

The Resurrection of the Lord

The Mass of Easter Day

For God was with Him.

He had to rise from the dead.

You were raised with Christ.

-rvb.

April 5, 2026

Hold tight the reins of the Risen

Christ!

Strip and scourge Him.

Nail Him on the wooden cross.

Til flesh shows his blood.

The cross is long and wide.

Now a crowded spectacle.

Know not what they do.

Body collapsing.

Knees, heart, joints, breath laboring.

Cross embracing death.

Mother meets her son.

Mary sinks in her sorrow.

Full of grace is she.

Spirit is willing.

All flesh is weakened by blood.

The cross' deadly weight.

Weep not for Jesus,

Women of Jerusalem.

The true son of God.

Nails are driven hard.

His mother hurts alone.

Her son placed in the tomb.

Silent and darkened.

May my soul cling fast to Him.

Bursting forth from death.

Hold tight the reigns

of the Risen Christ!

-Roger J. Vanden Busch

"Resurrection means a life that bursts through the dimensions of space and time in God's invisible, imperishable, and incomprehensible domain.

This is what is meant by heaven, not the heaven of the astronauts, but God's heaven. It means going deeper into reality, not going out."
-Hans Kung.

The Threshold of Eternity

"I know nothing of death, but I know that God is eternity, and I know this too, that he is my God. Whether what we call time remains to us beyond our death becomes quite unimportant to us next to this knowing, that we are God's – who is not immortal, but eternal. Instead of imagining ourselves living instead of dead, we shall prepare ourselves for a real death which is the final limit of time but which, if that is the case, is surely the threshold of eternity." – Martin Buber.

"It is in Jesus that we live, move, and have our being." Acts 17:28.

May the blessings of the Risen Christ surround you with health, happiness, and holiness.

The Resurrection of the Lord -
The Mass of Easter
Day.

**For God was with Him.
He had to rise from the dead.
You were raised with Christ.
-rvb.**

April 5, 2026

Reading 1

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Peter proceeded to speak and said:

**“You know what has happened all over Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism
that John preached,
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth
with the Holy Spirit and power.
He went about doing good
and healing all those oppressed by the devil,
for God was with him.**

**We are witnesses of all that he did
both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.**

**They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.
This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible,
not to all the people, but to us,
the witnesses chosen by God in advance,
who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.
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.”

A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.

In this reading from Acts, Peter summarizes the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Peter and others, who were eyewitnesses, received their commission from the Risen Lord. Jesus’ work has not been completed and fulfilled. While Jesus “will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,” we are to seek the Lord in the very ordinary happenings of everyday life. We are to be Resurrection persons in the hic and nunc = the here and now. The prophets and all who preceded Jesus were elated, their expectations had been fulfilled. However, there is a vital need for prophetic voices today to witness to the Risen life of Jesus as Pope Leo 14 has focused upon in this Holy Week reflection:

“During his weekly General Audience at the Vatican, Pope Leo XIV reflected on how Christ’s Resurrection transforms every part of human life; not through grandeur or spectacle, but through humility and love.

[According to Vatican News](#), the Holy Father reminded the faithful that when Jesus rose from the dead, He did not appear “surrounded by angels” or performing “spectacular deeds.” Instead, the Risen Christ

met His disciples “in the humility of simple, ordinary gestures,” appearing “as a gardener, a foreigner, or a passing stranger.”

The Pope said this reveals something profound about God’s ways: “The Resurrection is not a dramatic plot twist, but a silent transformation that fills every human action with meaning.” Even the smallest acts, he said, can become grace when united with Christ.

Pope Leo also warned of a spiritual obstacle that keeps many from seeing God’s presence in daily life, the “illusion that joy must be without wounds.” He recalled the disciples on the road to Emmaus, who could not recognize the Risen Lord because their hopes had been crushed. Yet Jesus taught them that sorrow and disappointment can be “the very path by which God reveals the depths of His love.”

“The Resurrection of Jesus,” the Pope said, “teaches us that no one’s life story is so marked by disappointment or sin that it can’t be visited by hope.” He emphasized that “no fall is definitive, no night eternal, no wound destined to remain open forever.”

