

MONDAY
18 APRIL
Acts 2:14. 22-32
Psalm 16:1-2.
6-end
Matthew 28:8-15

TUESDAY
19 APRIL
Acts 2:36-41
Psalm 33:4-5.
18-end
John 20:11-18

WEDNESDAY
20 APRIL
Acts 3:1-10
Psalm 105:1-9
Luke 24:13-35

THURSDAY
21 APRIL
Acts 3:11-end
Psalm 8
Luke 24:35-48

FRIDAY
22 APRIL
Acts 4:1-12
Psalm 118:1-4.
22-26
John 21:1-14

SATURDAY
23 APRIL
Acts 4:13-21
Psalm 118:1-4.
14-21
Mark 16:9-15

REFLECTION

Matthew's account on Monday is full of urgency – people running to tell other people what they have witnessed, scrambling to come up with a story to cover their tracks. It's as though the risen Christ and the fact of the resurrection have unleashed a chaotic energy in the world.

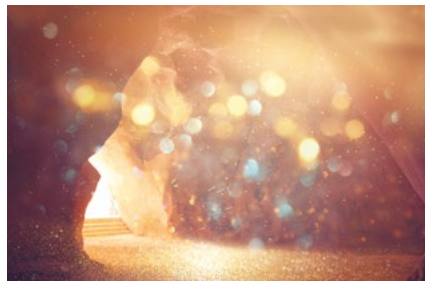
Peter spells out the stark truth in Tuesday's reading from Acts: the man in whose death the people had a hand (bystanders were culpable, too) had actually been the Son of God. Little wonder they were cut to the heart. But it's not too late if they repent.

Wednesday's reading from Luke is so beautiful and touching – the story of Cleopas and his companion, heartbroken and grieving, slouching along the road to Emmaus, little knowing that their lives were about to be turned around – utterly, irrevocably, joyfully.

So let's pause awhile from our busyness, stop covering our tracks and feel the joyful energy of resurrection, unleashed once again in the world. Let's allow ourselves to recognise Jesus in our midst, resurrected in glory, the Son of God, at whose crucifixion we – yes we – have been bystanders. Let's understand, deeply and viscerally, that this man, in whose death we – yes we – had a hand, still walks, constant and faithful, beside us.

PRAYER

God of glory,
 By the raising of your Son
 you have broken the chains of death and hell.
 Fill your Church with faith and hope,
 for a new day has dawned
 and the way to life stands open
 in our Saviour Jesus Christ.



EASTER SPECIAL

ALLELUIA – HE IS RISEN!

Arriving in church on Easter morning it's a real joy to hear "Alleluia!" on people's lips as they greet one another. The minister opens the service with the words: "Alleluia. Christ is risen," to which we respond: "He is risen indeed. Alleluia." It's as though a collective weight has been lifted off our shoulders and we are given permission to celebrate after six weeks of focusing on suffering and death. Now we see the stone rolled aside and the bright light of resurrection dispelling the gloom of the tomb.

It was Pope Gregory the Great (c. 540-604) who prescribed the "Alleluia" for use in Mass and the offices throughout the year, except during Lent. "Alleluia" and "Hallelujah" mean the same, although "Alleluia" comes via the Latin, whereas "Hallelujah" is closer to the original Hebrew, meaning "Praise you Yah." Interestingly, the "you" is in the plural imperative, so it is addressed to a community or congregation rather than an individual. It might be loosely translated as: "Come together to praise God."

In the New Revised Standard Version of the psalms, "Hallelujah" is translated as "Praise the Lord", and is found in twenty-four verses of the psalms, and twice in Psalm 150:6 – "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" It's not until the book of Revelation that the word "Hallelujah" is used. These verses form a wonderful set of Easter Day meditations:

"Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power to our God!" (19:1).

"Once more they said, 'Hallelujah!'" (19:3).

"[They] fell down and worshipped God... saying, 'Amen. Hallelujah!'" (19:4).

"Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns" (19:6).

Note how close together these verses are. Once it's out there, it's as though St John can't stop using the word.

Whichever word we use to express our joy today, whether we say "Alleluia" or "Hallelujah", let's allow ourselves to be caught up in irrepressible joy.

Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

LIVE the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by
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 and
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Easter week

Monday 18 April to
 Saturday 23 April
 2022

WEEK