

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

Ac 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.

RESP. PSALM

Psalm 117

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

Col 3:1-4

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 will be revealed in all your glory
with him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**ALTERNATIVE SECOND
READING 1 Cor. 5:6-8**

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

Jn 20:1-9

(Instead of the following Gospel, that of the
Easter Vigil may be read.)

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 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.

Do you renounce Satan?

I do.

And all his works?

I do.

And all his empty show?

I do.

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

I do.

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?

I do.

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?

I do.

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ,
who has given 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.

16 APRIL 2017

Sunday Message

EASTER SUNDAY

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: Red • Psalter week 1



Baptistry of Florence - View of the mosaic ceiling .

Mary Magdalene is mentioned in the four accounts of the discovery of the empty tomb of Jesus. She and the other Mary have been mentioned in Matthew's account as witnessing Jesus' death, burial and empty tomb.

Matthew has also recounted the sealing of the tomb and the setting of a guard, and when the women arrive there is a violent earthquake. As at the crucifixion, this is not a natural event but an apocalyptic occurrence, a sign that the end time has begun with Jesus' resurrection. This is accompanied by the appearing of an angel who rolls the stone aside and reduces the guards to a state of apparent paralysis, so both obstacles to the women examining the tomb are removed.

However, the tomb being empty poses a question rather than providing an answer. All that the tomb can tell us is Jesus is not here: by itself it cannot tell us why the body is missing. The reason is supplied by God through the divine messenger, "He has risen from the dead". The resurrection of Jesus cannot be proved by the absence of the corpse or some argument from logic or scripture: people came to believe through an encounter with divine revelation, what we usually call an appearance, either of an angel or of the risen Jesus himself. In our scene today, we have both, although the message is practically word for word in both.

The women adopt an attitude of worship towards Jesus, which means that they realise that this is the correct way of relating to him now, just as the Magi did at his birth. The Gospel will end where Jesus' ministry began, in Galilee. The angel and the risen Jesus commission the two women to carry the news of Jesus' resurrection and the instruction to go to Galilee to the male disciples who had abandoned him in Gethsemane. In this they become, as Mary Magdalene has been called, the apostle of the apostles.

Matthew is the only evangelist who mentions the setting of the guard. He is writing for a community which is in conflict with the Synagogue over the person of Jesus. This may be his way of countering Jewish claims that the body was stolen to give the appearance of a miraculous resurrection. The silence of the guard about the events of that morning is explained later by their being bribed by the chief priests. ■

REFLECT

No-one saw Jesus rise from the dead. Sacred art can give the wrong impression in this regard, that the soldiers on guard were confronted by the risen Jesus emerging triumphant from the tomb. In this sense we should talk about the women and others being witnesses to the resurrection, rather than witnesses of the event. In the end, we all have to decide whether or not to believe. The resurrection is the key to the Christian faith, and when we read the accounts in the Book of Acts of the early preaching of the disciples, we find that they simply put before their audience the basic facts of what they believed and challenged their hearers to accept their message or not. In the creed in I Corinthians 15, the heart of the Christian message is given as the self-sacrificing death, the burial, the resurrection and the appearances of Jesus. But the resurrection is also declared to be a present reality, not a past event which is over and done with.

The Easter message is "The Lord is Risen!" – not "Jesus is Alive!" The title Lord is properly applied to the risen Jesus. His resurrection is of a different nature to Jesus' raising the dead. The appearances have the function in the narrative of establishing official witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus: these people have come to believe not because the tomb is empty, but because they have received a message from God explaining why it is so. The empty tomb is a consequence of Jesus being risen, not a proof of it. At Easter, we are invited to renew our faith, not just in the sense of re-affirming what we believe, but also deepening it by reliving through the liturgy the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord. ■

LEARN

Earthquakes are usually apocalyptic symbols indicating the beginning of the end time.

Angels are bearers of revelation, messengers from God.

"Appearances" are experiences of revelation: we should concentrate on what is said rather than on what is seen.

DO

Have an Easter egg. Originally a pagan symbol, it represents the idea of new life. Easter is the triumph of Jesus Christ over death and sin. This is a time for joy and celebration – enjoy it!

SAY

The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the corner stone
(Psalm 117:22).