

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia.
You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia.
Too wonderful for me, this knowledge,
alleluia, alleluia.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

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.

FIRST READING

Acts 10:34, 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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 word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 117 (118):1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Response:

**This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice
and are glad.**

Or **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

1. 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.)
2. 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.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

SECOND READING

Col 3:1-4

(Alternative Second Reading 1 Cor 5:6-8)

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

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 will
be revealed in all your glory with him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE

Christians, to the Paschal Victim
offer sacrifice and praise.
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.
Death with life contended;
combat strangely ended!
Life's own Champion, slain,
yet lives to reign.
Tell us, Mary:
say what thou didst see
upon the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!
The angels there attesting,
shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope, has risen:
he goes before you into Galilee.
That Christ is truly risen
from the dead we know.
Victorious king, thy mercy show!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Christ, our passover, has been sacrificed;
let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Jn 20:1-9

(Alternative gospels: Mt 28:1-10, or in the
afternoon, or evening: Lk 24:13-35)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

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 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Dear brethren (brothers and sisters), through
the Paschal Mystery
we have been buried with Christ in Baptism,
so that we may walk with him in newness of life.
And so, now that our Lenten observance is
concluded,
let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism,
by which we once renounced Satan and his
works
and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic
Church.
And so I ask you:
Priest: Do you renounce Satan?
All: I do.
Priest: And all his works?
All: I do.
Priest: And all his empty show?
All: I do.
Priest: Do you believe in God, the Father
almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?
All: I do.
Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only
Son, our Lord, who was born
of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was
buried, rose again from the dead
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?
All: I do.
Priest: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?
All: I do.
And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ,
who has given us new birth by water and the
Holy Spirit
and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins,
keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord,
for eternal life.
Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Exultant with paschal gladness, O Lord,
we offer the sacrifice
by which your Church
is wondrously reborn and nourished.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Christ our Passover has been sacrificed,
alleluia;
therefore let us keep the feast with the
unleavened bread
of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look upon your Church, O God,
with unfailing love and favour,
so that, renewed by the paschal mysteries,
she may come to the glory of the resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sunday Message

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION

THE WORD

Year A • 5 April 2026 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 1

SHOUT FOR JOY

JOHN 20:1-9



This is the greatest day in the Christian calendar, the day of our redemption. Jesus, our brother, has broken the chains of death through the power of the Father. Death, the last and greatest enemy, has been overcome.

Through the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, life and hope and salvation have replaced death and despair and darkness.

Though the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, we are an Easter people, a redeemed people, people alive with joy. God has shown how much God loves us. God is faithful to God's promises. Secure in that love, certain of God's promises, we live as resurrected people, delighting in the good news of our salvation. ■

LEARN

Today, we begin the Season of Easter, which will continue for 50 days until Pentecost. These 50 days are celebrated as one feast, the "Great Sunday." During these days, we celebrate the very basis of our faith – that God raised Jesus from the dead.

SAY

"We are an Easter people and alleluia is our song."

PRAY

Pray for the community of believers throughout the world that they may grow stronger in the faith. Pray especially for all those who are finding it hard to experience the joy of Easter.

DO

When the apostles realised that Jesus had been raised from the dead, they hurried back to tell the others the astonishing news. They became, at that moment, witnesses to the Good News. We too are called to be witnesses to the Good News. How boldly, how joyfully, do you witness to the Gospel?

REFLECT

Every morning I go for a walk. I take the same route and meet more or less the same people. Recently, I carried out an experiment. I decided to smile at everyone I encountered on my walk. Perhaps two-thirds smiled back. Some were distracted or preoccupied, had their eyes down, or were looking at their phones. Still, I persevered. Now almost all cheerfully return my greetings. Smiling, it seems, is contagious.

In 2024, an unusual event took place in the Vatican. Pope Francis met with scores of comedians from throughout the world. He told them their vocation is important, because the world needs humour, it needs joy. One of those present was the American comedienne Whoppi Goldberg, star of the Sister Act movies, who is now a panelist on a network talkshow in America called The View. Whoppi spoke about the Vatican gathering on The View soon after it took place.

She spoke about it again after the death of Pope Francis - about the impact his words made, about how she and the others felt valued and appreciated by a major world leader in a way they never had before, about the warmth and goodness of Pope Francis. No other world leader had ever done as Pope Francis had done - invite comedians to meet him, encourage them, tell them they mattered. It made a tremendous impression on all present. She especially treasured her personal meeting with him.

So, it's no surprise that in his letter Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice and be Glad), Pope Francis refers to joy and a sense of humour as one of the signs of holiness. He writes: A sign of holiness is "joy and a sense of humour. Far from being timid, morose, acerbic or melancholy, or putting on a dreary face, the saints are joyful and full of good humour. Though completely realistic, they radiate a positive and hopeful spirit. The Christian life is 'joy in the Holy Spirit' (Rom 14:17)."

Pope Francis radiated that joy himself. It was something that baffled some of his old

Argentinian friends who remembered him as a dour fellow with a lugubrious face. They wondered what had happened? How had he transformed into the joy-filled, smiling pope they saw now? And Francis told them about an experience he had immediately after his election as pope when he was praying in the oratory known as the 'room of tears.' He had an extraordinary experience of the presence of the Holy Spirit, a feeling of serenity and joy, and it had never left him, he said. It carried him through each day.

And it informed his entire ministry - his preaching and his writing. One of the striking features of Pope Francis's letters is his liberal use of the word 'joy' - the joy of love, the joy of the Gospel, rejoice and be glad. It was an attitude he emphasised over and over again.

Christians must radiate joy. The Gospel is Good News, the best possible news. Mary's Magnificat is a wonderful prayer of praise and joy. "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord," Mary sings, "and my spirit rejoices in God my saviour." The first part of the Magnificat is an exuberant hymn of praise.

Teilhard de Chardin once said that "joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God." We are a joyful people because we know that God is with us. We know we have been saved. Through the death and resurrection of Christ, we know that death has no more power over us.

Knowing we are redeemed, why wouldn't we be full of joy? We must show that joy every day. On this Easter Day above all, we must radiate joy.

Joy means hopeful witnessing, daily Good News transmission, an exuberant delight in God despite everything. We can experience and share joy even in the most challenging of situations. Celebrate the joy of the resurrection today. Let all who encounter you feel your joy. Let them see it. We have every reason to smile. ■