

## April 5th, 2026 Lectionary Notes

### The Readings on This Day

*\*\*\*Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)*

### Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day

By the second century, Christians had shaped Passover into an annual celebration of Christ's resurrection, having agreed to keep this Christianized Pascha on the Sunday following the Jewish festival. By medieval times, the full Easter Vigil had been relegated to monasteries and convents, and so the Sunday morning celebration of Easter assumed priority in most churches. Since to be Christian is to believe in the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, observing Easter became the primary mark of a practicing Christian. The term "Easter duty" arose from the regulation that to be considered Christian, a person was required to make penance and then to attend eucharist at least once a year, at Easter. Since even now many Christians attend worship only on Easter, the challenge is to tell the whole story of salvation although focusing on only three readings.

#### [Acts 10:34-43](#)

Throughout the eight Sundays of the fifty days of Easter from Easter Day to Pentecost, the three-year lectionary appoints first readings from Acts. The idea is that the Spirit extended the power of the resurrection from the empty tomb to the whole Christian church, spreading throughout the Greco-Roman world. Thus we can think of each Sunday's reading from Acts as another telling of the resurrection. In the sermon credited to Peter in Acts 10, Luke referred to the witnesses of the resurrection who "ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead." We believers see ourselves as among these witnesses.

*or*

#### [Jeremiah 31:1-6](#)

Christ was raised, said Paul in 1 Corinthians, "according to the scriptures," by which he meant the Hebrew Scriptures. Thus Christians have seen in many passages from the Old Testament proclamations of the cross and resurrection. According to the poem in Jeremiah 31, on Easter, Christians have survived Lent and death; with the women, we have seen the Lord; we assemble in joy to praise God.

#### [The Psalm for the Day](#)

The psalm response for the day is [Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24](#), a song of thanksgiving for victory. Although the psalm is cast in the singular, the setting is after a battle, in which "the right hand of the Lord," presumably brandishing a weapon, has conquered. Christians understand that Christ has conquered the powers of sin and death, and medieval art depicted Christ rising from the tomb holding up a cross-shaped standard. The "rejected stone" is Christ, now the cornerstone of the church, on whom the baptized build their lives; this resurrection day is the day that the Lord God has made. It is interesting that in 1559, when Elizabeth I was notified of the death of Queen Mary, she received the news that she was no longer a rejected stone but finally queen with words from this psalm: "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes."



### **Colossians 3:1-4**

It is appropriate that, centuries after the life of Jesus, we hear from the letter to the Colossians on Easter Day: we ought not, its author argues, think that seeing angels is necessary for us to have faith in Christ's resurrection. Rather, baptism has brought us all into the benefits of Easter.

### **Matthew 28:1-10**

In Year A, most of the gospel readings come from Matthew, and that pattern suggests that John's Easter gospel be proclaimed at the Easter Vigil and Matthew's on Easter morning. Jesus appears, not only to the women leaving the tomb, but also to us, who worship him now this Sunday and hold onto his body in the bread of the eucharist.

*or*

### **John 20:1-18**

John's resurrection account fits well within the Three Days. For commentary on John 20, see the Easter Vigil.