

April 2, 2023: Palm Sunday

At the Procession with Palms - Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:1-11

When Jesus and the disciples drew near Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tethered, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them here to Me. And if anyone should say anything to you, reply, 'The Master has need of them.' Then he will send them at once." This happened so that what had been spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled:

Say to daughter Zion,

"Behold, your king comes to you,

meek and riding on an ass,

and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had ordered them. They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them, and He sat upon them. The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road. The crowds preceding Him and those following kept crying out and saying:

"Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest."

And when He entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, "Who is this?"

And the crowds replied, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

At the Mass - First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord GOD has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them. Morning after morning He opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

R. (2a) My God, my God, why have You abandoned me?

All who see me scoff at me;

they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads:

"He relied on the LORD; let Him deliver him,
let Him rescue him, if He loves him."

R. My God, my God, why have You abandoned me?

Indeed, many dogs surround me,

a pack of evildoers closes in upon me;

They have pierced my hands and my feet;

I can count all my bones.

R. My God, my God, why have You abandoned me?

They divide my garments among them,

and for my vesture they cast lots.

But You, O LORD, be not far from me;

O my help, hasten to aid me.

R. My God, my God, why have You abandoned me?

I will proclaim Your Name to my brethren;

in the midst of the assembly I will praise You:

"You who fear the LORD, praise Him;

all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to Him;

revere Him, all you descendants of Israel!"

R. My God, my God, why have You abandoned me?

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the Name which is above every name, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in Heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

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(continued)

Gospel Reading

Matthew 26:14—27:66

This Gospel is typically read by multiple readers. It is divided into four parts: Christ (✝), Narrator (N.), Voice (V.), and the Crowd (C.). The Crowd parts are read aloud by the people in the congregation.

✝ The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

N. One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

V. “What are you willing to give me if I hand Him over to you?”

N. They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on he looked for an opportunity to hand Him over. On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples approached Jesus and said, **V.** “Where do you want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?”

N. He said,

✝ “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The Teacher says, “My appointed time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with My disciples.”’”

N. The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered, and prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, He reclined at table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, He said,

✝ “Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.”

N. Deeply distressed at this, they began to say to Him one after another,

V. “Surely it is not I, Lord?”

N. He said in reply,

✝ “He who has dipped his hand into the dish with Me is the one who will betray Me. The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born.”

N. Then Judas, his betrayer, said in reply,

V. “Surely it is not I, Rabbi?”

N. He answered,

✝ “You have said so.”

N. While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to His disciples said,

✝ “Take and eat; this is My Body.”

N. Then He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying,

✝ “Drink from it, all of you, for this is My Blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the Kingdom of My Father.”

N. Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, ✝ “This night all of you will have your faith in Me shaken, for it is written: *I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed;* but after I have been raised up,

I shall go before you to Galilee.”

N. Peter said to Him in reply,

V. “Though all may have their faith in You shaken, mine will never be.”

N. Jesus said to him,

✝ “Amen, I say to you, this very night before the cock crows, you will deny Me three times.” **N.** Peter said to Him,

V. “Even though I should have to die with You, I will not deny You.”

N. And all the disciples spoke likewise.

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to His disciples,

✝ “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”

N. He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then He said to them,

✝ “My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with Me.”

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

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N. He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying,

✝ “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet, not as I will, but as You will.”

N. When He returned to His disciples He found them asleep. He said to Peter,

✝ “So you could not keep watch with Me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

N. Withdrawing a second time, He prayed again,

✝ “My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without My drinking it, Your will be done!” **N.** Then He returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open. He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing again. Then He returned to His disciples and said to them,

✝ “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, My betrayer is at hand.”

N. While He was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a large crowd, with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests and the elders of the people. His betrayer had arranged a sign with them, saying, **V.** “The Man I shall kiss is the One; arrest Him.” **N.** Immediately he went over to Jesus and said,

V. “Hail, Rabbi!”

N. and he kissed Him. Jesus answered him,

✝ “Friend, do what you have come for.”

N. Then stepping forward they laid hands on Jesus and arrested Him. And behold, one of those who accompanied Jesus put his hand to his sword, drew it, and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

✝ “Put your sword back into its sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot call upon My Father and He will not provide Me at this moment with more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled which say that it must come to pass in this way?”

N. At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

✝ “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to seize Me? Day after day I sat teaching in the temple area, yet you did not arrest Me. But all this has come to pass that the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled.”

N. Then all the disciples left Him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. Peter was following Him at a distance as far as the high priest’s courtyard, and going inside he sat down with the servants to see the outcome. The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus in order to put Him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward who stated,

C. “**This Man said, ‘I can destroy the temple of God and within three days rebuild it.’**”

N. The high priest rose and addressed Him,

V. “Have you no answer? What are these men testifying against You?”

N. But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to Him,

V. “I order You to tell us under oath before the living God whether You are the Christ, the Son of God.”

N. Jesus said to him in reply,

✝ “You have said so. But I tell you: From now on you will see ‘the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power’ and ‘coming on the clouds of Heaven.’”

