

MARK 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices with which to go and anoint him. And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising.

They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ But when they looked they could see that the stone – which was very big – had already been rolled back. On entering the tomb they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right-hand side, and they were struck with amazement. But he said to them, ‘There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here. See, here is the place where they laid him. But you must go and tell his disciples and Peter, “He is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him, just as he told you.”’

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- 1 **How do I understand the Resurrection?**
- 2 **Can I say I believe because I have felt the reality of his presence?**
- 3 **Does this presence give me peace?**
- 4 **Does this presence take away despair or lack of self-worth?**
- 5 **Does this presence lead me to a confidence that God is with me?**

Liturgy of The Word

EASTER SUNDAY

03.31.24



**This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be 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.’

The Lord’s right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.

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

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 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.’

COMMENTARY: In the above text I have put in italics a sentence I think is crucial. Jesus will be our judge. Most believers and non-believers alike may well understand this as bad news. Jesus, on the other hand, did not come to condemn the world but to save it. Then, if we reflect on the way Jesus dealt with sinners in his earthly life, this judgment cannot be something to be afraid of. Rather, it will be an experience of God’s mercy, which, in effect will be the most powerful experience of God’s love we are ever likely to have.

COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

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 too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

SEQUENCE VICTIMAE PASCHALI LAUDES

*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!*

