



20 April 2025

EASTER SUNDAY

Years A, B, C

Christ, Our Hope, is Risen! Alleluia!



A grace-filled Happy Easter to one and all!
The joy of the Resurrection fills our hearts and urges us to share it with all our brothers and sisters. Something wonderful has happened not only to Jesus but also to us: we have risen to a new life. Prepared by the Lenten season, we have left behind our moral miseries and weaknesses, and have come to share in the new life that Jesus offers to all those who make him Lord of their hearts.

Echoing today's Sequence, we gather to offer thankful praises to the Paschal Victim who is the Prince of Life and who reigns immortal over sin and death. He is the reason for our joy. He is the source of our peace and our determination to become better Christians. Onwards now, towards newness and fullness of life!

Liturgical Note: On Easter Sunday, both the Penitential Act and the Creed are omitted. They are replaced by the Renewal of the Baptismal Promises that takes place after the Homily.

INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

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!

(Cf. Ps 139 [138]:18:5-6)

Greeting

P – In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

All–Amen!

P –The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be

with you all!

All–And with your spirit!

Gloria

All–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 (Opening Prayer)

P –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, God, for ever and ever.

All–Amen!

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LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading Acts 10:34.37-43
Jesus' resurrection is the essence of the "Good News" brought by Peter to Cornelius. On this truth depend our salvation and all that we believe about God's Incarnate Son.

R – A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak and said: "You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 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.

This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be seen, not by all the people, but by us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 118

R —*This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!*

R. M. Velez



This is the day the Lord has made.



Let us re-joice and be glad!

* Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever." **R.**

* The right hand of the Lord has struck with power; the right hand of the Lord is exalted. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. **R.**

* The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. **R.**

2nd Reading Col 3:1-4
Today St. Paul reminds us that the resurrection of Christ should be reflected in our behavior.

R —A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:

If you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, your life, appears, then you, too, will appear with him in glory.

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Sequence

C —*With the ancient poet, let us proclaim the joy of Mary Magdalene at Jesus' resurrection.*

All—Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer your thankful praises! A Lamb the sheep redeems: Christ, who only is sinless, reconciles sinners to the Father.

Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous: the Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal.

Speak, Mary, declaring what you saw, wayfaring, "The tomb of Christ, who is living, the glory of Jesus' resurrection; bright angels attesting, the shroud and napkin resting. Yes, Christ my hope is arisen: to Galilee he goes before you."

Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining. Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning! Amen! Alleluia!

Gospel Acclamation 1 Cor 5:7-8

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ, our Paschal Lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us then feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 20:1-9

Coming to accept the reality of the Resurrection was a long process, as we learn from today's account of the discovery of the empty tomb. The absence of Jesus' body and the position of the wrappings in the tomb were the first signs that led John and Peter to believe.

P —The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P —A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
All—Glory to you, O Lord!

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."

So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first. He bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple, who had arrived at the tomb first, also went in. He saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord!
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

C –*The Renewal of the Baptismal Promises replaces the Profession of Faith.*

P –Dear 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:

P –Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?

All–I do!

P –Do you renounce the lure of evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you?

All–I do!

P –Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin?

All–I do!

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

All–I do!

P –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!

P –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!

P –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.

All–Amen!

(The priest sprinkles the people with holy water, while an appropriate hymn may be sung.)

Prayer of the Faithful

P –The resurrection of the Lord fills us with the sincere desire to live a new life, characterized by honesty, sincerity, purity, dedication and love. Let us ask the Lord that this may become a reality for all:

All–Lord, graciously hear us!

C –That the community of believers may bear witness to Christ’s resurrection through its example of a continuous conversion from sin, let us pray! **R.**

C –That the Holy Father, our Bishop and all our spiritual leaders may enjoy the consolation and peace that flow from Christ’s resurrection, let us pray! **R.**

C –That those who feel disheartened by the situations of violence, oppression and suffering may find in the Resurrection the courage they need to continue their quest for a better society, let us pray! **R.**

C –That all of us may receive the Easter blessing of a profound renewal of our moral values, socio-economic and political institutions, let us pray! **R.**

C –For all peoples all over the world: that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times, let us pray! **R.**

P –Lord God, may the splendor of your Son’s resurrection always illumine our lives. And may our thoughts, words, and actions bear witness to the new life you have given us. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

All–Amen!



Preparation of the Gifts

P –Pray, brethren . . .

All–May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P –Exultant with paschal gladness, O Lord, we offer the sac-

rifice by which your Church is wondrously reborn and nourished.

Through Christ our Lord.

All–Amen!

Preface of Easter I

P –The Lord be with you!

All–And with your spirit!

P –Lift up your hearts!

All–We lift them up to the Lord!

P –Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All–It is right and just!

P –It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but on this day, above all, to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

For he is the true Lamb who has taken away the sins of the world; by dying he has destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

All–Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation

P –The mystery of faith!

All–We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again!



All–Our Father . . .

P –Deliver us, Lord . . .

All–For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All–Lamb of God, you take

away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us. (2x)

**Lamb of God, you take
away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

Communion

P –Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb.

