

EASTER SUNDAY
THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
The Mass of Easter Day
Year A-B-C

Reading 1

Citation: Acts, Chap. 10, Verses 34a, 37-43
Acts 10: 34a, 37-43

Peter's speech (after Pentecost). He has undergone total conversion and is now absolutely convinced of what he is saying and the story he is telling. Be Peter! Demonstrate your conviction about these events!

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak and said: (very short pause)
"You know what has happened all over Judea,
beginning in Galilee (almost parenthetical)
after the baptism that John preached, (almost parenthetical)
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth
with the Holy Spirit and power. (short pause)

He went about doing good
and healing all those oppressed by the devil, (short pause)
for God was with him.

We are witnesses of all that he did
both in the country of the Jews (voice goes up)
and in Jerusalem. (voice goes down) (very short pause)
They put him to death (almost matter-of-factly)
by hanging him on a tree. (voice goes down; some sadness?) (short pause)

This man [(insistent; passionate – to end)]
God raised on the third day
and granted that he be visible, (very short pause)
not to all the people, (almost parenthetical)
but to us, (begin getting confident)
the witnesses chosen by God in advance, (more confidence)
who ate and drank with him (more confidence)
after he rose from the dead. (conviction) (short pause)

He commissioned us to preach to the people (much confidence)
and testify
that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. (totally confident)

To him all the prophets bear witness, (very short pause)
that everyone who believes in him (volume up a bit)
will receive forgiveness of sins (volume up a bit more)
through his name." (volume up again) (certainty)

The word of the Lord.

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There is a choice between two 2nd Readings

Reading 2
Option #1

Citation: Colossians, Chap. 3, Verses 1-4
Colossians 3:1-4

Paul is urging the believers in Colossae to keep before them image of the Jesus Resurrected and what this means for them as followers of Jesus. End with a note of conviction in your voice – be as convinced a witness to your faith as Paul was to his.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:

(get their attention!)

If then you were raised with Christ,
seek what is above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

(firm, assurance)
(very short pause)

Think of what is above,
not of what is on earth.
For you have died
and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

(voice goes up)
(voice goes down)
(insist)
(be certain)

When Christ
your life appears,
then you too will appear with him
in glory.

(strong conviction)
(success!)

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Reading 2
Option #2

Citation: 1 Corinthians, Chap. 5, Verses 6a-8
1 Corinthians 5: 6a-8

Paul insists that the Corinthians see themselves as a new kind human being, renewed by Jesus death and resurrection. He's very excited about this idea and wants to convince the Corinthians to feel and believe as he does. Be Paul! Show your faith and conviction!

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

(you're appealing to listeners)

Do you not know that a little yeast leavens all the dough?

Clear out the old yeast,
so that you may become a fresh batch of dough,
inasmuch as you are unleavened.

(insisting
("
(almost parenthetical?) (short pause)

For our paschal lamb,
Christ,
has been sacrificed.

(great confidence – whole sentence)

(very short pause)

Therefore,
let us celebrate the feast,
not with the old yeast,
the yeast of malice and wickedness,
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

(be glad, happy!)
(put a frown on your forehead?)
(foreboding; parenthetical)
(voice goes up; very positive)

The word of the Lord.

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SEQUENCE

Christians, to the Paschal Victim
Offer your thankful praises!
A Lamb the sheep redeems;
Christ, who only is sinless,
Reconciles sinners to the Father.
Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous:
The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal.
Speak, Mary, declaring
What you saw, wayfaring.
"The tomb of Christ, who is living,
The glory of Jesus' resurrection;
Bright angels attesting,
The shroud and napkin resting.
Yes, Christ my hope is arisen;
To Galilee he goes before you."
Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining.
Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!

Amen. Alleluia.

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Gospel

Citation: John, Chap. 20, Verses 1 to 9
John 20: 1-9

A story of disturbing mystery. Become Mary Magdala – shocked at what she finds and worried about the fate of Jesus' body. Then be the male trying to take charge but also very mystified by what you find at Jesus' tomb. There is a very disturbing question growing in your mind – does this mean that Jesus' teaching about his resurrection can actually be true?

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

On the first day of the week, (storyteller)
Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning,
while it was still dark, (a bit cautionary)
and saw the stone removed from the tomb. (Oh, NO, NO!)

So she ran and went to Simon Peter (much faster pace)
and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, "
and told them, (hysterical? sobbing?)
"They have taken the Lord from the tomb, ("
and we don't know where they put him."

So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. (determined; action!)
They both ran,
but the other disciple ran faster than Peter (parenthetical)
and arrived at the tomb first; " (short pause)

he bent down and saw the burial cloths there,
but did not go in. (voice goes down)

When Simon Peter arrived after him,
he went into the tomb
and saw the burial cloths there,
and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths
but rolled up in a separate place. (softer) (short pause)

Then the other disciple also went in,
the one who had arrived at the tomb first,
and he saw and believed. (parenthetical)
(conviction)

For they did not yet understand the Scripture (wonder)
that he had to rise from the dead. "

The Gospel of the Lord.