel in the love of God as we have known it in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

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Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10

OR John 20:1-18, following

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

¹After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

²And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

³His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow.

⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

⁵But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.

⁶He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said.

Come, see the place where he lay.

⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples,

‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.”

⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples.

⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!”

And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL (Matthew)

This telling of the resurrection is rife with dramatic detail. The rolling tombstone touches off an earthquake; guards are dropping like dead men; and the angel’s message (more detailed than any in scripture) ends with the delightfully redundant conclusion: “This is my message for you.” Take time to hear the story before attempting to voice it. Take time to consider Jesus’ one-word “Greetings!” to the Marys in verse 9a. The delight in this reading is in the details.

OR: John 20:1-18

The holy gospel according to John.

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark,
Mary Magdalene came to the tomb
and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple,
the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them,
“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,
and we do not know where they have laid him.”

³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.

⁴The two were running together,
but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there,
but he did not go in.

⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb.
He saw the linen wrappings lying there,

⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’s head,
not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first,
also went in, and he saw and believed,

⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture,
that he must rise from the dead.

¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb.
As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb,

¹²and she saw two angels in white
sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying,
one at the head and the other at the feet.

¹³They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”
She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord,
and I do not know where they have laid him.”

¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there,
but she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵Jesus said to her,
“Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?”

Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him,

“Sir, if you have carried him away,
tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

GOSPEL (John)

Allow the verbs to set the pace for this gospel. Verses 1-10, describing various races to the tomb, will be animated by a more rapid delivery than usual. This will contrast dramatically with a more considered pace as Mary stands weeping outside the tomb. In all this, bring the sounds of wonder and joy to the discovery of the empty tomb. To further enrich the reading, give some careful consideration to the sound of our Lord’s direct address to Mary.

She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher).

¹⁷Jesus said to her,

“Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father.

But go to my brothers and say to them,

‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father,

to my God and your God.’”

¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,

“I have seen the Lord,”

and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The gospel of the Lord.