

Sunday Readings Reflections of 3/27/2016

Reading 1 Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Alleluia! This is Easter, the day of Jesus' rising from the dead, the most meaningful day of the year for all who believe in him. Things are different today. Bells are ringing and we are singing Alleluia. In the first reading, which comes not from the Old Testament but from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter gives us a mini-version of the entire Gospel Reflection. He reviews the key events in Jesus' life, proclaims his resurrection, and describes the ministry of the apostles. Peter assures his listeners that Jesus has the power to forgive their sins. Jesus gives everyone the freedom to live a new life!

Reading 2 Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Alleluia! In this reading we are urged to live in union with the risen Christ. Set your hearts on higher things, we are told. Be intent on the values of God's reign rather than those of the world. We have died to the old life of sin and hopelessness. Christ is risen and he will come again! And we will be taken up with him into his glory.

Gospel John 20:1-9 or Luke 24:1-12

Alleluia! Imagine how you would have felt if you had been Mary Magdalene or Peter or John on that first Easter morning. What thoughts and emotions would the sight of that empty tomb have aroused in you? At first, Mary Magdalene thought that Jesus' enemies had stolen his body. Heartbroken, she ran to tell Peter and John. They raced to the tomb and found that the burial wrappings, which had encased Jesus' body, were cast aside. Seeing this, they believed.