

HOLY WEEK AT HOME

EASTER SUNDAY: The Office of Readings

The Office of Readings today is only recited by those who have not been to the Easter Vigil. It starts immediately with the first reading, with no introduction preceding it.

First Reading: Exodus 14:15-15:1

The Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to me so? Tell the sons of Israel to march on. For yourself, raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and part it for the sons of Israel to walk through the sea on dry ground. I for my part will make the heart of the Egyptians so stubborn that they will follow them. So shall I win myself glory at the expense of Pharaoh, of all his army, his chariots, his horsemen. And when I have won glory for myself, at the expense of Pharaoh and his chariots and his army, the Egyptians will learn that I am the Lord.' Then the angel of God, who marched at the front of the army of Israel, changed station and moved to their rear. The pillar of cloud changed station from the front to the rear of them, and remained there. It came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. The cloud was dark, and the night passed without the armies drawing any closer the whole night long. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove back the sea with a strong easterly wind all night, and he made dry land of the sea. The waters parted and the sons of Israel went on dry ground right into the sea, walls of water to right and to left of them. The Egyptians gave chase: after them they went, right into the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. In the morning watch, the Lord looked down on the army of the Egyptians from the pillar of fire and of cloud, and threw the army into confusion. He so clogged their chariot wheels that they could scarcely make headway. 'Let us flee from the Israelites,' the Egyptians cried. 'The Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians!' 'Stretch out your hand over the sea,' the Lord said to Moses, 'that the waters may flow back on the Egyptians and their chariots and their horsemen.' Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and, as day broke, the sea returned to its bed. The fleeing Egyptians marched right into it, and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the very middle of the sea. The returning waters overwhelmed the chariots and the horsemen of Pharaoh's whole army, which had followed the Israelites into the sea; not a single one of them was left. But the sons of Israel had marched through the sea on dry ground, walls of

water to right and to left of them. That day, the Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. Israel witnessed the great act that the Lord had performed against the Egyptians, and the people venerated the Lord; they put their faith in the Lord and in Moses, his servant. It was then that Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song in honour of the Lord:

Exodus 15

Let us sing to the Lord: glorious is his triumph.

I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph! *
Horse and rider he has thrown into the sea!
The Lord is my strength, my song, my salvation. †
This is my God and I extol him, *
my father's God and I give him praise.

The Lord is a warrior! *
'The Lord' is his name.
The chariots of Pharaoh he hurled into the sea, †
the flower of his army is drowned in the sea. *
The deeps hide them; they sank like a stone.

Your right hand, Lord, glorious in its power, *
your right hand, Lord, has shattered the enemy.
You will lead your people and plant them on your mountain, †
the place, O Lord, where you have made your home, *
the sanctuary, Lord, which your hands have made.

The Lord will reign *
for ever and ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Let us sing to the Lord: glorious is his triumph.

O God, through the light of the New Testament you have revealed to us the meaning of the miracles you performed in the earliest times. The Red Sea was a symbol of the baptismal font, and the people freed from servitude prefigured

the sacraments of the Christian people. Grant that all nations who have received Israel's privileges as a reward for their faith may be regenerated by sharing in your Spirit. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Second Reading Ezekiel 36:16-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'Son of man, the members of the House of Israel used to live in their own land, but they defiled it by their conduct and actions; to me their conduct was as unclean as a woman's menstruation. I then discharged my fury at them because of the blood they shed in their land and the idols with which they defiled it. I scattered them among the nations and dispersed them in foreign countries. I sentenced them as their conduct and actions deserved. And now they have profaned my holy name among the nations where they have gone, so that people say of them, "These are the people of the Lord; they have been exiled from his land." But I have been concerned about my holy name, which the House of Israel has profaned among the nations where they have gone. And so, say to the House of Israel, "The Lord says this: I am not doing this for your sake, House of Israel, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I mean to display the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned among them. And the nations will learn that I am the Lord – it is the Lord who speaks – when I display my holiness for your sake before their eyes. Then I am going to take you from among the nations and gather you together from all the foreign countries, and bring you home to your own land. I shall pour clean water over you and you will be cleansed; I shall cleanse you of all your defilement and all your idols. I shall give you a new heart, and put a new spirit in you; I shall remove the heart of stone from your bodies and give you a heart of flesh instead. I shall put my spirit in you, and make you keep my laws and sincerely respect my observances. You will live in the land which I gave your ancestors. You shall be my people and I will be your God.'

Psalm 41 (42)

Like a deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God.

Like the déer that yéarns *
for rúnnng stréams,
só my sóul is yéarning *
for yóu, my Gód.

My sóul is thírsting for Gód, *
the Gód of my life;
whén can I énter and sée *
the fáce of Gód?

Thése things will Í remémber *
as I póur out my sóul:
how I would léad the rejóicing crówd *
into the hóuse of Gód,
amid cries of gládness and
thankgíving, *
the thróng wild with jóy.