N. Then the high priest tore his robes and said,

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

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(continued)

V. “He has blasphemed! What further need have we of witnesses? You have now heard the blasphemy; what is your opinion?”

N. They said in reply,

C. “**He deserves to die!**”

N. Then they spat in His face and struck Him, while some slapped Him, saying,

C. “**Prophecy for us, Christ: who is it that struck You?**”

N. Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said,

V. “You too were with Jesus the Galilean.”

N. But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, **V.** “I do not know what you are talking about!” **N.** As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there,

V. “This man was with Jesus the Nazorean.”

N. Again he denied it with an oath,

V. “I do not know the Man!”

N. A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter,

C. “**Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away.**”

N. At that he began to curse and to swear,

V. “I do not know the Man.”

N. And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: “Before the cock crows you will deny Me three times.” He went out and began to weep bitterly.

When it was morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death. They bound Him, led Him away, and handed Him over to Pilate, the governor.

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, deeply regretted what he had done. He returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying,

V. “I have sinned in betraying innocent blood.”

N. They said,

C. “**What is that to us? Look to it yourself.**”

N. Flinging the money into the temple, he departed and went off and hanged himself. The chief priests gathered up the money, but said,

C. “**It is not lawful to deposit this in the temple treasury, for it is the price of blood.**”

N. After consultation, they used it to buy the potter’s field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why that field even today is called the Field of Blood. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet, *And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of a man with a price on his head, a price set by some of the Israelites, and they paid it out for the potter’s field just as the Lord had commanded me.*

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and he questioned Him,

V. “Are You the king of the Jews?”

N. Jesus said,

✚ “You say so.”

N. And when He was accused by the chief priests and elders, He made no answer. Then Pilate said to Him,

V. “Do You not hear how many things they are testifying against You?”

N. But He did not answer him one word, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now on the occasion of the feast the governor was accustomed to release to the crowd one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had assembled, Pilate said to them,

V. “Which one do you want me to release to you, Barabbas, or Jesus called Christ?”

N. For he knew that it was out of envy that they had handed Him over. While he was still seated on the bench, his wife sent him a message,

V. “Have nothing to do with that righteous Man.

I suffered much in a dream today because of Him.”

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(continued)

N. The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas but to destroy Jesus. The governor said to them in reply,

V. “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?”

N. They answered,

C. “Barabbas!”

N. Pilate said to them,

V. “Then what shall I do with Jesus called Christ?”

N. They all said,

C. “Let Him be crucified!”

N. But he said,

V. “Why? What evil has He done?”

N. They only shouted the louder,

C. “Let Him be crucified!”

N. When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying,

V. “I am innocent of this Man’s blood. Look to it yourselves.”

N. And the whole people said in reply,

C. “His blood be upon us and upon our children.”

N. Then he released Barabbas to them, but after he had Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around Him. They stripped off His clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about Him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And kneeling before Him, they mocked Him, saying,

C. “Hail, king of the Jews!”

N. They spat upon Him and took the reed and kept striking Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the cloak, dressed Him in His Own clothes, and led Him off to crucify Him.

As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon; this man they pressed into service to carry His cross.

And when they came to a place called Golgotha—which means Place of the Skull—, they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall. But when He had tasted it, He refused to drink. After they had crucified Him, they divided His garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over Him there. And they placed over His head the written charge against Him: This is Jesus, the king of the Jews. Two revolutionaries were crucified with Him, one on His right and the other on His left. Those passing by reviled Him, shaking their heads and saying,

C. “You Who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself, if You are the Son of God, and come down from the cross!”

N. Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked Him and said,

C. “He saved others; He cannot save Himself. So He is the king of Israel! Let Him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in Him.

He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He wants Him. For He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

N. The revolutionaries who were crucified with Him also kept abusing Him in the same way.

From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

✦ “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”

N. which means,

✦ “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

N. Some of the bystanders who heard it said,

C. “This One is calling for Elijah.”

N. Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to Him to drink. But the rest said, **C. “Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save Him.”**

N. But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up His Spirit.

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Here all kneel and pause for a short time.

N. And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after His resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said,
C. "Truly, this was the Son of God!"

N. There were many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him. Among them were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb.

The next day, the one following the day of preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

C. "Sir, we remember that this impostor while still alive said, 'After three days I will be raised up.' Give orders, then, that the grave be secured until the third day, lest His disciples come and steal Him and say to the people, 'He has been raised from the dead.' This last imposture would be worse than the first."

N. Pilate said to them,

V. "The guard is yours; go, secure it as best you can."

N. So they went and secured the tomb by fixing a seal to the stone and setting the guard.

OR:

Matthew 27:11-54

N. Jesus stood before the governor, Pontius Pilate, who questioned Him,

V. "Are you the king of the Jews?"

N. Jesus said,

✦ "You say so."

N. And when He was accused by the chief priests and elders, He made no answer. Then Pilate said to Him,

V. "Do You not hear how many things they are testifying against You?"

N. But He did not answer him one word, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

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(continued)

N. But he said,**V.** “Why? What evil has He done?”**N.** They only shouted the louder,**C. “Let Him be crucified!”****N.** When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying,**V.** “I am innocent of this Man’s blood. Look to it yourselves.”**N.** And the whole people said in reply,**C. “His blood be upon us and upon our children.”****N.** Then he released Barabbas to them, but after he had Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around Him. They stripped off His clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about Him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And kneeling before Him, they mocked Him, saying,

C. “Hail, king of the Jews!”**N.** They spat upon Him and took the reed and kept striking Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the cloak, dressed Him in His Own clothes, and led Him off to crucify Him.

As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon; this man they pressed into service to carry His cross.

