

Easter Day

March 31, 2024

Resurrection of our Lord (Year B)

St. Mark’s telling of the resurrection of Jesus is an account that leaves us puzzled and wondering. Concerned about how they will get the stone rolled away from the tomb, when the women arrived at the gravesite it was already moved. As they received first hand news of Jesus’ resurrection, the women were silenced by fear. How would the good news be shared with the world if the first witnesses kept it quiet? How will people know what God has done if we keep it quiet?



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Isaiah 25:6-9 **The Lord Prepares a Banquet**
Isaiah proclaimed the word of the Lord which promised a lavish banquet of fine foods and wine for God’s people. Death would be no more, tears and suffering would be no more. “Let us be glad in his salvation,” declared the prophet.

Psalm 16 **The Lord is at My Right Hand**
David praised the Lord, proclaiming that there is no good apart from him. The Lord was continually before him and the psalmist rejoiced in his constant presence. The path of life is made known through the Lord and in him are pleasures forever.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 **An Unlikely Apostle**
St. Paul preached the good news to the Corinthian Christians that Christ died for the sins of all who believe, and was raised according to the scriptures. After Jesus was raised from the dead he appeared to his disciples and to many others, including Paul himself, as unlikely as it was. It is by grace alone, Paul iterated, that he was called by Christ to be an apostle, even though he once had persecuted the church.

Gospel Lesson: Mark 16:1-8 **He is Risen, He is Not Here**
The women who went to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body were astonished to find a young man, perhaps an angel, sitting in the empty tomb. Confused by this sight, the women were instructed by the man to go and tell the disciples that Jesus was no longer in the grave. He had risen from the dead. The women were so afraid after this encounter that they said nothing to anyone.

- Suggestions for the Day:**
- Liturgical Color: White
 - Use the Kyrie and the Hymn of Praise in the Easter season.
 - Use the Nicene Creed during this festival season.
 - For a storybook about Easter that helps even the youngest worshipers understand what God has done for us in Christ’s Resurrection, check out the book “God Gave Us Easter” by Lisa Tawn Bergren. (ISBN #978-0-307-73072-5)
 - Consider asking a creative person in the parish to make a new banner for Easter Sunday. It could be a focal point for worship on the highest holy day of the Church year.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
The Strife is O’er, the Battle Done	135	---	464	366	---	---
At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing	210	---	633	362	150	150
Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds	143	---	465	367	159	159
Awake, My Soul, and With the Sun	269	---	868	557	60	60
Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain	132	---	487	363	155	155
Easter Morrow Stills Our Sorrow	---	---	---	---	162	162
Jesus Christ is Ris’n Today	151	---	457	365	---	---
Thine is the Glory	145	---	---	376	161	161
Holy God, We Praise Your Name	535	---	940	414	13	13
O Bread of Life from Heaven	222	---	---	480	84	84

The hymn suggestions listed above are from various worship books: LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV = With One Voice, W&P = Worship & Praise, ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress), LSB = The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), and REC = The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources).

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

- Praise Song Titles:**
- Resurrecting (CCLI# 7051507)
 - Jesus, the Resurrection (CCLI# 2774501)
 - Glorious Day (CCLI# 7081388)
 - Forever (CCLI# 7001228)
 - Ain’t No Grave (CCLI# 7119314)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.