

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia alleluia! **(Or)**

The Lord is truly risen, alleluia. To him be glory and power for all the ages of eternity, alleluia, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 117)

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

RESPONSE: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. (Or) Alleluia!

LECTOR: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Let the sons of Israel say: "His love has no end." **R.**

LECTOR: The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. **R.**

LECTOR: The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. **R.**

SEQUENCE:

*Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice
and praise.*

*The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,*

hath sinners to his Father reconciled.

Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!

Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.

Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.

The tomb the Living did enclose;

I saw Christ's glory as he rose!

The angels there attesting;

shroud with grave-clothes resting.

*Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into
Galilee.*

That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.

Victorious king, thy mercy show!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

TODAY'S READINGS Acts 10:34, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9

NEXT WEEK (2nd Sunday of Easter, Year C) Acts 5:12-16; Ps 117; Rev 1:9-13, 17-19; John 20:19-31

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Jesus lives!



17 April 2022 Easter Year C

There was a Russian Cossack, who had two sons in the First World War. Their names were Peter and Gregory. One day the father got a letter from the front. Being unable to read he handed it to his daughter. It was from Gregory's commanding officer and began like this: "I regret to inform you that your son Gregory was killed in action on July 10.

Gregory was an excellent soldier, and you have every reason to be proud of him." The effect of this news on the father was immediate and alarming. In a matter of days he aged, turning grey overnight. His memory began to fail and even his mind was affected. He began to drink to excess. He kept the letter under an icon in the kitchen. Each day he would take it down and ask his daughter to read it to him once more.

After the local priest had offered a Requiem Mass for his son, he felt a little better, only a little. Twelve days went on like this. On the thirteenth day a second letter arrived from the front. It contained an extraordinary piece of news. His son was not dead! He had been wounded and left for dead on the battlefield.

Next morning, he had come to and crawled four miles back to his own lines, dragging a wounded officer with him. He was to be raised to the rank of a corporal and had been awarded the Cross of St George in recognition of his bravery.

Right now, he was recovering in hospital,

and they could expect a visit from him in a month's time. Once again, the effect on the father was immediate, except this time it was for the better. He was a sight to see. He was filled with joy. He grabbed the letter and went into the village with it. He stopped everyone he met. "What do you think?" he would ask.

"My son is alive! He's been awarded the St. George Cross for bravery!" This story should give us some idea of the joy the disciples experienced on Easter Sunday morning. Just as the Cossack father gave witness to the news that his son was alive, so too Peter speaks to the household of Cornelius the Roman Centurion. He summarises for them the essence of the story of Jesus who was anointed by God, proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God, healed the sick and liberated those possessed.

However, having antagonised the authorities Jesus was crucified but raised to new life. He appeared to his disciples, shared food with them and commissioned them to bear witness to all people. The Spirit comes upon Peter's audience, and all are baptised Jews and Gentiles.

As we reflect on the resurrection of Jesus, we are reminded and renewed in our ability to bear witness to all people by our words and deeds.

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