And when they came to a place called Golgotha — which means Place of the Skull—, they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall. But when He had tasted it, He refused to drink. After they had crucified Him, they divided His garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over Him there. And they placed over His head the written charge against Him: This is Jesus, the king of the Jews. Two revolutionaries were crucified with Him, one on His right and the other on

His left. Those passing by reviled Him, shaking their heads and saying,

C. “You Who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself, if You are the Son of God, and come down from the cross!”**N.** Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked Him and said,**C. “He saved others; He cannot save Himself. So He is the king of Israel! Let Him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in Him.****He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He wants Him. For He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”****N.** The revolutionaries who were crucified with Him also kept abusing Him in the same way.

From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

✦ “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”**N.** which means,**✦** “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”**N.** Some of the bystanders who heard it said,**C. “This One is calling for Elijah.”****N.** Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to Him to drink. But the rest said, **C. “Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save Him.”****N.** But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up His Spirit.

And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after His resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said,

C. “Truly, this was the Son of God!”

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April 6, 2023: Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**First Reading****Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14**

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month shall stand at the head of your calendar; you shall reckon it the first month of the year. Tell the whole community of Israel: On the tenth of this month every one of your families must procure for itself a lamb, one apiece for each household. If a family is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join the nearest household in procuring one and shall share in the lamb in proportion to the number of persons who partake of it. The lamb must be a year-old male and without blemish. You may take it from either the sheep or the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, and then, with the whole assembly of Israel present, it shall be slaughtered during the evening twilight. They shall take some of its blood and apply it to the two doorposts and the lintel of every house in which they partake of the lamb. That same night they shall eat its roasted flesh with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

"This is how you are to eat it: with your loins girt, sandals on your feet and your staff in hand, you shall eat like those who are in flight. It is the Passover of the LORD. For on this same night I will go through Egypt, striking down every firstborn of the land, both man and beast, and executing judgment on all the gods of Egypt—I, the LORD! But the blood will mark the houses where you are. Seeing the blood, I will pass over you; thus, when I strike the land of Egypt, no destructive blow will come upon you.

"This day shall be a memorial feast for you, which all your generations shall celebrate with pilgrimage to the LORD, as a perpetual institution."

Responsorial Psalm**Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18.**

R. (cf. 1 Cor 10:16) Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

How shall I make a return to the LORD
for all the good He has done for me?

The cup of salvation I will take up,
and I will call upon the Name of the LORD.

R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

Precious in the eyes of the LORD
is the death of His faithful ones.

I am your servant, the son of your handmaid;
you have loosed my bonds.

R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and I will call upon the Name of the LORD.

My vows to the LORD I will pay
in the presence of all His people.

R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

Second Reading**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

Brothers and sisters:

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night He was handed over, took bread, and, after He had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is My Body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My Blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until He comes.

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

**April 6, 2023: Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
(continued)**

Gospel Reading

John 13:1-15

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that His hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved His Own in the world and He loved them to the end. The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand Him over. So, during supper, fully aware that the Father had put everything into His power and that He had come from God and was returning to God, He rose from supper and took off His outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around His waist. Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around His waist. He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, "Master, are You going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later." Peter said to Him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with Me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well."

Jesus said to him, "Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed, for he is clean all over; so you are clean, but not all." For He knew who would betray Him; for this reason, He said, "Not all of you are clean."

So when He had washed their feet and put His garments back on and reclined at table again, He said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call Me 'Teacher' and 'Master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the Master and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet.

I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

April 7, 2023: Good Friday of the Lord's Passion**First Reading****Isaiah 52:13—53:12**

See, My servant shall prosper, he shall be raised high and greatly exalted. Even as many were amazed at him so marred was his look beyond human semblance and his appearance beyond that of the sons of man so shall he startle many nations, because of him kings shall stand speechless; for those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it.

Who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; there was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him. He was spurned and avoided by people, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, one of those from whom people hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem.

Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins; upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; but the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all.

Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth. Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away, and who would have thought any more of his

destiny? When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people, a grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers, though he had done no wrong nor spoken any falsehood. But the LORD was pleased to crush him in infirmity.

If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life, and the will of the LORD shall be accomplished through him.

Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days; through his suffering, My servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear. Therefore I will give him his portion among the great, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, because he surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; and he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses.

Responsorial Psalm**Psalm 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25**

R. (Lk 23:46) Father, into Your hands I commend My Spirit.

In You, O LORD, I take refuge;

let me never be put to shame.

In Your justice rescue me.

Into Your hands I commend my spirit;

You will redeem me, O LORD, O faithful God.

R. Father, into Your hands I commend My Spirit.

For all my foes I am an object of reproach,

a laughingstock to my neighbors, and a dread to my friends;

they who see me abroad flee from me.

I am forgotten like the unremembered dead;

I am like a dish that is broken.

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

April 7, 2023: Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

(continued)

R. Father, into Your hands I commend My Spirit.

But my trust is in You, O LORD;

I say, "You are my God.

In Your hands is my destiny; rescue me

from the clutches of my enemies and my persecutors."

R. Father, into Your hands I commend My Spirit.

Let Your face shine upon Your servant;

save me in Your kindness.

Take courage and be stouthearted,

all you who hope in the LORD.

R. Father, into Your hands I commend My Spirit.**Second Reading****Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9**

Brothers and sisters:

Since we have a great High Priest Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One Who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.

In the days when Christ was in the flesh, He offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the One Who was able to save Him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though He was, He learned obedience from what He suffered; and when He was made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.

