

Alleluia! He is risen! Jesus Christ, having made the ultimate sacrifice for the sake of our sins, has been raised from the dead. He has atoned for our sins and conquered death. Neither death nor sin have the final say any longer. We are a people redeemed, pilgrims of hope on a journey to new life. We gather today in joy in this holy place to hear the testimony of his earliest disciples and to partake in the Eucharistic feast and receive the risen Lord. Truly this is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad!

As we gather let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

Profession of Faith p.

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*bow as we say*) **and by the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.** For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Introductory Rite:

Greeting:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God forever. **Blessed be God forever.**

Penitential Rite: p.

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to participate in this sacred celebration.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Opening Prayer:

O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading p.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Peter proceeded to speak and said: "You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to GodResponsorial Psalm*Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23.*

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

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Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever." **R/.**

"The right hand of the LORD has struck with power; the right hand of the LORD is exalted.

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD." **R/.**

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. **R/.**Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Colossians 3:1-4

Brothers and sisters: If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.Gospel*John 20:1-9*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Glory to you, Lord

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "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. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. 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. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection on the Word:

- Faith is a gift. Especially in this day and age, it is easier to doubt than to believe. We see something online or hear something from a friend. Do we believe it or not? Time and again in the Gospels we see Jesus perform a miracle. Even among those who see it, some believe it and some don't. Some who hear about it later come to believe; others, scoff and doubt. On Easter morning, Peter and the beloved disciple see the empty tomb and the burial cloths neatly arranged. Neither understood what Jesus had told them about rising from the dead, but the beloved disciple "saw and believed" (John 20:8). He saw with eyes of faith. Eventually, the other disciples—even Thomas—would also see and believe. As they go forth to give witness to what they have seen and heard and come to know, some of those they meet choose to see with eyes of faith and some do not.
- Yesterday evening, men and women around the world were baptized and initiated into the Catholic faith. They have chosen to see the world with eyes of faith. With eyes of faith, they are able to see meaning in their lives beyond what is visible in this world. With eyes of faith, they can see forgiveness for the sins they have committed. With eyes of faith, they may see the face of Christ in those in need. With eyes of faith, they are able to see their suffering in the light of Jesus' suffering. With eyes of faith, they may remain ever hopeful in eternal salvation. They can then bear witness to all this, as generations and generations of disciples have done over the last two thousand years.
- Note that only three disciples are mentioned in John's account of the discovery of the empty tomb on Easter morning: Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved. Where were all the others? It's possible that they were in hiding. They had every reason to fear being arrested and tried as accomplices, as associates of the man who had just been crucified. Perhaps they had sealed themselves off from the outside world as tightly as any tomb. They had to be raised from their despair. Only after they had been raised to their new life were they able to bear witness, to preach the Good News, to make disciples of all nations. We may not literally be in hiding, but we may be overwhelmed by the darkness, the dangers, and the despair in the world. Let us look to God, who has the power to raise us from our tombs, to restore us to life, to lead us to new life in the Lord.

Question of the Week

How do I see my life and my world differently with eyes of faith?

Prayer of the Faithful:

On this day that the Lord has made, we call to mind our needs and those of our sisters and brothers, anticipating that the joy we know in the risen Lord flows out this Easter to all people, to the whole world.

- For the Church, that in proclaiming the victory of Christ over death and creating a path to eternal life, we may be a source of hope for the whole world, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For justice and peace worldwide, that the risen Lord may inspire leaders and governing bodies to build a better world where justice and peace shall reign, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For those who suffer from chronic illnesses, their families and their caregivers, that they may find comfort and hope in the Lord's arms, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all the newly baptized who were welcomed into the Church at the Easter Vigil, that they may grow in love and service of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- That our faith community may become a fresh batch of dough, rising to bring new life to a world in need of sincerity and truth, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For what else should we pray? Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Glorious God, you raised your Son to new life, opening the path to eternity with you. Graciously hear the needs we place before you today and grant them according to your divine will, through your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer: p.

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Rite of Peace:

The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ's presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Communion:

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The body of Christ. **Amen.**


Prayer after Communion:

Look upon your Church, O God, with unfailing love and favor, so that, renewed by the paschal mysteries, she may come to the glory of the resurrection.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Concluding Rite:

Final Blessing:

May the Lord bless us,  protect us from all evil and lead us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Go in peace! **Thanks be to God.**