



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