

Readings + The Resurrection of Our Lord, year A + April 5, 2026

Prayer of the Day

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First Reading Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ Peter began to speak to the centurion Cornelius and his household: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who is God-fearing and practices righteousness is acceptable to God.

³⁶ "You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that Jesus did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised Jesus on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

⁴² "Jesus commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about Jesus that everyone who trusts in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Psalmody Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;

God's mercy endures forever.

Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."

The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!

The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

"This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."

I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Reading Colossians 3:1-4

Paul writes: ¹ If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Holy Gospel Matthew 28:1-10

Matthew doesn't give a reason for the women's visit other than "to see." His account is also the only one that tells of an earthquake (similar to his Passion account, with another earthquake and the strange story of saints rising from their opened tombs and walking the city after Jesus died), and actually reveals how the stone was opened. Matthew also is the only to tell of the guards here, and he'll follow up with them later. Last, Matthew, like John, describes a meeting of

Jesus with the women (only Mary Magdalene for John.)

¹ After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ The appearance of the angel was like lightning, and its clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of the angel the guards shook and became like dead men.

⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for he has

been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” ⁸ So the women left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”