O sénd forth your líght and your trúth; *
let thése be my gúide.
Let them bring me to your hóly
móuntain, *
to the pláce where you dwéll.

And I will cóme to the áltar of Gód, *
the Gód of my jóy.
My redéemer, I will thánk you on the
hárp, *
O Gód, my Gód.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Like a deer that yearns for running
streams, so my soul is yearning for you,
my God.

Father in heaven, when your strength
takes possession of us we no longer say:
Why are you cast down, my soul? So now
that the surging waves of your
indignation have passed over us, let us
feel the healing calm of your forgiveness.
Inspire us to yearn for you always, like
the deer for running streams, until you
satisfy every longing in heaven.

Third Reading Romans 6:3-11

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus
we were baptised in his death; in other
words, when we were baptised we went
into the tomb with him and joined him in
death, so that as Christ was raised from
the dead by the Father's glory, we too
might live a new life. If in union with
Christ we have imitated his death, we
shall also imitate him in his resurrection.
We must realise that our former selves
have been crucified with him to destroy
this sinful body and to free us from the
slavery of sin. When a Christian dies, of
course, he has finished with sin. But we
believe that having died with Christ we
shall return to life with him: Christ, as we
know, having been raised from the dead

will never die again. Death has no power
over him any more. When he died, he
died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is
life with God; and in that way, you too
must consider yourselves to be dead to
sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

Psalm 117 (118)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Give thánks to the Lórd for he is góod, *
for his lóve endures for éver.
Let the sóns of Ísrael sáy: *
'His lóve endures for éver.'

The Lórd's right hánd has tríumphed; *
his ríght hand ráised me.
I shall not díe, I shall líve *
and recóunt his déeds.

The stóne which the búilders rejécted *
has becóme the córner stone.
This is the wórk of the Lórd, *
a márvel in our éyes.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Lord God, you have given us the great
day of rejoicing: Jesus Christ, the stone
rejected by the builders, has become the
cornerstone of the Church, our spiritual
home. Shed upon your Church the rays
of your glory, that she may be seen as
the gate of salvation open to all nations.
Let cries of joy and exultation ring out
from her tents, to celebrate the wonder
of Christ's resurrection.

Fourth Reading Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, and towards dawn on
the first day of the week, Mary of
Magdala and the other Mary went to
visit the sepulchre. And all at once there
was a violent earthquake, for the angel
of the Lord, descending from heaven,
came and rolled away the stone and sat
on it. His face was like lightning, his robe
white as snow. The guards were so
shaken, so frightened of him, that they
were like dead men. But the angel spoke;
and he said to the women, 'There is no
need for you to be afraid. I know you are
looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He
is not here, for he has risen, as he said he
would. Come and see the place where he
lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples,
'He has risen from the dead and now he
is going before you to Galilee; it is there
you will see him.' Now I have told you.'
Filled with awe and great joy the women
came quickly away from the tomb and
ran to tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them, was
Jesus. 'Greetings' he said. And the
women came up to him and, falling down
before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus
said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and
tell my brothers that they must leave for
Galilee; they will see me there.'

Canticle: Te Deum

We praise you, O God: we acclaim you as
the Lord. Everlasting Father, all the
world bows down before you. All the
angels sing your praise, the hosts of
heaven and all the angelic powers, all
the cherubim and seraphim call out to
you in unending song: Holy, Holy, Holy,
is the Lord God of angel hosts! The
heavens and the earth are filled with
your majesty and glory. The glorious
band of apostles, the noble company of
prophets, the white-robed army who
shed their blood for Christ, all sing your
praise. And to the ends of the earth your
holy Church proclaims her faith in you:
Father, whose majesty is boundless,
your true and only Son, who is to be
adored, the Holy Spirit sent to be our
Advocate. You, Christ, are the king of
glory, Son of the eternal Father. When
you took our nature to save mankind you
did not shrink from birth in the Virgin's
womb. You overcame the power of death
opening the Father's kingdom to all who
believe in you. Enthroned at God's right
hand in the glory of the Father, you will
come in judgement according to your
promise. You redeemed your people by
your precious blood. Come, we implore
you, to our aid. Grant us with the saints
a place in eternal glory.

*The final part of the hymn may be
omitted:*

Lord, save your people and bless your
inheritance. Rule them and uphold them
for ever and ever. Day by day we praise
you: we acclaim you now and to all
eternity. In your goodness, Lord, keep us
free from sin. * Have mercy on us, Lord,
have mercy. May your mercy always be
with us, Lord, for we have hoped in you.
In you, Lord, we put our trust: we shall
not be put to shame.

Concluding Prayer

Let us pray.
On this day, Lord God, you opened for
us the way to eternal life through your
only Son's victory over death. Grant that
as we celebrate the feast of his
resurrection we may be renewed by your
Holy Spirit and rise again in the light of
life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your
Son, who lives and reigns with you in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever
and ever. Amen.

Let us praise the Lord.
Thanks be to God.