

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, after touching Jesus, being convinced.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© O Lord God, our Strength, our Song, and our Salvation, glorious in holiness, fearful in power, wonderful in Love, we thank You for the marvelous fulfillment of the promise made to us in the Resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ from the dead.

Open our spiritual eyes that we are able to behold the glory of our Lord and receive from Him the gift of life. Give us a full measure of the Holy Spirit, so that we are able to read the Bible to discern the prophecies concerning the Christ, His suffering, His death and His rising from the dead. Help us understand so that we are able to hold to the truth of Christ and know the glory of His work for us.

Send the truth of the Gospel to the far reaches of the Earth and to all the people of the world. Let everyone come to worship Christ in purity and power. Make the world know Christ's conquering of sin, hell and His victory over death. Let Christians find that Your Word has gone forth into the world and redeemed all the people. Then when Jesus comes as Judge of the living and the dead, He will find everyone ready to be taken to Heaven in triumph.

O Lord almighty God, stretch forth Your arm to strengthen and protect those who serve in the armed forces of our country. Support them in time of war and keep them from all evil. Give them courage and loyalty and grant that in all things they may serve honestly and without reproach.

As we are strangers and pilgrims on Earth, help us by true faith and a godly life to prepare for the world to come, doing the work You have given us to do while it is day, before the night comes when no one can work. When our last hour comes, support us by Your power, and receive us into Your heavenly kingdom.

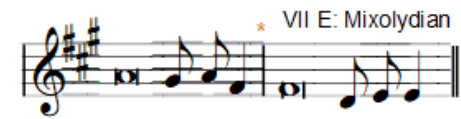
Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. **(Time of silent prayer.)**

Let us serve You in all faithfulness, this we pray in the name of Jesus.

© Amen.

EASTER SUNRISE

Chant Tone



<p>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.</p>	<p>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. <i>(Antiphon, Exodus 15:1b; Exodus 15:2a, 6, 13, 17-18)</i></p>
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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)

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ENTRANCE PRAYER: O God of life and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Your abundant grace, You have renewed our hearts again to a new and living assurance by the proclamation of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. You have transformed the darkness of our doubt and sorrow into the new and eternal light 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 assured us that in Him we have victory over the death and 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; EASTER. It is the day to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, the day all prophecy was fulfilled, 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. Through the work and the person of Jesus, we have been set free, never to ever again have the threat of eternal damnation hanging over us. In verse and hymn by Psalter and Psalm we praise the Holy name of Jesus.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Early in the Morning

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 this 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—Job 19:23-27

We are just under half way through the book of Job, when in answer to the second round of comments by his "friend," Bildad, Job pops off with this huge confession, "I know that my redeemer lives." Although the conversation will veer off again into a mistake about sin and punishment, this little confession stands as the anticipation we have all been given in the knowledge of the Resurrection of Jesus from the grave "...in the flesh I shall see God."

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 15:51-57

A problem had arisen in the Corinth congregations. They taught that there is no resurrection from the dead. The teaching did not dispute Christ's Resurrection, they simply claimed there is no general resurrection of all flesh. In this section, Paul, continued from the argument that there is a resurrection, to how that resurrection will appear, "in the twinkling of an eye..." The "no resurrection" teaching was similar to the philosophy of the Saducees who taught that if you were not alive at the end of the world you missed out. However, there is no point for the life, death and return of Jesus if there is no Heaven, no resurrection. The work of Jesus was very specifically to bring us into a position of salvation in Him. It is difficult to think that all these people missed the words of Job as we have them in our Old Testament Lesson.

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.