

Reading for Monday of the Octave of Easter

April 6th 2026

First reading

Acts 2:14, 22-33

‘It was not possible for him to be held by death.’

On the day of Pentecost Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed the crowd: ‘Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst — as you yourselves know — this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

‘For David says concerning him, “I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

‘Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you yourselves are seeing and hearing.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 16(15):1-2a, 5. 7-8. 9-10. 11. R1

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

or: Alleluia.

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, ‘You are my Lord.’

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
you yourself who secure my lot.

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.

I keep the Lord before me always;
with him at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

And so, my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my flesh shall rest in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
nor let your holy one see corruption.

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand, bliss for ever.

Sequence

Victimae Paschali Laudes

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled, hath sinners to his Father reconciled.
Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.
Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose; I saw Christ's glory as he rose!
The angels there attesting; shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.
That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.
Victorious king, thy mercy show!

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 118(117):24

Alleluia, alleluia.
This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice in it and be glad.
Alleluia.

Gospel **Matthew 28:8-15**

'Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.'

At that time: The women departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell the disciples of Jesus. And behold, Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.'

While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers and said, 'Tell people, "His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep." And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.' So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

Short reflection on the reading for today

There will always be people who deny Easter and all that it means. That was so from the very beginning. The chief priests and the elders put out a story, to the effect that the disciples stole his body while the guards were asleep. We find modern versions of that anti-Easter story in our newspapers today at times. Atheists want to deny what God has done and put something trite in its place. But this Easter week we rejoice at what God has done.

The mood of those Easter days is well pictured in today's gospel. Filled with awe and joy the women quickly left the tomb and ran to tell the disciples. They now knew that God's love is lifegiving, and that God is more powerful than any evils we inflict on each other. Easter tells us that we do not walk through life alone. As Jesus says to the women, "Tell the others that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there."

As he went ahead of his disciples, so he goes ahead of us to all the places we find ourselves in. His resurrection is life's triumph over death, hope's victory over despair.