

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) 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. **Or**

The Lord is truly risen, alleluia. To him be glory and power for all the ages of eternity, alleluia, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 117)

ANTIPHON: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

RESPONSE: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. **Or Alleluia.**

LECTOR: 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.**

LECTOR: 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.**

LECTOR: The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. . **R.**

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 has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

TODAY'S READINGS Acts 10:34, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9

NEXT WEEK (2nd Sunday of Easter, Yr A) Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 117; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Figuring out Families

It is in the family we learn the skills of living together. We first learn that we are loved, understood, wanted and cared for, and in most cases, it's in the family we are formed to be who we are. But our biggest hurts, failures and tragedies can also occur within the family. A new podcast series, Figuring out Families, looks at the issues facing families today. Produced by Majellan Media, experts in a variety of fields are interviewed about the specific issues and type of assistance that is available to wounded families. The podcasts are now available at www.majellan.media

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We are an Easter people



12 April 2020 Easter Year A

On this great Easter day, when we celebrate the mystery of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, the Church puts before us the very early preaching of the apostles. From the Book of Acts, we hear Peter proclaiming the very core of our faith: "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power."

Peter summarises Jesus's ministry: he "went about doing good." Peter recalls his death and resurrection: "They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and allowed him to be seen." But only to certain witnesses, Peter explains; it was "to us . . . who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead." Peter concludes, "Jesus commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God . . . and that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

St Paul also cuts to the core in his letter to the Colossians, highlighting the ramifications for those who believe: "Seek what is above . . . not what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." Paul stresses that Jesus' death and resurrection makes a radical difference to us and to how we live our lives. We are called "to live a new life".

The gospel then takes us back to the world-changing experience on that first Easter morning: Mary Magdalene had gone

to the tomb, only to find it empty, the body gone. Where was he? Was the body stolen? Confused, she ran to tell Peter who then, accompanied by another disciple ("the one whom Jesus loved"), ran to the tomb. They find that the tomb is indeed empty. But the disciple whom Jesus loved gets it! No need for further evidence for him: he believes, there and then, that Jesus had risen from the dead.

For Peter and for Mary Magdalen, that faith would come with meeting the risen Lord face to face, seeing him with their own eyes. So too for Thomas, who refused to believe until he too saw and indeed touched the risen Lord. Blessed are those who, like the beloved disciple on that first morning, do not see but believe, Jesus tells Thomas.

So it is for us, who believe – even if sometimes shakily – that he did indeed rise from the dead and that he is our Lord and God, the Christ, our Saviour.

His resurrection changes everything. It affects the way we live our lives, what we value, what we work for, the choices we make, the way we face death, and the unswerving hope that is in us. That is what makes us an Easter people.

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