Gospel Reading**John 18:1—19:42**

This Gospel is typically read by multiple readers. It is divided into four parts: Christ (✙), Narrator (N.), Voice (V.), and the Crowd (C.). The Crowd parts are read aloud by the people in the congregation.

✙ The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

N. Jesus went out with His disciples across the Kidron valley to where there was a garden, into which He and His disciples entered. Judas His betrayer also knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with His disciples. So Judas got a band of soldiers and guards from the chief priests and the Pharisees and went there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to Him, went out and said to them,

✙ "Whom are you looking for?"

N. They answered Him,

C. "Jesus the Nazorean."

N. He said to them,

✙ "I AM."

N. Judas His betrayer was also with them. When He said to them, "I AM," they turned away and fell to the ground. So He again asked them,

✙ "Whom are you looking for?"

N. They said,

C. "Jesus the Nazorean."

N. Jesus answered,

✙ "I told you that I AM. So if you are looking for Me, let these men go."

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

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(continued)

N. This was to fulfill what He had said, "I have not lost any of those you gave Me." Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, ✚ "Put your sword into its scabbard. Shall I not drink the cup that the Father gave Me?"

N. So the band of soldiers, the tribune, and the Jewish guards seized Jesus, bound Him, and brought Him to Annas first. He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had counseled the Jews that it was better that one Man should die rather than the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Now the other disciple was known to the high priest, and he entered the courtyard of the high priest with Jesus. But Peter stood at the gate outside. So the other disciple, the acquaintance of the high priest, went out and spoke to the gatekeeper and brought Peter in. Then the maid who was the gatekeeper said to Peter,

V. "You are not one of this Man's disciples, are you?"

N. He said,

V. "I am not."

N. Now the slaves and the guards were standing around a charcoal fire that they had made, because it was cold, and were warming themselves. Peter was also standing there keeping warm.

The high priest questioned Jesus about His disciples and about His doctrine. Jesus answered him,

✚ "I have spoken publicly to the world. I have always taught in a synagogue or in the temple area where all the Jews gather, and in secret I have said nothing. Why ask Me? Ask those who heard Me what I said to them. They know what I said."

N. When He had said this, one of the temple guards standing there struck Jesus and said,

V. "Is this the way You answer the high priest?" **N.** Jesus answered him,

✚ "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike Me?"

N. Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing there keeping warm. And they said to him,

C. "You are not one of His disciples, are you?" **N.** He denied it and said,

V. "I am not."

N. One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the one whose ear Peter had cut off, said,

V. "Didn't I see you in the garden with Him?"

N. Again Peter denied it. And immediately the cock crowed.

Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was morning. And they themselves did not enter the praetorium, in order not to be defiled so that they could eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and said,

V. "What charge do you bring against this Man?"

N. They answered and said to him,

C. "If He were not a criminal, we would not have handed Him over to you."

N. At this, Pilate said to them,

V. "Take Him yourselves, and judge Him according to your law."

N. The Jews answered him,

C. "We do not have the right to execute anyone,"

N. in order that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled that He said indicating the kind of death He would die. So Pilate went back into the praetorium and summoned Jesus and said to Him,

V. "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

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(continued)

N. Jesus answered,

✚ “Do you say this on your own or have others told you about Me?”

N. Pilate answered,

V. “I am not a Jew, am I? Your Own nation and the chief priests handed You over to me. What have You done?”

N. Jesus answered,

✚ “My Kingdom does not belong to this world. If My Kingdom did belong to this world, My attendants would be fighting to keep Me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, My Kingdom is not here.”

N. So Pilate said to Him,

V. “Then You are a king?”

N. Jesus answered,

✚ “You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My Voice.”

N. Pilate said to Him,

V. “What is truth?”

N. When he had said this, he again went out to the Jews and said to them,

V. “I find no guilt in Him. But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at Passover. Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?”

N. They cried out again,

C. “**Not this One but Barabbas!**”

N. Now Barabbas was a revolutionary.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on His head, and clothed Him in a purple cloak, and they came to Him and said,

C. “**Hail, King of the Jews!**”

N. And they struck Him repeatedly. Once more Pilate went out and said to them,

V. “Look, I am bringing Him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in Him.”

N. So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak. And he said to them,

V. “Behold, the Man!”

N. When the chief priests and the guards saw Him they cried out,

C. “**Crucify Him, crucify Him!**”

N. Pilate said to them,

V. “Take Him yourselves and crucify Him. I find no guilt in Him.”

N. The Jews answered,

C. “**We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.**”

N. Now when Pilate heard this statement, he became even more afraid, and went back into the praetorium and said to Jesus,

V. “Where are you from?”

N. Jesus did not answer him. So Pilate said to Him,

V. “Do You not speak to me? Do You not know that I have power to release You and I have power to crucify You?”

N. Jesus answered him,

✚ “You would have no power over Me if it had not been given to you from above. For this reason the one who handed Me over to you has the greater sin.”

N. Consequently, Pilate tried to release Him; but the Jews cried out,

C. “**If you release Him, you are not a Friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.**”

N. When Pilate heard these words he brought Jesus out and seated Him on the judge's bench in the place called Stone Pavement, in Hebrew, Gabbatha. It was preparation day for Passover, and it was about noon.