All–Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

*(To be recited only when no
Communion Hymn is sung.)*

**Christ our Passover has
been sacrificed, alleluia. There-
fore let us keep the feast with
the unleavened bread of purity
and truth, alleluia, alleluia!**

(1Cor 5:7-8)

Prayer after Communion

P –Look upon your Church, O God, with unfailing love and favor, so that, renewed by the paschal mysteries, she may come to the glory of the resurrection.

Through Christ our Lord.
All–Amen!

**CONCLUDING
RITES**



P –The Lord be with you.
All–And with your spirit!

P –Bow down for the blessing. (*Pause*)

P –May almighty God bless you through today's Easter Solemnity and, in His compassion, defend you from every assault of sin.

All–Amen!

P –And may He, who restores you to eternal life in the Resurrection of His Only Begotten Son, endow you

with the prize of immortality.

All–Amen!

P –Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close, may you who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast come with Christ's help to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy.

All–Amen!

P –And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All–Amen!

P –Go in peace.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

All–Thanks be to God!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

ONWARDS TO NEWNESS AND FULLNESS OF LIFE

Kalakbay at Katoto

In many parts of the world, everything smacks of “new life” budding forth at this time of year. The dreary cold and dark winter slowly gives way to the vibrancy and sprightliness of spring, promising new life. Those places below the equator, while not having to wake up from a cold spell at this time of year, have their own version of “newness” and welcome changes.

The same enthusiastic and energetic tones mark the readings today. Peter's courageous and emphatic proclamation, along with Paul's profuse use of images to encapsulate this whole idea of new life (old yeast vs. new dough, what is below vs. what is above) are both matched only by a hopeful, though tearful Mary of Magdala rising early “on the first day of the week,” springing forward “while it was still dark,” to witness the majestic opening of the womb of the tomb that has just given birth to the ultimate newness – the resurrection of the Lord!

“While it was still dark,”

Mary of Magdala came. It was dark when Judas went out and did the dastardly deed, thus epitomizing the darkness of depravity, betrayal and sin. It was still dark when Mary, hardly able to see her way, clearly beheld the open tomb. **People who love do not remain in the dark for long.** People who have hope do not stay paralyzed by the darkness of apparent defeat and desolation. She ran forthwith to spread the beginnings of great news to Peter and John, who both also lost no time going to the tomb, running as fast as they could, the younger one outrunning the older, but deferring later to the latter.

People who have faith lose no time in dwelling on losses, but keep focused on the object of their search. The two “saw and believed.”

There are enough reasons for us to remain in the dark at this time. There are more than sufficient excuses for many of us to do as the apostles did, at least initially, that is, hide in the upper room, “for fear of



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the Jews.”

Not only is there darkness around us. There, too, is a lot of fear, unbelief, uncertainty, insecurity, cynicism, and moral doubt and ambivalence. And with all this, comes the concomitant erosion of our courage, hope, love and faith. **Today, a fearful world is given a shot in the arm.**

The resurrection of the Lord is what gave courage and enthusiasm to the erstwhile fearful disciples. The conditions were not favorable to the cause of the dead Galilean. Rome was paranoid of messiah-like demagogues that abounded during those times.

But a risen Christ was no dead Galilean rebel. A risen Christ was not one to make them remain cowering in the dark, definitely not so for women like Mary, and for men with a character like Peter, James and John and the rest of the group left by Judas, who found temporary strength in the glow and glitter of a few pieces of silver. The risen Christ was behind all that newfound strength, courage, boldness and conviction.

The resurrection, therefore, among so many other things, is a shot in the arm of everyone of us, now limping and lame with discouragement, despair, despondency and all forms of partial deaths.

It should help that, by God’s design, the world at this time of year, as I said above, shows so much signs of newness, freshness and life.

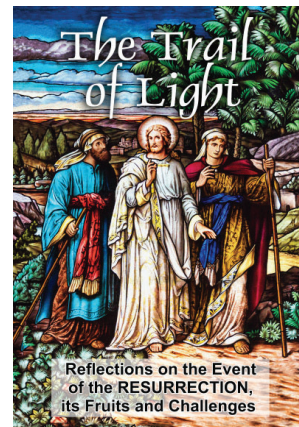
Yes, dear reader ... there is hope abroad in the land made holy by him who embraced it willingly in his death and burial. This much, Peter, Paul and John and Mary today all tell us with so much courage and enthusiasm. “No more of the old,” they seem to tell us ... no, no more of the “old yeast” of discouragement and despair, for Christ “our paschal lamb has been sacrificed.” No more breaking bitter bread made from “old yeast,” no more dining on sour wine of “malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

No more “grief’s gasping, joyless days, dejection,” (G. Manley Hopkins), but onwards now to newness and fullness of life.

LIVE THE JOY OF THE RESURRECTION
AND LIVE UP TO ITS CHALLENGES WITH THE HELP OF THE PAMPHLET

Do you know that the Via Lucis (Trail of Light) was a favorite devotion of St. John Paul II, and that it is the indispensable sequel to the Way of the Cross?

The Trail of Light



help us realize the importance of the Resurrection in our personal and community life. Every season of the year, except Lent, is a golden opportunity to be renewed through the Trail of Light. Available in pamphlets, posters, and tarpaulins (by order).

