

Easter

FutureChurch Online Liturgy of the Word

Introductory Rites

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of Our Creator,
All Creatures,
and the Spirit of Creativity

ALL: AMEN

Greeting

Leader: May the peace of Jesus, the Love of God, and the Life of the Holy Spirit be
with you,

ALL: And also with you.

Introductory Remarks

Prepared by the Leader

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

On this most holy day, O God,
Through Christ, through Resurrection,
You show us

That new life can thrive where once there was destruction,
That despair gives way to hope,
That love overcomes.

May we who celebrate this festival of Christ, of Resurrection,
and indeed may all who long for a new day
rise together,
even in the midst of pain and sorrow, of anxiety and fear,
to new life and new possibility as one human family.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus,
with whom we rise from the dead,
Who lives and thrives with you, with us all,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

ALL: AMEN

LITURGY OF THE WORD

****Texts have been adapted for inclusive/expansive language****

First Reading

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles,

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 countryside and in Jerusalem
Finally, Jesus was killed and hung on a tree,
only to be raised by God on the third day.
God granted that Christ be visible
not to all the people, but to us,
the witnesses chosen by God in advance,
who ate and drank with Christ after the resurrection.
Christ commissioned us to preach to the people
and to bear witness that this is the one set apart by God
as judge of the living and the dead.
To Christ all the prophets testify,
that everyone who believes
has forgiveness of sins through this Name."

The Word of God

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm

Psalmist: The response is: "This is the day that God has made. Let us rejoice and be glad"

ALL: "This is the day that God has made. Let us rejoice and be glad"

Give thanks to God, who is good,
whose mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say,
"God's mercy endures forever."

"This is the day that God has made. Let us rejoice and be glad"

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

I shall not die, but live,
and declare the wonders of God."

"This is the day that God has made. Let us rejoice and be glad"

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

By God has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.

"This is the day that God has made. Let us rejoice and be glad"

Second Reading

Lector: A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians,

Friends in Christ:

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.

For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed.
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.

ALL: The word of God
Thanks be to God

Gospel

Leader: Alleluia! Alleluia!

ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Leader: The stone which the builders rejected, becomes the cornerstone chosen.
Praise the work of God for this marvel in our eyes.

ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia!

A reading from the Gospel according to John:

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 Rabbi from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."

So Peter and the other disciple went out toward to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.

When Simon Peter arrived after, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered Jesus' 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 saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned home.

But Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been.

And they said to her, "Why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken my Rabbi, and I don't know where they laid him."

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?"

She thought it was the gardener and said, "Please, if you carried Jesus away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means my Teacher.

Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to me, for I have not yet ascended to God. But go to our brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Abba and your Abba, to my God and your God.'"

Mary went and said to the disciples, "I have seen our Teacher" and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Good News of Our Salvation

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

– CWP Video: www.catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/04122020

FAITH SHARING

Questions for Shared Reflection:

1. *Remaining at the tomb Mary of Magdala has a singular, unique, and personal experience of the risen Christ, her Teacher. Yet, while she alone had this experience, it is not for her alone -- Jesus commissions her to "go and tell" the others -- and she goes and shares the good news of her experience. **Have you had an experience of resurrection however you might define it -- a healed relationship, a new perspective, a renewed hope, a learning - in the midst of these sorrow-filled days? If so, how might you share that experience of good news with the larger community?***
2. *In her preaching, Sr. Helen reminds us that resurrection is a communal experience and emphasizes the importance of forgiveness and holding each other fast for community. **What does holding each other fast at a time of isolation look like? How are you holding fast those near and far in this time of anxiety, uncertainty, and suffering? What are you learning or pondering about community, commitment, and forgiveness through this global experience of pandemic?***

CONCLUDING RITES

Closing Prayer

Leader: Nourished by God's word and strengthened by this community,
Let us pray together,

ALL: Loving God, Holy One,

Your desire is for our wholeness and well-being.

We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time.

We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened.

We ache for ourselves and our neighbors, standing before an uncertain future.

We pray: may love, not fear, go viral. Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good.

Help us to practice physical distancing, revealing to us new and creative ways to hold each other fast, so we may care for each other in tender solidarity.

**Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence,
You, the God who does not abandon,**

**You, the Holy One, breathing within us, breathing among us,
breathing around us, in our beautiful yet wounded world. AMEN**

Adapted from "Prayer during a Pandemic" by Sr. Chris Koellhoffer, IHM

Leader: And may the God of hope fill us with every comfort and joy in believing.
May the peace of Christ abound in our hearts and minds.
and may the Holy Spirit gift and guide us
(making Sign of the Cross) now and forever,

ALL: AMEN

Leader: Our work continues as we go forth to love, to hold each other fast, to rise together. Alleluia! Alleluia!

ALL: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!