

In any case, none of the Word of chapter sixteen conflicts with any other Gospel so it is generally left to stand. The women, who were the last to leave the tomb, were the first to arrive at the tomb on Sunday morning. They were the first to witness the Resurrection so that in a symbolic manner, the first to sin (a woman) was the first to be forgiven. Also, then, by a woman, (Eve) a man fell to sin, therefore by a woman the men would have salvation announced to them. (God has a keen sense of irony.) Here the Resurrection was discovered, the stone was rolled away and Jesus reminded us that He had foreknown all of these events. This ending to the Gospel is rather condensed, as we know that Jesus walked and talked with his disciples for 40 days before He went to Galilee for the Ascension.

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 anticipation 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 our church and all people the power of eternal life, that they may show forth Your praises. Bestow Your grace on our homes, and bless them with Easter's consolation and blessing. 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 FESTIVAL

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 expectations 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 anticipation 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. The One 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
This is the song Moses sang after the Egyptian army was drowned in the Red Sea. A complete victory was given by God for His people.

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—Isaiah 25:6-9

Everything takes place in accordance with God's design, no one can truly oppose it. The power of God and the pity of God are equal, but not to be confused with each other. This section is known as the Apocalypse of Isaiah because it speaks of "that day," which corresponds to the "day of the Lord" the Apocalyptic Prophets always mention. There is drama and suspense in these words. The feast and the rich food prepared for all the people of the world, the wiping away for the tears, the removal of the disgrace. {Verse 6 is an interesting story in the Hebrew. The first words are essentially "fatty things" and "dregs" then comes the build to "well trimmed" beef (melt in the mouth) and "filtered" (finest vintage) wine.

GRADUAL—(adapted from) Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7, Psalm 8:6
This is 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—Mark 16:1-8

First we will remind you that Mark was written as a Good Friday Sermon. As such the whole of chapter sixteen is an addition to the original. By whom it was added is in dispute. The first 8 verses are thought to have been added by Mark, when this Gospel was given for wider distribution.