

# EASTER SUNDAY

## Preparation for Ministers of the Word

### **A**TTEND

Ask the Spirit for help in hearing God's message

### **B**REAK OPEN THE WORD

Ask what the passages say about who God is, what your relationship is, and what God is saying

### **C**ONNECT

How will you respond this week to what you have read or heard?

#### **GOSPEL**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to 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 he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

#### **FIRST READING**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (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.'

#### **The feast**

When Mary Magdalene and the other women came to the tomb to anoint Jesus, all they could anticipate was a very large stone blocking the way to the One they had loved and followed. What did it cost them to let go of their expectations and truly hear what the young man clothed in a white robe revealed to them? Yes, this was a dawn of miracles: Jesus of Nazareth; who had been crucified has been raised; the women hear and believe. Tombs and large stones blocking entrances needn't be stumbling blocks to seeing Jesus. The only real stumbling block is to miss opportunities to surrender ourselves to dying to self so that we can hear the revelation and see the One who chooses to make himself present to us. Yes, this is a dawn of miracles. We who enter into death with Jesus rise with him. The paschal mystery is announced as a way of life: surrender self to death so we can share in risen life. Alleluia!

*Read with warmth and reflect Peter's enthusiasm.*

*The noting of Christ's death can be touched with sadness; follow it then with the joy of the resurrection.*

*End the reading strongly and with resolution.*

#### **Pronunciations**

Cornelius      cor-NEE-lee-uhs  
Galilee          GA-lih-lee

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the 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.

*Paul is trying to encourage the Colossians; read intensely and frankly.*

*Read slowly and clearly, building to the climax as the end.*

## ALTERNATIVE SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (5:6-8)

You must know how even a small amount of yeast is enough to leaven all the dough, so get rid of all the old yeast, and make yourselves into a completely new batch of bread, unleavened as you are meant to be. Christ, our passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast, by getting rid of all the old yeast of evil and wickedness, having only the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

*Read strongly, and with sadness. This is a call to renounce all sin and evil.*

*Build up the stress at the end.*

### Key words and phrases in the scriptures

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

He is not here; he is risen.

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God.

### To the point of the scriptures

Our seeing and believing in Jesus' resurrection is as much a challenge to us today as it was to the disciples who were eye witnesses. The challenge really lies in seeing and believing the resurrection comes through our own lives of self-sacrifice that bring new life to others.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

or

**R.** Alleluia.

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.' **R.**

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds. **R.**

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes. **R.**

(Psalm 117)



FOR THE USE OF MINISTERS OF THE WORD IN OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH, WENTWORTHVILLE