

# READINGS & PRAYERS

EASTER VIGIL (YEAR B)

FIRST READING

*Gen 22.1-18*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

God tested Abraham, and said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here am I.' He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; and he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place afar off. Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the ass; I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.' And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'My father!' And he said, 'Here am I, my son.' He said, 'Behold, the fire and the wood; but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?' Abraham said, 'God will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.' So they went both of them together. When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. Then Abraham put forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here am I.' He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns; and Abraham took the

ram, and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place 'The Lord will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.' And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore. And your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your descendants shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*from Ps 16*



*R.* Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

*(All repeat)*



Preserve me God, I take re-|fuge in you;  
I say to the Lord, 'You | are my God.  
O Lord it is you who are my por-|tion and cup;  
it is you yourself who | are my prize.' *R.*

I will bless the Lord who | gives me counsel;  
who even at night di-|rects my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever | in my sight;  
since he is at my right hand, I | shall stand  
firm. *R.*

And so my heart rejoices, my | soul is glad;  
even my body shall | rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul a-|mong the  
dead,  
nor let your beloved | know decay. *R.*

O Lord you will show me the | path of life;  
the fullness of joy | in your presence,  
and at | your right hand  
are pleasures for | evermore. *R.*

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go on dry ground through the sea. And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.’ Then the angel of God who went before the host of Israel moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness; and the night passed without one coming near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down upon the host of the Egyptians, and discomfited the host of the Egyptians, clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily; and the Egyptians said, ‘Let us flee from before Israel; for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.’ Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.’ So Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its wonted flow when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled into it, and the Lord routed the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. The waters returned

and covered the chariots and the horsemen and all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not so much as one of them remained. But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the seashore. And Israel saw the great work which the Lord did against the Egyptians, and the people feared the Lord; and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord:

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE *from Exo 15*



℟. I will sing to the Lord! Glorious his triumph. (*All repeat*)



I will sing to the Lord, glorious | is his triumph!  
Horse and rider he has thrown in-|to the sea!  
The Lord is my strength, my song, | my  
salvation. ℟.

This is my God and | I extol him,  
my fathers’ God and I | give him praise.  
The Lord is a warrior! The Lord | is his  
name. ℟.

The chariots of Pharaoh he hurled in-|to the  
sea,  
the flower of his army is drowned | in the sea.  
The deeps hide them, they sank | like a  
stone. ℟.

Your right hand O Lord, glorious | in its power,  
your right hand has de-|stroyed the enemy.  
In the greatness of your glory you | crushed  
the foe. ℟.

You will lead your people and plant them | on  
your mountain,  
the sanctuary O Lord which your | hands  
have made.  
The Lord will reign for e-|ver and ever. ℟.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

from Isa 12



℣. Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (*All repeat*)



Surely God is | my salvation;  
I will trust and | will not fear,  
for the Lord God is my strength | and my  
might;  
he has become | my salvation. ℣.

With joy you | will draw water  
from the wells | of salvation.  
Give thanks to the Lord, call up- | on his name;  
make known his deeds a- | mong the  
nations. ℣.

Proclaim the greatness | of his name,  
sing a song of praise | to the Lord.  
For he has done | glorious deeds;  
let this be known in | all the earth. ℣.

Shout aloud and | sing for joy,  
all you that | dwell in Zion,  
for great in your midst | is the Lord,  
the Holy | One of Israel. ℣.

COLLECT

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

EPISTLE

Rom 6.3–11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Have you forgotten that when we were baptized into union with Christ Jesus we were baptized into his death? By baptism we were buried with him, and lay dead, in order that, as Christ was raised from the dead in the splendour of the Father, so also we might set our feet upon the new path of life. For if we have become incorporate with him in a death like his, we shall also be one with him in a resurrection like his. We know that the man we once were has been crucified with Christ, for

the destruction of the sinful self, so that we may no longer be the slaves of sin, since a dead man is no longer answerable for his sin. But if we thus died with Christ, we believe that we shall also come to life with him. We know that Christ, once raised from the dead, is never to die again: he is no longer under the dominion of death. For in dying as he died, he died to sin, once for all, and in living as he lives, he lives to God. In the same way you must regard yourselves as dead to sin and alive to God, in union with Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *from Ps 118*



*R.* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (*All repeat*)



O give thanks to the Lord for <sup>1</sup> he is good,  
and his loving mercy <sup>1</sup> never fails.

Let every son of <sup>1</sup> Israel say  
that his love en-<sup>1</sup>dures for ever. *R.*

Victorious is the <sup>1</sup> Lord's right hand,  
the Lord's right hand has <sup>1</sup> raised me up.

I shall not <sup>1</sup> die, but live,  
and declare the works <sup>1</sup> of the Lord. *R.*

The stone which the build-<sup>1</sup>ers refused  
has become the chief <sup>1</sup> corner-stone.

This is the <sup>1</sup> Lord's own work,  
and it is marvellous <sup>1</sup> in our eyes. *R.*

GOSPEL

*Mk 16.1-8*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to

one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back – it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, Lord, the prayers and offerings of your people, that by your grace the paschal mystery of our redemption may bring to perfection the saving work you have begun in us; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION

Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness, and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SOLEMN BLESSING

God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life. **Amen.**

God the Son, who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing ...