

Bible Readings for EASTER DAY (Year A)

COLLECT - Most glorious God, who on this day delivered us by the mighty resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, and made your whole creation new: grant that we who celebrate with joy his rising from the dead may be raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Jeremiah 31.1-6

The LORD says, "The time is coming when I will be the God of all the tribes of Israel, and they will be my people. In the desert I showed mercy to those people who had escaped death. When the people of Israel longed for rest, I appeared to them from far away. People of Israel, I have always loved you, so I continue to show you my constant love. Once again I will rebuild you. Once again you will take up your tambourines and dance joyfully. Once again you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria, and those who plant them will eat what the vineyards produce. Yes, the time is coming when sentries will call out on the hills of Ephraim, 'Let's go up to Zion, to the LORD our God.'"

Psalms 118.14-24

14 The Lord is my ¹ strength and my ¹ song, ♦
and he has be¹come ¹ my sal¹vation.

15 Joyful ¹ shouts of sal¹vation ♦
sound ¹ from the ¹ tents of the ¹ righteous:

‡ 16 'The right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds;
the right hand of the Lord ¹ raises ¹ up; ♦
the right hand of the ¹ Lord does ¹ mighty ¹ deeds.'

17 I shall not ¹ die, but ¹ live ♦
and de¹clare the ¹ works of the ¹ Lord.

18 The Lord has ¹ punished me ¹ sorely, ♦
but he has not ¹ given me ¹ over to ¹ death.

19 Open to me the ¹ gates of ¹ righteousness, ♦
that I may enter ¹ and give ¹ thanks to the ¹ Lord.

20 This is the ¹ gate of the ¹ Lord; ♦
the ¹ righteous shall ¹ enter ¹ through it.

21 I will give thanks to you, for ¹ you have ¹ answered me ♦
and have be¹come ¹ my sal¹vation.

22 The stone which the ¹ builders re¹jected ♦
has be¹come the ¹ chief ¹ cornerstone.

‡ 23 This is the ¹ Lord's ¹ doing, ♦
and it is ¹ marvellous ¹ in our ¹ eyes.

24 This is the day that the ¹ Lord has ¹ made; ♦
we will re¹joice ¹ and be ¹ glad in it.

Acts 10.34-43

Peter spoke to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, the Roman Centurion: "I now realize that it is true that God treats everyone on the same basis. Those who fear him and do what is right are acceptable to him, no matter what race they belong to. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, proclaiming the Good News of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know of the great event that took place throughout the land of Israel, beginning in Galilee after John preached his message of baptism. You know about Jesus of Nazareth and how God poured out on him the Holy Spirit and power. He went everywhere, doing good and healing all who were under the power of the Devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of everything that he did in the land of Israel and in Jerusalem. Then they put him to death by nailing him to a cross. But God raised him from death three days later and caused him to appear, not to everyone, but only to the witnesses that God had already chosen, that is, to us who ate and drank with him after he rose from death. And he commanded us to preach the gospel to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God has appointed judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets spoke about him, saying that all who believe in him will have their sins forgiven through the power of his name."

John 20.1-18

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. She went running to Simon Peter & John, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" Then Peter & John went to the tomb. The two of them were running, but John ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and saw the linen cloths, but he did not go in. Behind him came Simon Peter, and he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there and the cloth which had been around Jesus' head. It was not lying with the linen cloths but was rolled up by itself. Then John also went in; he saw and believed. (They still did not understand the scripture which said that he must rise from death.) Then the disciples went back home. Mary stood crying outside the tomb. While she was still crying, she bent over & looked in the tomb and saw two angels there dressed in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and the other at the feet. "Woman, why are you crying?" they asked her. She answered, "They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!" Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there; but she did not know that it was Jesus. "Woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who is it that you are looking for?" She thought he was the gardener, so she said to him, "If you took him away, sir, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned toward him and said in Hebrew, *Rabboni!* (This means "Teacher.") "Do not hold on to me," Jesus told her, "because I have not yet gone back up to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them that I am returning to him who is my Father and their Father, my God and their God." So Mary Magdalene went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and related to them what he had told her.