And he said to the Jews,

V. “Behold, your king!”

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

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(continued)

N. They cried out,**C. "Take Him away, take Him away! Crucify Him!"****N.** Pilate said to them,**V.** "Shall I crucify your king?"**N.** The chief priests answered,**C. "We have no king but Caesar."****N.** Then he handed Him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus, and, carrying the cross Himself, He went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews." Now many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek.

So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate,

C. "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that He said, 'I am the King of the Jews'."**N.** Pilate answered,**V.** "What I have written, I have written."

N. When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took His tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another,

C. "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be,"

N. in order that the passage of Scripture might be fulfilled that says:

*They divided my garments among them,
and for my vesture they cast lots.*

This is what the soldiers did. Standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus

saw His mother and the disciple there whom He loved He said to His mother,

✦ "Woman, behold, your son."**N.** Then He said to the disciple,**✦** "Behold, your mother."

N. And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said,

✦ "I thirst."

N. There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to His mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, He said,

✦ "It is finished."

N. And bowing His head, He handed over the Spirit.

Here all kneel and pause for a short time.

N. Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and that they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into His side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe. For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled:

Not a bone of it will be broken.

And again another passage says:

They will look upon him whom they have pierced.

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

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(continued)

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus.

And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took His body. Nicodemus, the one who had first come to Him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom. Now in the place where He had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried. So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day; for the tomb was close by.

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

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Reading I

Genesis 1:1—2:2

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw how good the light was. God then separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness He called "night." Thus evening came, and morning followed—the first day.

Then God said, "Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other." And so it happened: God made the dome, and it separated the water above the dome from the water below it. God called the dome "the sky." Evening came, and morning followed—the second day.

Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear." And so it happened: the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared. God called the dry land "the earth," and the basin of the water he called "the sea." God saw how good it was. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it." And so it happened: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed—the third day.

Then God said: "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth." And so it happened: God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night; and he made the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day.

Then God said, "Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky." And so it happened: God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water teems, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw how good it was, and God blessed them, saying, "Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth." Evening came, and morning followed—the fifth day.

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds." And so it happened: God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was. Then God said: "Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground." God created man in His image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and

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multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth." God also said: "See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food." And so it happened. God looked at everything He had made, and He found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed. Since on the seventh day God was finished with the work He had been doing, He rested on the seventh day from all the work He had undertaken.

OR:**Genesis 1:1, 26-31a**

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, God said: "Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground." God created man in His image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth." God also said: "See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for

food." And so it happened. God looked at everything He had made, and found it very good.

Responsorial Psalm**Psalm 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35****R. (30) Lord, send out Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!

You are clothed with majesty and glory, robed in light as with a cloak.

R. Lord, send out Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

You fixed the earth upon its foundation, not to be moved forever; with the ocean, as with a garment, you covered it; above the mountains the waters stood.

R. Lord, send out Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

You send forth springs into the watercourses that wind among the mountains.

Beside them the birds of heaven dwell;

from among the branches they send forth their song.

R. Lord, send out Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

You water the mountains from your palace; the earth is replete with the fruit of your works. You raise grass for the cattle, and vegetation for man's use, Producing bread from the earth.

R. Lord, send out Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

How manifold are Your works, O LORD!

In wisdom You have wrought them all—

the earth is full of Your creatures.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

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R. Lord, send out Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

OR:

Psalm 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20 and 22

R. (5b) The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Upright is the word of the LORD,
and all His works are trustworthy.

He loves justice and right;

of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full.

R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made;
by the breath of His mouth all their host.

He gathers the waters of the sea as in a flask;
in cellars He confines the deep.

R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Blessed the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people He has chosen for His own inheritance.

From Heaven the LORD looks down;
He sees all mankind.

R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Our soul waits for the LORD,
Who is our help and our shield.

May Your kindness, O LORD, be upon us
who have put our hope in You.

R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Reading II

Genesis 22:1-18

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said: "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you." Early the next morning Abraham saddled his donkey, took with him his son Isaac and two of his servants as well, and with the wood that he had cut for the holocaust, set out for the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham got sight of the place from afar. Then he said to his servants: "Both of you stay here with the donkey, while the boy and I go on over yonder. We will worship and then come back to you." Thereupon Abraham took the wood for the holocaust and laid it on his son Isaac's shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two walked on together, Isaac spoke to his father Abraham: "Father!" Isaac said. "Yes, son," he replied. Isaac continued, "Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the sheep for the holocaust?" "Son," Abraham answered, "God Himself will provide the sheep for the holocaust." Then the two continued going forward.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Next he tied up his son Isaac, and put him on top of the wood on the altar. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the LORD's messenger called to him from Heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" "Here I am!" he answered. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger. "Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own

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beloved son." As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son. Abraham named the site Yahweh-yireh; hence people now say, "On the mountain the LORD will see."

Again the LORD's messenger called to Abraham from Heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from Me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing—all this because you obeyed My command."

OR:**Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18**

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said: "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you."

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the LORD's messenger called to him from Heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" "Here I am," he answered. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger. "Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did

not withhold from me your own beloved son." As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son.

Again the LORD's messenger called to Abraham from Heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from Me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing—all this because you obeyed My command."

Responsorial Psalm**Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11****R. (1) You are my inheritance, O Lord.**

O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,
You it is Who hold fast my lot.

