

We know a tiny bit more about her than we do several of the Twelve Apostles. In Luke 8:2-3, we learn two facts; she had been freed from seven demons and that she had become a follower and supporter of Jesus. She was likely very wealthy. In 591 when Pope Gregory I, confused Mary with the sinful woman of Luke. Mary was given a high honor by God as recorded by John. She broke a few rules and possibly put herself in danger as she went to the tomb, "while it was still dark." This is highly significant in the Gospel of John because the Apostles were hiding out in the upper room. Then, even though Mary ran off to tell the Apostles of the Resurrection, she is actually the first person to see the risen Christ. She and Thomas whom we encounter next week share the distinction of doubting first but by touching Jesus being convinced.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

℟ Blessed are You, O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Your abundant mercy You brought us again to a new and living promise by the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

You have transformed the night of doubt and sorrow into the new and eternal day of joy and gladness by the rolling of the stone from the door of the tomb. You have brought life and immortality to light by the glad tidings that Christ is risen, that death has no power over him. You have sent to all who dwell in this world of darkness and the shadow of death the joyful assurance of an inheritance which can not fade away, an inheritance full of glory. O God, we thank You.

Fill our hearts with the joy of the Resurrection. Grant to Your church and people everywhere the power of an endless life, that they may show forth Your praises. Bestow Your grace on our homes, and bless them with Easter's consolation and expectation. Send forth the conquering banner of Christ's victory into all the world, that every nation may join the hosts of Heaven in songs of triumph.

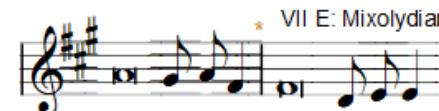
Guard us, O Lord, by Your power, that we are kept in this holy faith. Wipe away all tears from our eyes. In every adversity and trial preserve us so that we will not fail to receive the blessings of Christ's ransom and the fruits of His Resurrection. In the promise of Easter take from us all fear of death. Let the radiant beams of the Easter dawn's early light shine in the depths of our souls. Renew us by the Spirit of Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Hold before our eyes the promise that in Christ our lowly bodies will be made into one like His glorious body, where previous we bore the image of the Earth, then we will bear the image of Heaven.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)
Let us serve You in all faithfulness, this we pray in the name of Jesus.

© Amen.

EASTER SUNRISE

Chant Tone



Introit

I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed glo | riously;*

The horse and his rider He has thrown in | to the sea.

The Lord is my strength | and my song,*
He has become my sal — vation;

Your right hand, O Lord, glori | ous in power,*

Your right hand, O Lord, shatters the | enemy.

You have led in your steadfast love the people whom You | have redeemed;*

You have guided them by Your strength to Your ho | ly abode.

You will bring them in and plant them on Your own — mountain,*

The place, O Lord, which You have made for | Your abode,
The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have es — tablished.*

The Lord will reign forever and — ever.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy — Spirit;
as it was in the be — ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed glo | riously;*

The horse and his rider He has thrown in | to the sea.

(Antiphon, Exodus 15:1b;
Exodus 15:2a, 6, 13, 17-18)

Collect of the Day

Almighty God the Father, through Your Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Christ has risen | from the dead*

[God the Father] has crowned Him with glory and — honor,
You have given Him dominion over the works | of Your hands;*
you have put all things un | der His feet.

(Adapted from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Almighty God, fill our hearts with the joy of the Resurrection. Grant to Your Church the power of the Resurrected Christ. Help us show forth Your praises. Bless our homes with the comfort and hope of Easter. Send the conquering banner of Christ's victory into all the world. Grant that many more nations may join the hosts of Heaven in songs of triumph. Speak peace to our souls and feed our faith in Him Who promises resurrection and life. O God, we praise You that through Jesus You removed death's sting, You have brought us victory over the grave. Alleluia. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE WOMEN HURRIED TO THE TOMB ON THAT FIRST EASTER MORNING. They were expecting to continue their mourning, but what they found was a new morning of hope and wonder. The tomb was empty, the stone had been rolled away. In our worship we follow the women to the tomb. Each Sunday morning is a new Easter Sunday for our life. We hurry to gather at the tomb as our week of difficulty, our week of battling sin brings us to the foot of the cross. We dump our sin, our cares our concerns at the cross, we end our mourning over the stress of life, and we find join in our Resurrected Christ, who has become the first fruits of our experience. Who has paved The Way of our salvation.

THEME OF THE DAY:
Complete Victory

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Exodus:15:1b;) Psalm 15:2a, 6, 13, 17-18
Exodus 15:1-18 is the song Moses sang after the Egyptian army was drowned in the Red Sea. A complete victory had been accomplished by God for His chosen people. The connection to the other lessons is in the complete victory accomplished by God over sin, death and Satan, accomplished in the blood of Jesus.

COLLECT

After the difficult time between Good Friday and Easter Sunday morning, we are in wonder of the work accomplished for us on this day. We ask that we are made a part of our Lord's resurrection and that it would be kept real in our life through the work of the Holy Spirit.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Exodus 14:10–15:1

The first event after the Passover for the Hebrew nation was passing through the sea. We are equating that event with the Resurrection of Jesus by placing it here in our Propers. In passing through the sea, God rescued the people from sure death at the hands of the Egyptian army. In the Resurrection of Jesus, God has rescued we, the New Covenant people from the sure eternal death at the hands of Satan. It is interesting to note the guiding of God. He gave them the pillar of fire to light their way and blocked the light with the cloud of His presence to confuse and block the view of the Egyptians

GRADUAL—Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7, Psalm 8:6

This is quite the compilation of Scripture. It is a statement of the Resurrection followed by the glory and honor given to Christ by our Father.

EPISTLE LESSON—1 Corinthians 15:1-11

In the first 2 verses, Paul was again emphasizing his authority to proclaim the Gospel. This was necessary because the Corinthians had been lead away from the truth. (In this case by people who claimed the Resurrection of Jesus was faked.) After Paul reminded them it was he who brought them the truth in the first place, he pointed out the volume of people to whom Christ had appeared. Paul mentioned his former personal doubts as a way to show that he was once in with the doubter crowd, but that he too had met with Christ after his Resurrection. Paul pointed out that when we work on behalf of the Gospel it is actually the grace (undeserved Love of God) at work in us making the proclamation.

GOSPEL LESSON—John 20:1-18

Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ (which would actually be translated by us as Mary the Maydalene) is an absolutely fascinating person in the life of Christ.