

# livingtheword

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hearing and living the Sunday Readings

## Reading 1

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Peter proceeded to speak and said:

"You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power.

He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.

To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

R. (24) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

or:

Alleluia.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say,  
"His mercy endures forever."

R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

or:

Alleluia.

"The right hand of the LORD has struck with power;

the right hand of the LORD is exalted.

I shall not die, but live,

and declare the works of the LORD."

R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

or:

Alleluia.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.

R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

or: Alleluia.

## Reading II

Col 3:1-4 or I Cor 5:6b-8

I Cor 5:6b-8

Brothers and sisters:

Do you not know that a little yeast leavens all the dough? Clear out the old yeast,

so that you may become a fresh batch of dough, inasmuch as you are unleavened.

For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed.

Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Mk 16:1-7

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him.

Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb.

They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"

When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large.

On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.

Behold the place where they laid him.

But go and tell his disciples and Peter,

'He is going before you to Galilee;

there you will see him, as he told you.'"

### Reflection Questions

- What word, phrase or idea struck you in the reading?
- What do you think God is trying to say to you personally?
- Acts chapter 10 is seeking to remove obstacles between Jews and Gentiles. Peter had a vision from God that the 'gentiles' were 'clean' and could sit at table together with Jews. This message would upset many who had long held religious views of separation. What obstacles may God wish us to remove so we can sit together? Who do I consider 'unclean'?
- Before the Feast of the Passover, Jewish women would spend hours sweeping and tidying their homes. They particularly got rid of any 'leaven' (yeast to make the bread rise). It was a symbol of sin, capable of affecting the whole 'loaf'. In response to the Resurrection we are called to be 'new', people of the light, walking out of darkness. What particular action, habit, area of my life will I seek to tidy and sweep during the season of Easter as a response to living the new life of the Resurrection?
- Imagine someone you have loved in a very intimate and special way. This person died and you were personally involved in seeing the death, the burial. In grief you go to the place of burial and see first-hand that your friend is not there. There is evidence of burial cloths and a messenger that 'he has been raised' and that your friend so wants to meet with you and you will see each other soon. What would be your thoughts and feelings? If the resurrection is true, what change in thinking happens about death? About life? About God?
- What is one action that you will do to 'livetheword' this week?