I set the LORD ever before me;
with Him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,
my body, too, abides in confidence;

because You will not abandon my soul to the
netherworld,
nor will You suffer Your faithful one to undergo
corruption.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

You will show me the path to life,
fullness of joys in Your presence,
the delights at Your right hand forever.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

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Reading III

Exodus 14:15—15:1

The LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. And you, lift up your staff and, with hand outstretched over the sea, split the sea in two, that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land. But I will make the Egyptians so obstinate that they will go in after them. Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots and charioteers. The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I receive glory through Pharaoh and his chariots and charioteers."

The angel of God, who had been leading Israel's camp, now moved and went around behind them. The column of cloud also, leaving the front, took up its place behind them, so that it came between the camp of the Egyptians and that of Israel. But the cloud now became dark, and thus the night passed without the rival camps coming any closer together all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD swept the sea with a strong east wind throughout the night and so turned it into dry land. When the water was thus divided, the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.

The Egyptians followed in pursuit; all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and charioteers went after them right into the midst of the sea. In the night watch just before dawn the LORD cast through the column of the fiery cloud upon the Egyptian force a glance that threw it into a panic; and He so clogged their chariot wheels that they could hardly drive. With that the Egyptians

sounded the retreat before Israel, because the LORD was fighting for them against the Egyptians.

Then the LORD told Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and their charioteers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea flowed back to its normal depth. The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward the sea, when the LORD hurled them into its midst. As the water flowed back, it covered the chariots and the charioteers of Pharaoh's whole army which had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not a single one of them escaped. But the Israelites had marched on dry land through the midst of the sea, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel on that day from the power of the Egyptians. When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore and beheld the great power that the LORD had shown against the Egyptians, they feared the LORD and believed in Him and in His servant Moses. Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: I will sing to the LORD, for He is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariot He has cast into the sea.

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Responsorial Psalm

Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18

R. (1b) Let us sing to the Lord; He has covered Himself in glory.

I will sing to the LORD, for He is gloriously triumphant;
horse and chariot He has cast into the sea.

My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and He has been my Savior.

He is my God, I praise Him;
the God of my father, I extol Him.

R. Let us sing to the Lord; He has covered Himself in glory.

The LORD is a warrior,
LORD is His Name!

Pharaoh's chariots and army He hurled into the sea;
the elite of His officers were submerged in the Red Sea.

R. Let us sing to the Lord; He has covered Himself in glory.

The flood waters covered them,
they sank into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O LORD, magnificent in power,
Your right hand, O LORD, has shattered the enemy.

R. Let us sing to the Lord; He has covered Himself in glory.

You brought in the people You redeemed
and planted them on the mountain of Your inheritance—

the place where You made Your seat, O LORD,
the sanctuary, LORD, which Your hands established.

The LORD shall reign forever and ever.

R. Let us sing to the Lord; He has covered Himself in glory.

Reading IV

Isaiah 54:5-14

The One who has become your husband is your Maker; His Name is the LORD of hosts; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, called God of all the earth. The LORD calls you back, like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, a wife married in youth and then cast off, says your God. For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great tenderness I will take you back. In an outburst of wrath, for a moment I hid my face from you; but with enduring love I take pity on you, says the LORD, your Redeemer. This is for Me like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah should never again deluge the earth; so I have sworn not to be angry with you, or to rebuke you. Though the mountains leave their place and the hills be shaken, my love shall never leave you nor My covenant of peace be shaken, says the LORD, Who has mercy on you. O afflicted one, storm-battered and unconsolated,

I lay your pavements in carnelians, and your foundations in sapphires; I will make your battlements of rubies, your gates of carbuncles, and all your walls of precious stones. All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children. In justice shall you be established, far from the fear of oppression, where destruction cannot come near you.

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

April 8, 2023: Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord Holy Saturday At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

(continued)

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13

R. (2a) I will praise You, Lord, for You have rescued me.

I will extol You, O LORD, for You drew me clear and did not let my enemies rejoice over me.

O LORD, You brought me up from the netherworld; You preserved me from among those going down into the pit.

R. I will praise You, Lord, for You have rescued me.

Sing praise to the LORD, You his faithful ones, and give thanks to His holy Name.

For His anger lasts but a moment; a lifetime, His good will.

At nightfall, weeping enters in, but with the dawn, rejoicing.

R. I will praise You, Lord, for You have rescued me.

Hear, O LORD, and have pity on me;

O LORD, be my helper.

You changed my mourning into dancing;

O LORD, my God, forever will I give You thanks.

R. I will praise You, Lord, for You have rescued me.

Reading V

Isaiah 55:1-11

Thus says the LORD:

All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David. As I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of nations, so shall you summon a nation you knew not, and nations that knew you not shall run to you, because of the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.

For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

April 8, 2023: Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord Holy Saturday At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

(continued)

Responsorial Psalm

Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6

R. (3) You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

God indeed is my Savior;

I am confident and unafraid.

My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and He has been my Savior.

With joy you will draw water
at the fountain of salvation.

R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim His Name;
among the nations make known His deeds,
proclaim how exalted is His Name.

R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Sing praise to the LORD for His glorious achievement;
let this be known throughout all the earth.

Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,
for great in your midst
is the Holy One of Israel!

