

## Readings for April 20

### Easter

#### First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

*Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, receives forgiveness of sins through his name.*

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

## Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

*This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)*

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the Lord, for the <sup>l</sup> Lord is good;  
God's mercy en- <sup>l</sup> dures forever.

<sup>2</sup> **Let Israel <sup>l</sup> now declare,**  
**"God's mercy en- <sup>l</sup> dures forever."**

<sup>14</sup> The Lord is my strength <sup>l</sup> and my song,  
and has become <sup>l</sup> my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents <sup>l</sup> of the righteous:**  
**"The right hand of the <sup>l</sup> Lord acts valiantly!**

<sup>16</sup> The right hand of the Lord <sup>l</sup> is exalted!  
The right hand of the <sup>l</sup> Lord acts valiantly!"

<sup>17</sup> **I shall not <sup>l</sup> die, but live,**  
**and declare the works <sup>l</sup> of the Lord. R**

<sup>18</sup> The Lord indeed pun- <sup>l</sup> ished me sorely,  
but did not hand me o- <sup>l</sup> ver to death.

<sup>19</sup> **Open for me the <sup>l</sup> gates of righteousness;**  
**I will enter them and give thanks <sup>l</sup> to the Lord.**

<sup>20</sup> "This is the gate <sup>l</sup> of the Lord;  
here the righ- <sup>l</sup> teous may enter."

<sup>21</sup> **I give thanks to you, for you have <sup>l</sup> answered me**  
**and you have become <sup>l</sup> my salvation. R**

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the build- <sup>l</sup> ers rejected  
has become the chief <sup>l</sup> cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> **By the Lord has <sup>l</sup> this been done;**  
**it is marvelous <sup>l</sup> in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the <sup>l</sup> Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be <sup>l</sup> glad in it. **R**

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

*Paul describes the consequences of the resurrection, including the promise of new life in Christ to a world that has been in bondage to death. He celebrates the destruction of evil and the establishment of God's victorious rule over all.*

<sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a human, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human, <sup>22</sup> for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. <sup>23</sup> But each in its own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

## **Gospel: Luke 24:1-12**

*Evidently expecting to find Jesus' corpse, some of the women among his followers go to the tomb with embalming spices. After a perplexing encounter with the empty tomb and angelic visitors, the women become the first to proclaim the amazing news of resurrection.*

<sup>1</sup> On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they went in they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. <sup>6</sup> Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again." <sup>8</sup> Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup> and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup> Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup> But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup> But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.