

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. 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

® O God of peace, You brought us again from the death of our sin into the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through His blood shed for the purpose of Your everlasting covenant, we have obtained His life. We thank and praise You for Your mercy, shown to us, in His glorious Resurrection.

Give us the joy of the first Easter. Fill our hearts with its precious promise. Make us glad in the heavenly tidings that He who died for our sins rose again for our justification; that because He lives, we too shall live; that death has no power over us; that He abolished death and brought life and immortality to light.

Grant us a lively faith, that we may receive both the infallible proofs of His death and the infallible testimonies of His Resurrection. As You have declared that if we confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in our heart that You raised Him from the dead, we shall be saved, endow us with all such spiritual gifts as obtain for us salvation.

Show Your dominion over all the nations and bring them to Your obedience, that all people from the least to the greatest will know the wonder of the Love of Jesus and find in Him eternal life.

For Your Church we pray: Grant that everywhere there may be faithful and true shepherds who are not ashamed of the Gospel which is power unto salvation; and endow all our members with the assurance of the Resurrection faith, that as You raised our Lord, so also by Your power You will raise us. Grant that all believers throughout the world this day, may find the fullness of Your grace and peace. Help all to be faithful unto death, that they will receive the crown of life. By Your Holy Spirit make us, heavenly Father, perfect in every good work to do Your will, and work in us that which is pleasing in Your sight.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**) All this we ask for the sake and in the name of Jesus Christ our risen Savior.

© 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*
and 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.

He has given Him dominion over the works | of His hands;*

He has put all things un | der His feet.

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

ENTRANCE PRAYER: O God of life and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Your abundant grace, You have begotten us again to a new and living assurance by the proclamation of 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. You have brought life and immortality to light by the glad tidings that Christ is risen. For this, O Lord, we give You thanks. O God, we praise You that through Him You removed from us death's sting. You have brought us victory over the grave. Fill our hearts with the joy of His Resurrection, and let us live only for Jesus. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

WE HAVE COME TO THE PREMIERE EVENT FOR THE CHURCH. It is EASTER, the day all prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus, the day we were set free. Recently three convicts tunneled out of their prison cell. They left behind a "Get Out Of Jail Free" card from a Monopoly game. The warden didn't think it was very humorous. Jesus went to the cross, died and on that first Easter Sunday He handed us our very own "Get Out Of Hell Free" card. The warden of Hell, the wily Satan, doesn't think it is very humorous that he has been beaten. He is no longer allowed to stand before God and proclaim us unworthy to be in Heaven, for through the work and the person of Jesus Christ, our Savior, we have been set free, never to ever again have the threat of eternal damnation hanging over us. It is Easter and we have been set free to be the people of the Lord. In verse and hymn by Psalter and Psalm we will praise His Holy name.

THEME OF THE DAY:

The First Day

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. This is a continuation of the Old Testament Lesson for today. 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

The difficulty of personal darkness that overwhelmed us on Good Friday, has been lifted by the wonder of the Resurrection of our Lord. Now we ask that the Lord's Resurrection 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—(adapted from) 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 5:6b-8

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 is the historic epistle lesson for Easter. It was dropped in the first revision (c. 1968 likely because it is so odd.) We returned it to the sunrise liturgy but without the first words of verse 6. If you read all of chapter 5 you can see the struggle to include or exclude these verses. Paul was talking about immorality being accepted in the church. Verses 6b-8 do speak of Christ as our Passover Lamb and the Festival (Easter.) Paul encourages us to celebrate this festival in sincerity and truth.

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. 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