

Sunday, April 4, 2021 — Easter

The Collect

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

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First Reading

A Reading from the Book of Acts

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

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Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let Israel now proclaim, *
“His mercy endures for ever.”
- 14 The LORD is my strength and my song, *
and he has become my salvation.
- 15 There is a sound of exultation and victory *
in the tents of the righteous:
- 16 “The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! *
the right hand of the LORD is exalted!
the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!”
- 17 I shall not die, but live, *
and declare the works of the LORD.
- 18 The LORD has punished me sorely, *
but he did not hand me over to death.
- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the LORD.
- 20 “This is the gate of the LORD; *
he who is righteous may enter.”

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21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *

and have become my salvation.

22 The same stone which the builders rejected *

has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the LORD's doing, *

and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 On this day the LORD has acted; *

we will rejoice and be glad in it.

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Second Reading

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you--unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them--though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.