

**Addresses
for
Morning and Evening Prayer**

**according to the
1943 Lectionary
of the
USA 1928 Book of Common Prayer**

**Intended for use
by Layreaders
in the absence of a priest**

**by Ed Pacht
Rochester NH**

Easter Sunday

Morning Prayer A

First Lesson: Isaiah 25:1-9

Here beginneth the twenty-fifth chapter of the Prophet Isaiah.

1 O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.

2 For thou hast made of a city an heap; of a defenced city a ruin: a palace of strangers to be no city; it shall never be built.

3 Therefore shall the strong people glorify thee, the city of the terrible nations shall fear thee.

4 For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.

5 Thou shalt bring down the noise of strangers, as the heat in a dry place; even the heat with the shadow of a cloud: the branch of the terrible ones shall be brought low.

6 And in this mountain shall the LORD of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined.

7 And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations.

8 He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.

It was for our sins He died.
 What He took upon Himself was what we deserved.
 Our state was absolutely, completely hopeless.
 We seldom truly realize that, but it is true.
 Without the Cross,
 without the intense sorrow of good Friday,
 we would have no hope.
 If Good Friday were the whole story,
 we would have even less hope,
 but it is Easter.
 He is risen!
 He is calling your name and mine,
 and, as Isaiah sang:

*"... in that day thou shalt say,
 O LORD, I will praise thee:
 though thou wast angry with me,
 thine anger is turned away,
 and thou comfortedst me.
 Behold, God is my salvation;
 I will trust, and not be afraid:
 for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength
 and my song;
 he also is become my salvation. ...
 Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion:
 for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of
 thee."*

Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of thy Son our Lord; vouchsafe us this day such blessing through our worship of thee, that the days to come may be spent in thy service; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

And Mary, the Magdalene, stood weeping.
 Her Lord, her Deliverer,
 the One who gave her life back to her,
 was dead,
 and now even his body was missing.
 Mary hit bottom, and there seemed no way up.

The Psalmist may have seen this coming.
 In Psalm 30, verse 5, he wrote:
*"...his anger endureth but a moment,
 in his favour there is life:
 weeping may endure for a night,
 but joy cometh in the morning."*

Mary stood there weeping,
 and would not be consoled.
 even the voice of angels couldn't reach her,
 in her deepest mourning.
 Even His presence right there with her
 was not enough.
 She sobbed, ... until ...
 He spoke her name.
 "Mary!" He said,
 and the whole universe dissolved into joy,
 a joy that could not be borne,
 a joy that could not be contained,
 a joy that left her shouting the news
 to anyone who would listen,
 as the Psalm goes on:

*Thou hast turned ... my mourning into dancing:
 thou hast put off my sackcloth,
 and girded me with gladness;
 ... that my glory may sing praise to thee,
 and not be silent."*

That was Mary.
 What about us?

9 And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our
 God; we have waited for him, and he will save us:
 this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will
 be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Here endeth the First Lesson.

Second Lesson: Matt 28:1-10, 16-20

*Here beginneth the twenty-eighth chapter
 of the Gospel according to St. Matthew.*

1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn
 toward the first day of the week, came Mary
 Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for
 the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and
 came and rolled back the stone from the door, and
 sat upon it.

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment
 white as snow:

4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and
 became as dead men.

5 And the angel answered and said unto the
 women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus,
 which was crucified.

6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come,
 see the place where the Lord lay.

7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is
 risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before
 you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have
 told you.

8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

10 Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

Homily

Christ is risen. Alleluia!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

It's Easter, the Feast of the Resurrection, the most joyous celebration in our calendar.

We decorate as much as we are able, often we make special flower offerings.

Our vestments are the best and most festive that we can come up with.

The music is the most splendid we can manage.

Most of us make an effort to dress better for this celebration than we usually do.

It's a day

many of us have happy family parties as well.

It's a day of unrestrained joy.

But what is the cause of this great joy?

