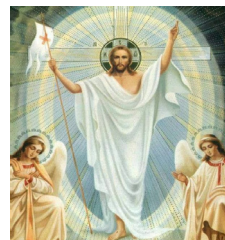




AMDG
EASTER SUNDAY
YEAR A,
12TH APRIL 2020



**May the risen Lord breathe
on our minds and open our eyes.**

OPENING PRAYER

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.

On this Easter morning, we stand with the first believers at the empty tomb, full of wonder and awe at the enormity of what has taken place. Today we can trust that our whole life lies with Christ.

In the *First Reading*, we hear Peter addressing a group of Gentiles within the household of the centurion Cornelius. His speech is significant: God wants the salvation of all peoples.

The *Psalmist* joyfully foresees the resurrection of Jesus and recognises it as the work of God Himself.

St Paul, in contrasting earthly and heavenly realities, urges the Colossians to set their gaze on heaven, where Christ is seated. Now we have been brought back to true life with Christ, we will share in his glory when he is revealed. (*Second Reading*)

The *Gospel* records how Peter and his unnamed companion slowly come to realize that Jesus has risen from the dead. This disciple, 'the one Jesus loved', symbolises where all faithful Christians are invited to be: in a loving, intimate relationship with Christ.

On this Easter Day, we may want to pray to recognise the dignity that belongs to us as Christians. We ask also for the grace we need to live out that dignity in practice, even when our daily lives have been unexpectedly upset in times of uncertainty and confusion.

FIRST READING ACTS 10: 34, 37–43

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 that 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.’

I give myself time to slow down, remembering that I am in God’s living presence. He is ever-waiting; patient for me to attend him.

I read the Scripture a number of times, noticing what touches me.

I may picture myself as one of Peter’s companions.

What does it feel like to come into the home of a Gentile?

What reactions do I notice as Peter preaches the word of God, and the Gentiles hear of this gift of faith?

Perhaps I notice desires stirring in me as I meditate on the word of God and its importance in my own life. I ask the Lord for the graces I need.

I may notice the role of God the Father in Jesus’s life, as he lives in deep relationship with him, doing good and curing all.

I ponder how I might follow Jesus’s way of living more deeply ...

How can I allow the Father’s power into my own life?

I speak to God from my heart.

I pray for the enlightenment of all peoples, and that the joy and peace of the resurrection might be known throughout the earth., even when times are hard.

I end my prayer slowly, giving thanks and praise to the Lord.

GOSPEL JOHN 20: 1-9

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 lying 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 believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

I slowly begin my prayer by concentrating my inner attention on the Lord's presence in my life and being. In the deepening silence, I hand over my joys and troubles, and ask God for the grace of a spirit of gratitude and wonder.

I read the Gospel meditatively. In whatever way I can, I enter the scene, allowing the narrative to touch my imagination.

Is there something here that particularly attracts my attention?

Perhaps Mary of Magdala, her heart filled with grief, going faithfully to attend to her Lord in the darkness ...?

Or guilt-ridden Peter, who goes right into the tomb?

Or 'the one Jesus loved': the disciple who sees the empty tomb and believes?

I allow myself to be present with each one.

Maybe I stand here in the empty tomb. How do I feel and react now?

How deep is my belief in the power of the Resurrection?

Maybe there are areas of my life where I am invited to a deeper faith?

I open my heart and soul to the Lord, speaking to him as I would to a beloved friend.

I pray for all those who are imprisoned, in self-isolation, or grieving today, and for those suffering without faith and hope in the loving God.

When I am ready, I slowly draw my prayer to a close.

Here's a text if you've only got a minute ...

I have risen: I am with you once more;
you placed your hand on me to keep me safe.
How great is the depth of your wisdom!

Entrance Antiphon

Jesus went about doing good and curing all.

First Reading

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

Psalm

He saw and he believed.

Gospel

This week's texts if you want to reflect further

Acts 10: 34, 37–43; Ps. 117 (118); Col. 3: 1–4 [1 Cor. 5: 6–8]; John 20: 1–9



Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb.
They ran together.



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