

Suggested Opening Song: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus, #180

Alleluia! With joy and gratitude, we praise God, who raised Jesus from the dead to new life in the eternal kingdom. Truly, this is the day the Lord has made, for in his sacrifice on the cross he conquered sin and death and in his resurrection he has opened the door to our salvation. Let us rejoice! Let us be glad! Gathered together today to celebrate the eucharistic banquet, let us join with all the saints and angels to sing in praise and thanksgiving to our God.

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

Profession of Faith p. 22

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. 8

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, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading p. 182

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 God

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

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

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

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

John 20:1-9

Glory to you, O 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:

- The two most important feasts of the Church—Christmas and Easter—have very few or no eyewitnesses. As far as we know, only Mary and Joseph were present at Christ’s birth. But that’s two more people than on Easter morning. No one saw Christ rise from the dead. No one could provide eyewitness testimony of what happened. Thus, different people drew different conclusions upon seeing the empty tomb. Mary Magdalene assumed someone had taken Jesus’ body. Simon Peter noticed that the headcloth was rolled up neatly and separately, implying that it wasn’t grave robbers, but just seemed confused. Only the Beloved Disciple “saw and believed” (John 20:8). Only the Beloved Disciple immediately saw with eyes of faith. Now we are called to see with eyes of faith. We are challenged to understand the scripture, to receive church teaching, and to hear the eyewitness testimony of Jesus’ appearances after his resurrection so that, like the beloved disciple, we too may make the leap of faith and see beyond the empty tomb.
- Saint Paul tells the Colossians that “you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3). When a person is near death, we often speak of them inhabiting two worlds, this one and the next, where loved ones who have died are present to them in a way that they haven’t been since they passed away. Paul would say that in baptism we already gained admittance to the next world, where we are “hidden with Christ.” Since we are joined with Christ, we are called to live as Christ calls us to live, seeing him in our neighbor and serving those who are the least of our brothers and sisters.
- Saint Paul uses the images of yeast and dough to teach the Corinthians what it means to be raised to new life. The old yeast, he said, must be thrown out, for it will no longer cause the dough (that is, us) to rise. What’s more, in ancient times the yeast in an old batch of dough was regarded as corrupt and regarded as a wicked influence, for it may have fermented, causing the other ingredients in the dough to break down. Unlike old yeast, Christ raises us to a new life of goodness and mercy, of love of God and love of neighbor, of sincerity and truth.

Question of the Week

To what must I die in order to rise with Christ in new life? What old yeast must be thrown out of my life so that I may become a fresh batch of dough, living in the newness of life?

Prayer of the Faithful:

On this day the Lord has made, we present our needs and the needs of our sisters and brothers, rejoicing in God’s saving power.

- For the Church, gathered in joy on this day of the Resurrection, that we may courageously give witness to the new life Christ won for us, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That the peace of the risen Lord may remain in us and fully permeate the world so that no one will ever again take up arms against another person, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That our hope in the resurrection may bring comfort to all who are suffering in mind, body, and spirit, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all those who received the sacraments of initiation yesterday evening at the Easter Vigil, especially for those in our community, that they may be new yeast for the Church, building it up in sincerity and truth, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For those who are alone this Easter Sunday, that they may be consoled by the eternal spiritual bond they have with those they love who have passed away, 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.**

Loving God, you raised your Son to eternal life, reconciling all of us to you so that we may share in the fruits of salvation. Hear the prayers we make grant them according to your loving will through the One whose victory we celebrate today, Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer: p. 54

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.**

Suggested Closing Song: Jesus Christ is Risen Today, #170