Obviously it is His Resurrection, but why did He rise?

What's the background of the story?

Behind our joy lie some dreadful things.

Before that first Easter morning there came death, death and despair and confusion;

and before that there came the sin that brought about the death.

It was because of sin, yours and mine, that God Sent His Sin into the world.

It was because of sin that He was condemned, and killed with a horrible cruel death.

It was because of sin that He was laid in a tomb; and because of sin, the disciples wept the bitter tears of despair.

Second Lesson: John 20:11-18

Here beginneth the eleventh verse of the twentieth chapter of the Gospel according to St. John.

11 But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,

12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my LORD, and I know not where they have laid him.

14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the LORD, and that he had spoken these things unto her.

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

Homily

*The day of resurrection!
Earth tell it out abroad:
The Passover of gladness,
The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
From earth unto the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over
With hymns of victory.*

The past forty days were somber days.
Holy Church called us to think on our sins,
to fast and to pray in sorrow
that we had offended our holy and loving God.
We've reminded ourselves of the bondage
in which we had bound ourselves,
and of our inability to climb back out of that pit.

This past week we stood symbolically
with the apostles and the faithful women
as they watched their only Hope,
arrested, beaten, killed, and buried.
The very sun darkened and the earth shook,
a gloom descended upon their hearts,
and the devils rejoiced with evil joy.
Darkness and sin certainly seemed to have won.
And in that hopeless third morning,
in a sad and futile gesture of love,
the women came to the tomb, carrying spices,
much as we would bring flowers,
intending to weep at His grave, and go away.
And then ...

"It's an angel!"

"Do you hear him?"

"Can you believe it?"

"He is not here! He is risen!

Just as He said it would be!

Didn't you hear Him?

Look! This is where He was.

He is not here! He is risen!

Run! Tell His friends!

Run! He is risen!"

They ran. With all their might they ran,
hoping against hope that it was true,
and ...

It's Him! He speaks! They fall before Him.
"Adonai", "My Lord!", "Halleluiah!"

"Tell them! Tell them!

Tell His friends! Tell the world!

He's alive! He's alive! He's alive!

"He will swallow up death in victory;"

said the Prophet long before,

"and the Lord GOD

will wipe away tears from off all faces;

and the rebuke of his people

shall he take away from off all the earth:

for the LORD hath spoken it.

And it shall be said in that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him,

and he will save us:

this is the LORD; we have waited for him,

we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Evening Prayer B

First Lesson: Isa 12

*Here beginneth the twelfth chapter of the Prophet
Isaiah.*

1 And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will
praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine
anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.

2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not
be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength
and my song; he also is become my salvation.

3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the
wells of salvation.

4 And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD,
call upon his name, declare his doings among the
people, make mention that his name is exalted.

5 Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent
things: this is known in all the earth.

6 Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for
great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

Here endeth the First Lesson.

*they shall obtain gladness and joy;
and sorrow and mourning shall flee away. "*
"I, even I, am he that comforteth you: "
says the Lord,
*"who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid
of a man that shall die,
and of the son of man
which shall be made as grass;*

Rejoice and be glad, O Church,
for He has risen,
the last enemy, death itself, is conquered.
We have been brought out of condemnation,
He has nailed our sins to the Cross,
and has come to claim us as His own.
No sorrow,
no sickness,
no persecution,
neither poverty not opposition,
not even death itself
can separate us from His love.

Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling death by death,
and on those in the tomb bestowing life

Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son did manifest himself to
his disciples in the breaking of bread; open, we
pray thee, the eyes of our faith, that we may be-
hold thee in all thy works; through the same thy
Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In a world where death seems to be king,
where every life comes to an end,
where men kill men,
where life, as it has been said,
"is nasty, short, and brutish,"
and the world itself seems threatened with an end,,
in such a world we have a message,
there is hope,
the last enemy, death itself,
has been defeated,
the gates are open
to an everlasting, ever-joyful life.
Sin and death are overcome.
He is risen!
He is risen!
He is risen!

