

Sunday, April 4, 2010  
Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day  
Holy Communion

Worship Assistants

**FIRST READING: Acts 10:34–43**

A reading from \_\_\_\_\_.

*Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, sums up the essential message of Christianity. Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, receives forgiveness of sins through his name.*

<sup>34</sup>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."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24**

*Refrain: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)*

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the <sup>1</sup>LORD is good;  
God's mercy en- <sup>1</sup>dures forever.

<sup>2</sup>Let Israel <sup>1</sup> now declare,  
"God's mercy en- <sup>1</sup>dures forever."

<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength <sup>1</sup> and my song,  
and has become <sup>1</sup> my salvation.

<sup>15</sup>Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents <sup>1</sup> of the righteous:  
"The right hand of the <sup>1</sup>LORD acts valiantly!

<sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD <sup>1</sup> is exalted!

The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"  
<sup>17</sup>**I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD. R**  
<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.  
<sup>19</sup>**Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**  
<sup>20</sup>"This is the gate of the LORD;  
here the righteous may enter."  
<sup>21</sup>**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation. R**  
<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.  
<sup>23</sup>**By the LORD has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**  
<sup>24</sup>This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it. R

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:19–26

A reading from \_\_\_\_\_.

*Paul describes the consequences of the resurrection, including the promise of new life in Christ to a world that has been in bondage to death. He celebrates the destruction of evil and the establishment of God's victorious rule over all.*

<sup>19</sup>If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.  
<sup>21</sup>For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; <sup>22</sup>for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL: Luke 24:1–12

The holy gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Evidently expecting to find Jesus' corpse, some of his women followers go to the tomb with embalming spices. After a perplexing encounter with the empty tomb and angelic visitors, the women become the first to proclaim the amazing news of resurrection.*

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they went in, they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup>While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. <sup>6</sup>Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup>and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup>Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup>But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Gathered at the empty tomb, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

God of every Easter, invigorate the church with the good news of death to sin and resurrection to new life with Christ. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of Easter rebirth, renew creation with rain, warmth, and a creator's love. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of Easter everywhere, charge and challenge leaders of all nations to be servants and peacemakers. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of Easter joy, surprise, amaze, and comfort all who seek healing (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of Easter people, hear the prayers of this congregation on this and every day. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of Easter promises, invite us into the hope and joy of Christ's victory over death. We celebrate the life and witness of (*Benedict the African and*) all the saints you have called by name (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your risen Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

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