

## Readings for Sunday, April 12, 2020 Easter Sunday



### AS WE GATHER

The spring of souls. The queen of seasons. The royal feast of feasts. With those colorful phrases the ancient writer John of Damascus, who lived in the eighth century, described Easter Day in a classic hymn text. The Feast of the Resurrection and its importance is difficult to put into words. Everything has been done: Christ has come and has established His kingdom in the world for the sake of the resurrection and the life to come. His saving work is accomplished—and we are the beneficiaries! The action word “go” is central for us this day, as we go in to meet our Lord in worship and go out to share the message of the empty tomb and of the risen Christ, our Lord!

### First Reading, *Acts 10:34–43* (ESV)

#### Gentiles Hear the Good News

<sup>34</sup> So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), <sup>37</sup> you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> And 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, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

### Old Testament, *Jeremiah 31:1–6* (ESV)

(The Lord has an everlasting love for His people.)

#### The LORD Will Turn Mourning to Joy

<sup>1</sup> “At that time, declares the LORD, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people.”

<sup>2</sup> Thus says the LORD:

“The people who survived the sword  
found grace in the wilderness;  
when Israel sought for rest,

<sup>3</sup> the LORD appeared to him from far away.  
I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.  
<sup>4</sup> Again I will build you, and you shall be built,  
O virgin Israel!  
Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines  
and shall go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.  
<sup>5</sup> Again you shall plant vineyards  
on the mountains of Samaria;  
the planters shall plant  
and shall enjoy the fruit.  
<sup>6</sup> For there shall be a day when watchmen will call  
in the hill country of Ephraim:  
‘Arise, and let us go up to Zion,  
to the LORD our God.’”

**Epistle, *Colossians 3:1–4* (ESV)**

(Our lives are hidden with Christ in God.)

**Put On the New Self**

<sup>3</sup> If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

**Holy Gospel, *Matthew 28:1–10* (ESV)**

(Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.)

**The Resurrection**

<sup>28</sup> Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” <sup>8</sup> So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

***HAPPY RESURRECTION SUNDAY!***  
***HE IS RISEN!***