R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Reading VI

Baruch 3:9-15, 32—4:4

Hear, O Israel, the commandments of life: listen, and know prudence! How is it, Israel, that you are in the land of your foes, grown old in a foreign land, defiled with the dead, accounted with those destined for the netherworld? You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom! Had you walked in the way of God, you would have dwelt in enduring peace. Learn where prudence is, where strength, where understanding; that you may know also where are length of days, and life, where light of the eyes, and peace. Who has found the place of wisdom, who has entered into her treasuries? The One who knows all things knows her; He has probed her by His knowledge—The One who established the earth for all time, and filled it with four-footed beasts; He who dismisses the light, and it departs, calls it, and it obeys Him trembling; before whom the stars at their posts shine and rejoice; when He calls them, they answer, "Here we are!" shining with joy for their Maker. Such is our God; no other is to be compared to Him: He has traced out the whole way of understanding, and has given her to Jacob, His servant, to Israel, His beloved son.

Since then she has appeared on earth, and moved among people. She is the book of the precepts of God, the law that endures forever; all who cling to her will live, but those will die who forsake her. Turn, O Jacob, and receive her:

walk by her light toward splendor. Give not your glory to another, your privileges to an alien race.

Blessed are we, O Israel; for what pleases God is known to us!

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

April 8, 2023: Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord Holy Saturday At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter
(continued)

Responsorial Psalm**Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11**

R. (John 6:68c) Lord, You have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul;
the decree of the LORD is trustworthy,
giving wisdom to the simple.

R. Lord, You have the words of everlasting life.

The precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the command of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eye.

R. Lord, You have the words of everlasting life.

The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true,
all of them just.

R. Lord, You have the words of everlasting life.

They are more precious than gold,
than a heap of purest gold;
sweeter also than syrup
or honey from the comb.

R. Lord, You have the words of everlasting life.

Reading VII**Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28**

The word of the LORD came to me, saying: Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in their land, they defiled it by their conduct and deeds. Therefore I poured out My fury upon them because of the blood that they poured out on the ground, and because they defiled it with idols. I scattered them among the nations, dispersing them over foreign lands; according to their conduct and deeds I judged them. But when they came among the nations wherever they came, they served to profane My holy Name, because it was said of them: "These are the people of the LORD, yet they had to leave their land." So I have relented because of My holy Name which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they came. Therefore say to the house of Israel: Thus says the Lord GOD: Not for your sakes do I act, house of Israel, but for the sake of My holy Name, which you profaned among the nations to which you came.

I will prove the holiness of My great Name, profaned among the nations, in whose midst you have profaned it. Thus the nations shall know that I am the LORD, says the Lord GOD, when in their sight I prove My holiness through you. For I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put My spirit within you and make you live by My statutes, careful to observe My decrees. You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

April 8, 2023: Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord Holy Saturday At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter
(continued)

Responsorial Psalm**Psalm 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4***When baptism is celebrated.***R. (42:2) Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God.**

Athirst is my soul for God, the living God.

When shall I go and behold the face of God?

R. Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God.I went with the throng
and led them in procession to the house of God,
Amid loud cries of joy and thanksgiving,
with the multitude keeping festival.**R. Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God.**Send forth Your light and Your fidelity;
they shall lead me on
And bring me to Your holy mountain,
to Your dwelling-place.**R. Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God.**Then will I go in to the altar of God,
the God of my gladness and joy;
then will I give You thanks upon the harp,
O God, my God!**R. Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God.****OR:****Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6***When baptism is not celebrated.***R. (3) You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

God indeed is my Savior;

I am confident and unafraid.

My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and He has been my Savior.With joy you will draw water
at the fountain of salvation.**R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim His Name;
among the nations make known His deeds,
proclaim how exalted is His Name.**R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**Sing praise to the LORD for His glorious achievement;
let this be known throughout all the earth.Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,
for great in your midst
is the Holy One of Israel!**R. You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

April 8, 2023: Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord Holy Saturday At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter
(continued)

OR:

Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19

When baptism is not celebrated

R. (12a) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

A clean heart create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.

Cast me not out from Your presence,
and Your Holy Spirit take not from me.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Give me back the joy of Your salvation,
and a willing spirit sustain in me.

I will teach transgressors Your ways,
and sinners shall return to You.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

For You are not pleased with sacrifices;
should I offer a holocaust, You would not accept it.
My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit;
a heart contrite and humbled, O God, You will not
spurn.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Epistle

Romans 6:3-11

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were indeed buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like His, we shall also be united with Him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with Him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over Him. As to His death, He died to sin once and for all; as to his life, He lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

April 8, 2023: Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord Holy Saturday At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

(continued)

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
for His mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say,
“His mercy endures forever.”

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The right hand of the LORD has struck with power;
the right hand of the LORD is exalted.

I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from Heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and His clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of Him and became like dead men. Then the angel said to the women in reply, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for He has been raised just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him.’ Behold, I have told you.” Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to His disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced His feet, and did Him homage. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go tell My brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

April 9, 2023: Easter Sunday

First Reading

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Peter proceeded to speak and said:

“You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree. This Man God raised on the third day and granted that He be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that He is the One appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins through His Name.”

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

R. (24) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

or:

R. Alleluia.

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
for His mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say,

“His mercy endures forever.”

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

or:

R. Alleluia.

“The right hand of the LORD has struck with power;
the right hand of the LORD is exalted.

I shall not die, but live,

and declare the works of the LORD.”

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

or:

R. Alleluia.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.

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

or:

R. Alleluia.

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-4

Brothers and sisters: If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with Him in glory.

