

# Easter Day Readings

## 20th April 2025

### FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:34.37-43

In those days: Peter opened his mouth and said: 'You yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and caused him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

The word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*



### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. Response v.24*

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

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/.**

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/.**

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

A reading from the letter of St Paul  
to the Colossians

3:1-4

Brothers and Sisters: If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

The word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

### GOSPEL

John 20:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.  
*Glory to you, O Lord.*

On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So 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.' So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going towards the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on the head of Jesus, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*



# EASTER SUNDAY

Lectionary Year C

## The Word of God

## Poem of the Week

**W**hen we Christians celebrate Easter, we celebrate the fact that Christ is risen from the dead and that he lives in our hearts and minds through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, who is the Lord and giver of Life. In celebrating Easter we are celebrating life itself, and life to the full. From the darkness of his death, the light of eternal life shone out in all its brightness when Jesus, the Light of the world, was raised to new life. Our Easter faith is a joyful and exultant proclamation that there is a real meaning to life, a vitality to every day, a purpose to those efforts of loving which can at times tire our hearts and distress our spirit. We believe that the whole meaning and purpose of life lies in the gift of love – that self-giving love which was at the heart of Christ's own life – a love that will never end.

We will know that Easter is real, that Christ lives, when we allow him to make our own lives sources of light and life for others; when our words heal and encourage; when our hearts come alive with compassion; when we stand firm for the value of life itself in all its aspects. Easter becomes a reality in our own lives when people are healed, consoled and strengthened by the life-giving love we show to each other, and especially to those in need. Easter is real when we become living signs and symbols of the presence of the risen Christ in our world, and of the values which he taught during his life on earth. Christian behaviour springs from communion with the risen Jesus, just as Christian celebration is a life led in conformity with the person of Jesus Christ.

Today, throughout the whole world, Christians proclaim that Christ is truly risen from the dead. This is the heart of our faith. This is its principal mystery. We believe and proclaim that the Resurrection of Christ is not only an historical event but an ever-present reality which influences the life of each one of us. Christ's Resurrection not only changed the course of history, it has the power, through faith, to transform our lives too. So with immense joy and confidence we proclaim once again today that Christ is the true Light of the world, the Light which shines in the darkness, the Light which no darkness can ever extinguish. This is the Mystery of Faith. As we said in response to the Psalm this morning, "This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad." Why? Because today we celebrate and proclaim the fact that "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again."



### Easter

Most glorious Lord of life, that on this day  
Didst make thy triumph over death and sin;  
And having harrowed hell didst bring away  
Captivity thence captive, us to win:  
This joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin,  
And grant that we for whom thou didst die  
Being with thy dear blood clean washed from sin,  
May live forever in felicity.  
And that thy love we weighing worthily,  
May likewise love thee for the same again;  
And for thy sake that all like dear didst buy,  
With love may one another entertain.  
So let us love, dear love, like as we ought.  
Love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.

*Edward Spenser*



## Prayer of the Week

### A Prayer for Easter

We are often not the Easter People  
that we should be,  
living in the certain knowledge  
of your great mercy and love.  
Distracted by the world around us  
we fail to hear your voice,  
or hide when faith is challenged  
as we wander off the path.  
Forgive us, we pray;  
restore the love that we first had,  
a faith that can endure.  
We will keep our eyes fixed on you, Lord,  
and with you at our right hand  
we shall not be shaken.

Amen.