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Easter

SUNDAY

APRIL 12, 2020



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This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.

Psalm 118:24



**Easter Sunday
of the Resurrection of the Lord
April 12, 2020**

When Christ your life appears,
then you too will appear with him in glory.
— *Colossians 3:4*

SEEDS OF FAITH

There is a brevity, a certain terseness, in the scripture readings for Easter Sunday. Peter’s speech in Acts is built of direct, pointed sentences. Paul’s letters are based on straightforward creed-like statements. Even the Gospel story only briefly recounts what will turn out to be one of the most remarkable events in human history—the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Advertising agents call these encapsulated points of information “bullet points.” Scripture scholars call them *kerygmata*, or “kernels” of our faith. Actually, “kernels” or “seeds” are good terms for these statements, since throughout the Easter season, we will hear in the Acts of the Apostles, the Letters of Paul, and the Gospel accounts of the days following the Resurrection exactly how these *kerygmata* began to flower, how they continued to grow through the life of the early church. May these Easter “seeds” of faith serve a similar purpose for us, too, so that the life of the Risen Christ will flourish in us and through our witness in the coming days.

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ONLINE GIVING

With the cancellation of Masses, we are asking our parishioners to consider on-line giving. By doing so, this will help our parish to maintain the expenses that are needed to keep our parish stable.



You can sign up by going to our website, www.auburncatholic.com and at the bottom of the page click on the icon:

We thank you in advance for your contributions in these hard times. Please know our community is in our prayers.

Offertory Collection For:



April 5, 2020:	\$ 3,385
Online Giving:	\$ 3,184
Total:	\$ 6,569

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Peter is an eyewitness: The Lord is risen (Acts 10:34a, 37-43).

Psalm — This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad (Psalm 118).

(1) Second Reading — All who are baptized, set your hearts in heaven (Colossians 3:1-4) *or*

(2) Second Reading — Christ our Passover is sacrificed; therefore let us celebrate (1 Corinthians 5:6b-8).

Gospel — Three witnesses, Mary, Peter, and John; each

responds to the empty tomb (John 20:1-9) *or* Matthew 28:1-10 (*or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Luke 24:13-35*).

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Lk 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2ab, 5-9; Lk 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a; Jn 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1, 14-21; Mk 16:9-15

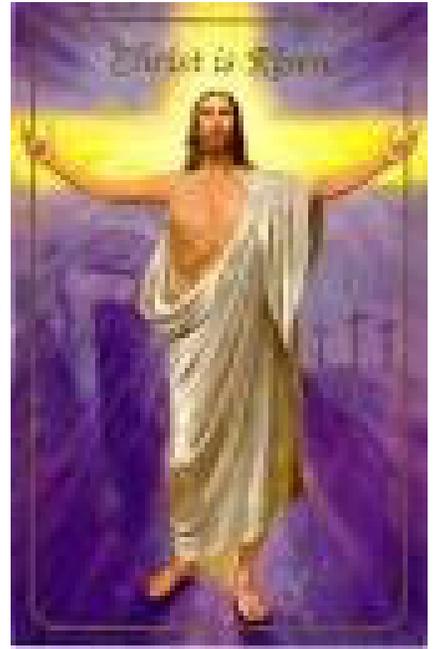
Sunday: Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31



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EASTER SUNDAY THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

If Christmas is the “most wonderful time of the year,” then Easter is the most joyous, glorious, awesome time of the year! Really? Today’s readings don’t exactly brim over with the kind of holiday cheer we find at Christmas—except for the responsorial psalm, which admittedly rings with gleeful joy. But otherwise, not so much. In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter gives a dry, condensed rendering of the story of Jesus to a group of Gentiles in Caesarea. The Colossians reading actually does have us looking forward to glory. Most underwhelming, though, is the Gospel proclamation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. When we want to hear about angels and earthquakes and trumpets and glory, we hear about a dark, silent, empty tomb. This Easter Sunday story from John’s Gospel is startling in its emptiness. Like Peter in the story, we must enter into this mystery.



THE MYSTERY OF EMPTINESS

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! This Paschal greeting is customary in Eastern Catholic and Orthodox churches on Easter Sunday. Then there is Saint Augustine’s acclamation of joy: We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song! However you express it, Easter is the time for rejoicing because Jesus Christ, our friend and brother, is risen from the dead. And yet today’s scriptures are less joyful than one would expect for the most important feast in the Christian calendar. Perhaps we are being asked to look deeper into the mystery of the Resurrection, just as Peter went into the tomb to look deeper into the mystery of its emptiness.

Mary Magdalene, who loved the Lord so much that she risked everything, possibly even her life, to go to the tomb before daybreak, finds the stone rolled away and assumes that someone has taken Jesus’ body. Frightened and sad, she runs to tell Peter and John. They all run back to the tomb, but what do they expect to see? Peter enters the tomb and sees. John enters, sees, and believes. But what does he believe? Scripture states, “For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead” (John 20:9). They went home, not really knowing what had happened. But John “believed” something.

SOMETHING HAPPENED

What do we believe? Somewhere between that Easter morning and Peter’s confident teaching about Jesus in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, something (the Risen Christ) happened. Peter has evolved from his bewilderment into a witness to the Resurrection.

What are we to find in the empty tomb? Maybe the Colossians reading has an answer. By entering the empty tomb of our lives to seek the Lord, we see, we believe, we die, to be raised with Christ. “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3). And we will rise in glory with him.

Today’s Readings: Acts 10:34a, 37—43; Ps 118:1—2, 16—17, 22—23; Col 3:1—4 or 1 Cor 5:6b—8; Jn 20:1—9 or Mt 28:1—10



CHRIST IS RISEN ! ALLELUIA , ALLELUIA !!!

The beauty of a sunrise, the sweet scent of spring flowers, the reverberating sound of Alleluia. All speaking to the glory of Easter. Each reminding us of the continuance of God's power, the resplendence found in creation, the everlasting promise of a new life. In the cycle of life and with sacred ritual, the Church celebrates what we believe in faith. JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD. The power of these words must be made clear and spoken boldly, because they are the promise for our future.

As Christians, we want to be together to celebrate Mass, that is our natural inclination. But now, we must be apart. We are separated and we stay home and we don't know yet for how long. But ironically and paradoxically, as much as we are currently separated, we are in fact, very much together. A common cause unite us: our faith in Jesus Christ Risen from the dead. Wherever we are we can worship in spirit and in truth.

As people of Easter Faith we move beyond the apparent gloom of Good Friday. The cross is laid aside. The tomb is empty. "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised " (Luke 24 :6-7). Now all is new. The Lord is truly risen, alleluia. To Him be glory and power for all the ages of eternity, alleluia, alleluia. More than Easter bonnets, more than chocolate bunnies, more than the joyful taste of jelly beans, our Easter faith moves us ever onward in the journey that will conclude when our cross is laid aside and our life is completed in the glory of God.

Sisters and Brothers, hold to that faith, live in that hope, celebrate in that love which is in God and through God and of God. May the Risen Lord be a living experience to you, pervading every area of your life, blessing you, strengthening you, inspiring you, guiding you in every step of your life.

Peace be with you and Happy Easter! Alleluia!!

Fr. Innocent Subiza