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

April 9, 2023: Easter Sunday

(continued)

OR:

1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Brothers and sisters: Do you not know that a little yeast leavens all the dough? Clear out the old yeast, so that you may become a fresh batch of dough, inasmuch as you are unleavened. For our Paschal Lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Sequence

Christians, to the Paschal Victim

Offer your thankful praises!

A Lamb the sheep redeems;

Christ, who only is sinless,

Reconciles sinners to the Father.

Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous:

The Prince of life, Who died, reigns immortal.

Speak, Mary, declaring

What you saw, wayfaring.

“The tomb of Christ, Who is living,

The glory of Jesus’ resurrection;

bright angels attesting,

The shroud and napkin resting.

Yes, Christ my hope is arisen;

to Galilee He goes before you.”

Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining.

Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!

Amen. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

John 20:1-9

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put Him.” So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered His head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that He had to rise from the dead.

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

April 16, 2023: Divine Mercy Sunday (the 2nd Sunday of Easter)

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the Apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the Apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

R. (1) Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love is everlasting.

or:

R. Alleluia.

Let the house of Israel say,

“His mercy endures forever.”

Let the house of Aaron say,

“His mercy endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His mercy endures forever.”

R. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love is everlasting.

or:

R. Alleluia.

I was hard pressed and was falling,

but the LORD helped me.

My strength and my courage is the LORD,

and He has been my Savior.

The joyful shout of victory

in the tents of the just:

R. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love is everlasting.

or:

R. Alleluia.

The stone which the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done;

it is wonderful in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made;

let us be glad and rejoice in it.

R. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love is everlasting.

or:

R. Alleluia.

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

April 16, 2023: Divine Mercy Sunday (the 2nd Sunday of Easter)
(continued)

Second Reading**1 Peter 1:3-9**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who in His great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in Heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time. In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Although you have not seen Him you love Him; even though you do not see Him now yet believe in Him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Reading**John 20:19-31**

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

Now a week later His disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see My hands, and bring your hand and put it into My side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in His Name.

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

April 23, 2023: The 3rd Sunday of Easter**First Reading****Acts 2:14, 22-33**

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed: "You who are Jews, indeed all of you staying in Jerusalem. Let this be known to you, and listen to my words. You who are Israelites, hear these words. Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God with mighty deeds, wonders, and signs, which God worked through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know. This Man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify Him. But God raised Him up, releasing Him from the throes of death, because it was impossible for Him to be held by it. For David says of Him:

I saw the Lord ever before me, with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has exulted; my flesh, too, will dwell in hope, because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.

"My brothers, one can confidently say to you about the patriarch David that he died and was buried, and his tomb is in our midst to this day. But since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him that He would set one of his descendants upon his throne, he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he abandoned to the netherworld nor did his flesh see corruption. God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses. Exalted at the right hand of God, He received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father and poured Him forth, as you see and hear."

Responsorial Psalm**Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11**

R. (11a) Lord, You will show us the path of life.
or:

R. Alleluia.

Keep me, O God, for in You I take refuge;
I say to the LORD, "My Lord are You."
O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,
You it is Who hold fast my lot.

R. Lord, You will show us the path of life.
or:

R. Alleluia.

I bless the LORD Who counsels me;
even in the night my heart exhorts me.
I set the LORD ever before me;
with Him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

R. Lord, You will show us the path of life.
or:

R. Alleluia.

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,
my body, too, abides in confidence;
because You will not abandon my soul to the
netherworld,
nor will You suffer Your faithful one to undergo
corruption.

R. Lord, You will show us the path of life.
or:

R. Alleluia.

You will show me the path to life,
abounding joy in Your presence,
the delights at Your right hand forever.

R. Lord, You will show us the path of life.
or:

R. Alleluia.

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

April 23, 2023: The 3rd Sunday of Easter
(continued)

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-21

Beloved:

If you invoke as Father Him Who judges impartially according to each one's works, conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning, realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb.

He was known before the foundation of the world but revealed in the final time for you, who through Him believe in God Who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:13-35

That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus Himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to Him in reply, "Are You the only visitor to Jerusalem Who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And He replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to Him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, Who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed Him over to a sentence of death and crucified

Him. But we were hoping that He would be the One to redeem Israel; and

besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find His body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that He was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but Him they did not see." And He said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them what referred to Him in all the Scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, He gave the impression that He was going on farther. But they urged Him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So He went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while He was with them at table, He took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized Him, but He vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how He was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

April 30, 2023: The 4th Sunday of Easter**First Reading****Acts 2:14A, 36-41**

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed: "Let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles, "What are we to do, my brothers?"

Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call." He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day.

Responsorial Psalm**Psalm 23:1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6**

R. (1) **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose;

beside restful waters he leads me;

he refreshes my soul.

R. **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

He guides me in right paths

for his name's sake.

Even though I walk in the dark valley

I fear no evil; for you are at my side.

With your rod and your staff

that give me courage.

R. **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

You spread the table before me

in the sight of my foes;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

R. **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me

all the days of my life;

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

for years to come.

R. **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

April 30, 2023: The 4th Sunday of Easter

(continued)

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:20B-25

Beloved:

If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in His footsteps. He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth. When He was insulted, He returned no insult; when He suffered, He did not threaten; instead, He handed Himself over to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in His body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Reading

John 10:1-10

Jesus said:

“Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.” Although Jesus used this figure of speech, the Pharisees did not realize what He was trying to tell them. So Jesus said again, “Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through Me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”

Gospel readings source: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/