Pope Leo urged believers to invite Christ into their darkest moments, where “He comes to us and warms our hearts.” He encouraged all to pray for “the grace to recognize His humble and gentle presence,” not seeking a life without trials, but learning to see

that “every sorrow, if inhabited by love, can become a place of communion.”

Concluding his catechesis, the Pope offered a message of hope for all who suffer: “May we too return to our homes with hearts burning with joy—a simple joy that does not erase our wounds but illuminates them; a joy born of the certainty that the Lord is alive, that He walks with us, and that at every moment He offers us the chance to begin again.”

According to *Vatican News*, Pope Leo’s reflection invites every Christian to rediscover the quiet power of the Resurrection, not as a distant miracle of history, **but as a living grace that transforms the ordinary moments of each day.”**

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

R. (24) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Reading 2

Colossians 3:1-4

Brothers and sisters:

If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ your life appears,
then you too will appear with him in glory.

A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.

In this reading from Colossians, Paul makes it clear we are living an entirely new life because of our baptism. This is why we renew our baptismal vows during the Easter Vigil or during the Sunday celebration. Our lives are “hidden now with Christ in God” meaning we have not yet reached perfection but are in the process of perfecting ourselves.

We live in the already, not yet reality of God’s kingdom. However, when Jesus comes in glory, we, too, will appear in the glory which has been given to us in our baptism. Are you consciously living a life of sacramentalism? That is, objects, places, events, and relationships can be reminders, reflections, metaphors, analogies, symbols, and experiences of God’s divine reality and resurrected life. “The winds of grace are always blowing, but you must raise the sail. These gifts move across the waters. We cannot control or earn them, but we must be willing to receive them.” – Ramakrishna.

Sequence - Victimæ paschali laudes

Christians, to the Paschal Victim

Offer your thankful praises!

A Lamb the sheep redeems;

Christ, who only is sinless,
Reconciles sinners to the Father.
Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous:
The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal.
Speak, Mary, declaring
What you saw, wayfaring.
“The tomb of Christ, who is living,
The glory of Jesus’ resurrection;
bright angels attesting,
The shroud and napkin resting.
Yes, Christ my hope is arisen;
to Galilee he goes before you.”
Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining.
Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!
Amen. Alleluia.

Alleluia

cf. 1 Corinthians 5:7

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed;
let us then feast with joy in the Lord.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

John 20:1-9

On the first day of the week,
Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning,
while it was still dark,
and saw the stone removed from the tomb.
So she ran and went to Simon Peter
and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them,

**“They have taken the Lord from the tomb,
and we don’t know where they put him.”**

So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb.

**They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter
and arrived at the tomb first;**

he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.

When Simon Peter arrived after him,

he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there,

and the cloth that had covered his head,

not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.

Then the other disciple also went in,

the one who had arrived at the tomb first,

and he saw and believed.

For they did not yet understand the Scripture

that he had to rise from the dead.

A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.

In the final analysis, John’s act of faith says it all, no further proof is necessary for him. Jesus has overcome death and has taken away the sting of death. It no longer darkens the tomb of Jesus. The light of life breaks forth from the empty tomb and shines brightly in and through the risen body of Jesus to a glorious new life.

A boy and his father were driving along a country road on a beautiful spring afternoon. Suddenly, out of nowhere a bumble bee flew in the car window. The boy was allergic to bee stings and became very afraid. His father quickly reached out, grabbed the bee, gently squeezed it, and

quickly released it out the window. The boy was still a bit frightened, but this time the father pointed at his hand. There still stuck in his skin was the stinger of the bee. “Do you see this” the father said. “You do not need to be afraid anymore. The stinger is gone.” Jesus faced death on a cross. By his victory, we are saved from sin to new life.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?

The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, which give us the victory through our Lord

Jesus Christ.

The poet John Donne says it eloquently, “I shall rise from the dead, from the prostration of death, and never miss the sun, which shall be put out, for I shall see the Son of God, the Sun of Glory, and shine itself as that sun shines. I shall rise from the grave, and never miss this city, which shall be nowhere, for I shall see the city of God, the new Jerusalem.”

Final prayer: Father, your son, Jesus, has conquered death. He rises to a glorious new life without end. Let us rejoice and be glad and live in the eternal light of his risen Presence. Amen.

May the Blessings of the Risen Christ fill you with health, happiness, and holiness.

Roger J. Vanden Busch