

## **FIRST READINGS DURING THE EASTER SEASON**

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36, 42-43

Revelation 14:13

Revelation 20:11-21:1

Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

## Acts of the Apostles 10:34-36, 42-43

### **A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles:**

Peter proceeded to speak, saying:

“In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.

Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts

Uprightly is acceptable to him.

You know the word that he sent to the children of  
Israel as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ,  
who is the Lord of all.

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.”

The Word of the Lord.

## **Revelation 14:13**

### **A Reading from the Book of Revelation:**

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say,

“Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on”.

“Yes”, said the Spirit, “let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them.”

The Word of the Lord.

## Revelation 20:11-21:1

### A Reading from the Book of Revelation:

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it.

The earth and the sky fled from his presence

And there was no place for them.

I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the

Throne, and scrolls were opened.

Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.

The dead were judged according to their deeds,

By what was written in the scrolls.

The sea gave up its dead:

Then Death and Hades gave up their dead.

All the dead were judged according to their deeds.

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire.

(This pool of fire is the second death.)

Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of

Life was thrown into the pool of fire.

Then I saw a new Heaven and a new earth.

The former Heaven and the former earth had passed away,

And the sea was no more.

The Word of the Lord.

## Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

### **A reading from the Book of Revelation:**

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth.

The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away.”

The One who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new, I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son.”

The Word of the Lord.

## **FIRST READINGS OUTSIDE OF THE EASTER SEASON**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

Wisdom 4:7-15

Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9

Isaiah 41: 9-10

## **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

### **A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes:**

There is an appointed time for everything,  
and a time for every affair under the heavens.  
A time to give birth, and a time to die;  
A time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.  
A time to kill, and a time to heal;  
A time to tear down, and a time to build.  
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
A time to mourn, and a time to dance.  
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;  
A time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.  
A time to seek, and a time to lose;  
A time to keep, and a time to cast away.  
A time to rend, and a time to sew;  
A time to be silent, and a time to speak.  
A time to love, and a time to hate;  
A time of war, and a time of peace.  
The Word of the Lord.

## Wisdom 3:1-6, 9

### A reading from the Book of Wisdom.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God  
and no torment shall touch them.

They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;  
and their passing away was thought an affliction  
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.

But they are in peace.

For if in the eyes of men, indeed, they be punished,  
yet is their hope full of immortality;

Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,  
because God tried them,  
and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them,  
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

Those who trust in him shall understand truth,  
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:

Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,  
and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord.

**A reading from the Book of Wisdom**

The just man, though he die early,  
shall be at rest.

For the age that is honorable comes not  
with the passing of time,  
nor can it be measured in terms of years.

Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men,  
and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

He who pleased God was loved,  
he who lived among sinners was transported---  
Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind  
or deceit beguile his soul;

For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right  
and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.

Having become perfect in a short while,  
he reached the fullness of a long career;  
for his soul was pleasing to the Lord,  
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness.

But the people saw and did not understand,  
nor did they take this into account.

The Word of the Lord.

## Isaiah 25: 6a, 7-9

### A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

On this mountain the Lord of Hosts  
will provide for all peoples.

On this mountain he will destroy  
the veil that veils all peoples,

The web that is woven over all nations;  
he will destroy death forever.

The Lord God will wipe away  
the tears from all faces;

The reproach of his people he will remove  
from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken.

On that day it will be said:

Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!

This is the Lord for whom we looked;

let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!

The Word of the Lord.

## Isaiah 41: 9-10

### A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth  
and summoned from its far-off places,

You whom I have called my servant,  
whom I have chosen and will not cast off -

Do not fear; for I am with you,  
do not be afraid, for I am your God;

I will strengthen you, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

The Word of the Lord.

## **SECOND READINGS**

Romans 6: 3-4, 8-9

Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

I John 3:1-2

## Romans 6: 3-4, 8-9

### A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

## Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

### A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

No one lives for oneself,  
and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord,  
and if we die, we die for the Lord;  
so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life,  
that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why then do you judge your brother?

Or you, why do you look down on your brother?

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God;  
for it is written:

*As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.*

So then each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God.

The Word of the Lord.

## 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

### A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,  
should be destroyed,  
we have a building from God,  
a dwelling not made with hands,  
eternal in heaven.

We are always courageous,  
although we know that while we are at home in the body  
we are away from the Lord,  
for we walk by faith, not by sight.  
Yet, we are courageous,  
and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord.

Therefore, we aspire to please him,  
whether we are at home or away.  
for we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,  
so that each may receive recompense,  
according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

## 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

### A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,  
about those who have fallen asleep,  
so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.  
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,  
so too will God, through Jesus,  
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.  
Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,  
that we who are alive,  
who are left until the coming of the Lord,  
will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.  
For the Lord himself, with a word of command,  
with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God,  
will come down from heaven,  
and the dead in Christ will rise first.  
Then we who are alive, who are left,  
will be caught up together with them in the clouds  
to meet the Lord in the air.  
Thus we shall always be with the Lord.  
Therefore, console one another with these words.  
The Word of the Lord.

## I John 3:1-2

### A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us  
that we may be called the children of God.

Yet so we are.

The reason the world does not know us  
is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now;  
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him,  
for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

## Gospel Readings

Matthew 5:1-12a

Mark 15:33-39

Luke 24: 13-16, 18-35

John 11:21-27

John 14:1-6

## Matthew 5:1-12a

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,  
and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.

He began to teach them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you  
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.

Rejoice and be glad,  
for your reward will be great in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Mark 15:33-39

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At noon darkness came over the whole land  
until three in the afternoon.

And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,  
Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?

Which is translated,

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Some of the bystanders who heard it said,

Look, he is calling Elijah.

One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed,  
and gave it to him to drink, saying,

Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down.

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

When the centurion who stood facing him

saw how he breathed his last he said,

Truly this man was the Son of God!

The Gospel of the Lord

## Luke 24: 13-16, 18-35

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

That very day, the first day of the week,  
two of the disciples of Jesus were going  
to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem.  
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.  
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 the bread.  
The Gospel of the Lord

## John 11:21-27

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Martha said to Jesus,  
Lord, if you had been here,  
my brother would not have died.  
But even now I know that whatever you ask of God,  
God will give you.  
Jesus said to her,  
Your brother will rise.  
Martha said to him,  
I know he will rise,  
in the resurrection on the last day.  
Jesus told her,  
I am the resurrection and the life;  
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live,  
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.  
Do you believe this?  
She said to him, Yes, Lord.  
I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the son of God,  
the one who is coming into the world.  
The Gospel of the Lord.

## John 14:1-6

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

If there were not,

would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come back again and take you to myself,

so that where I am you also may be.

Where I am going you know the way.

Thomas said to him,

Master, we do not know where you are going;

how can we know the way?

Jesus said to him, I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Gospel of the Lord.