

# Easter Sunday

## April 4th 2021



### Readings

#### **Acts 10: 34-43**

Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly 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>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>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. <sup>39</sup>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; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>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. <sup>42</sup>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. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

## Psalm 118

- 1 O 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 Joyful shouts of salvation ♦  
sound from the tents of the righteous:
- 16 'The right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds;  
the right hand of the Lord raises up; ♦  
the right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds.'
- 17 I shall not die, but live ♦  
and declare the works of the Lord.
- 18 The Lord has punished me sorely, ♦  
but he has not given me over to death.
- 19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, ♦  
that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.
- 20 This is the gate of the Lord; ♦  
the righteous shall enter through it.
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me ♦  
and have become my salvation.
- 22 The stone which the builders rejected ♦  
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the Lord's doing, ♦  
and it is marvellous in our eyes.
- 24 This is the day that the Lord has made; ♦  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

## Mark 16: 1-8

16 When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup> And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup> They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' <sup>4</sup> When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which

was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' <sup>8</sup>So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

### **Thought:**

This morning ends Holy Week (the most special week of the Christian Year) and begins the Great Fifty Days of Easter which extend until Pentecost.

The story of Holy Week started with the excitement and colour of Palm Sunday but steadily descended into the Hades of betrayal, agony and entombment. The story seemed certain to end in hopeless defeat. But, like all great thrillers, the final chapter is one of glorious restoration against all the odds - of right conquering might in the defining battle of the war - of Resurrection.

But this is not a story written just in the Gospels - it is also written in each of our lives. The Holy Spirit that dwells in us is our personal connection to the Risen Christ, and through it we are participants in the Resurrection. The Paschal candle that burns at services from now until Pentecost reminds us of the light perpetual in our living, and the light eternal that awaits our dying.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son for the sake of me and you and all other sinners. God so loved the world that all who believe in the Risen Son will not perish but will have eternal life.

### **Collect:**

Almighty God, through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ you have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good

effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Prayers:**

We serve a risen Saviour yet live as if in chains. Forgive us Lord, that we are so hesitant to live the Resurrection life. Forgive us that we are so reluctant to show through our word and action the truth that you loved us so much as to give your own Son for our freedom.

Lord, renew our hearts and minds to be reborn into a "Resurrection person", take away the fear in our lives that prevents us from achieving our full potential. Open our eyes to the glory of the risen Christ, our hearts to the wonder of the Cross and our hands to the service of your kingdom.

We pray for all who live in the chains of fear, hunger and hopelessness.

We pray for the sick and all who are trapped, and for people preparing to die. We pray for healing, for freedom, and for hope. We pray for a rebirth from this COVID pandemic, for a new world of sharing and serving, of peace with justice, to come into being.

May the truth of Easter The joy of Easter  
And the blessings of Easter  
Be with us this day and all days. AMEN.

***This booklet is to assist you in prayer and reflection, in church at times given below, or at home.***

**Times Churches Open for Private Prayer :**

**Psalm Sunday,**

Templeshambo 10:00-10:45am  
Killanne 11:30- 12:15am  
Rosdroit 7:00-7:45pm,  
Kilegney 8:00-8:45pm

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