

## Reading for Tuesday in the Octave of Easter

April 7<sup>th</sup> 2026

### First reading

Acts 2:36-41

**‘Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ.’**

On the day of Pentecost: Peter said to the Jews, ‘Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.’

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the Apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.’ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this crooked generation.’ So those who received his word were baptised, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 33(32):4-5. 18-19. 20, 22. R5b**

*The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth.*

*or: Alleluia.*

The word of the Lord is upright,  
and all his works to be trusted.

The Lord loves justice and right,  
and his merciful love fills the earth.

Yes, the Lord’s eyes are on those who fear him,  
who hope in his merciful love,  
to rescue their soul from death,  
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.

He is our help and our shield.

May your merciful love be upon us,  
as we hope in you, O Lord.

### 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**

### **John 20:11-18**

#### **‘I have seen the Lord and he said these things to me.’**

At that time: Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ Having said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’ She turned and said to him in Aramaic, ‘Rabboni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’ — and that he had said these things to her.

#### **Short reflection on the reading for today**

A fascinating side of the Easter stories is how the risen Jesus was *recognised only gradually* by his closest friends. John’s report about Mary Magdalene challenging the gardener to hand back the body of Jesus conveys their stupor and confusion. All they hoped for at first was to be able to reverence his mortal remains. But when he calls Mary by her name (in Hebrew, *Miriam*), she makes a joyful discovery: he was truly there, alive! Notice their eagerness to tell each other about him, to share their religious experience. “Go and tell” is a recurring theme in these Easter stories. Magdalene will tell the rest of the group, not just that he is alive, but that he is going back to the Father, his Father and theirs. The unique, special relationship conveyed by the phrase “my Father and your Father” is what the Magdalene recognises and passes on.

Then we have Peter, the church’s leading public witness, trying to help his Jewish people to recognise Jesus as their Messiah and saviour, even those who had called for his death by crucifixion. The kind of Messiah Peter had come to know wanted to call everyone to salvation, with their sins forgiven. All they need do to draw close to God was to welcome Jesus with faith, and receive the gift of his Spirit.

We too, in this Easter week, can come to recognise the various ways that Jesus is still alive among us, not only in the holy eucharist and in the Gospel we read, but also in our fellow-Christians, in the blessings of this world, and in whatever is best in our own selves.

Today’s gospel begins in sadness and ends in joy. In the early morning Mary Magdalene stood outside the tomb weeping. But it ends with joy when the Lord for whom she was grieving found her, and called her by name. We will find the Lord if we search for him, for he is never far away. He is the good shepherd who calls by name. He came to seek and to save the lost, and we need to let ourselves be met by him, as Magdalene was. She has something to teach us about seeking the Lord even in our grief.