As was said in many places last night
in the Easter Vigil:

"Rejoice now, all ye heavenly legions of angels:
and celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation:
and for the King that cometh with victory,
let the trumpet proclaim salvation.
Sing with joy, O earth,
illumined with this celestial radiancy:
and enlightened by the King eternal,
believe and know that thou hast put away
the darkness of all mankind."

We have a message.
Let us proclaim it.

Lord Christ, we praise thee in thy Resurrection.
 We celebrate the great salvation
 thou hast won for us.
 Let our joy overflow.
 Let the Good News be heard in this dark world.
 Let thy light shine through us,
 and lead the lost ones to thy joy.
 Amen.

Morning Prayer B

First Lesson: Exod 12:1-14

*Here beginneth the twelfth chapter
 of the Book of Exodus*

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in
 the land of Egypt saying,

2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of
 months: it shall be the first month of the year to
 you.

3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, say-
 ing, In the tenth day of this month they shall take
 to them every man a lamb, according to the house
 of their fathers, a lamb for an house:

4 And if the household be too little for the lamb,
 let him and his neighbour next unto his house take
 it according to the number of the souls; every man
 according to his eating shall make your count for
 the lamb.

5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of
 the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or
 from the goats:

explaining all they had to say about this Messiah,
 how he came both to suffer and to be glorified.
 He talked on, bringing a strange comfort,
 and remained with them for a meal.
 He took bread and broke it,
 and as they ate, they knew ...
 They knew Him in the breaking of Bread,
 so it was that day,
 and so it has been through the ages.
 He died for us.
 He rose from the grave and walked on the earth.
 He comes to us, feeds us,
 enters our lives, and makes us His own.
 They ran back to the city.
 They heard the reports,
 "The Lord is risen indeed,
 and hath appeared to Simon."
 And so He had,
 and though He ascended into heaven,
 he has never left us,
 and will not forsake us.

It was as the Prophet had said, in the words of
 God:

*"Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the
 LORD;"*

and the only-begotten Son, known as the Arm of
 the Lord,
 got up, reclaimed the strength of the body,
 and came to us.

*"Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return,
 and come with singing unto Zion;
 and everlasting joy shall be upon their head:"*

Homily

It had been a hard week.
 They had pinned their hopes upon the Teacher.
 They had heard His golden words.
 They had watched him work wonders.
 He had fed hungry multitudes.
 His closest disciples said that
 He had even walked upon the water.
 And they had believed ...
 Oh, how they had wanted to believe ..
 that He was the promised Messiah,
 the Son of David,
 come to set His people free.
 But there he had hung.
 They had watched from a distance,
 as the Teacher suffered and died,
 the terribly cruel death of the Cross.
 They buried Him in a stone tomb,
 the stone door closed and sealed,
 and it was all over.
 Oh, sure, there was talk.
 Some of the women claimed the body was gone.
 There were even claims that He was alive.
 Could it be?
 Nah. We saw him die,
 Dead people don't get up again.
 It's over.
 The two of them walked sadly away from
 the sad and dangerous city,
 After a while a stranger joined them,
 and, after quizzing them about their conversation,
 began to go through the Scriptures,
 from one end to the other,

6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day
 of the same month: and the whole assembly of the
 congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.
 7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on
 the two side posts and on the upper door post of
 the houses, wherein they shall eat it.
 8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast
 with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter
 herbs they shall eat it.
 9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water,
 but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with
 the purtenance thereof.
 10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the
 morning; and that which remaineth of it until the
 morning ye shall burn with fire.
 11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded,
 your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your
 hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD's
 passover.
 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this
 night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of
 Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the
 gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the
 LORD.
 13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon
 the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood,
 I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be
 upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of
 Egypt.
 14 And this day shall be unto you for a memorial;
 and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD through-
 out your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an
 ordinance for ever.

Here endeth the First Lesson.

Second Lesson: Rev 14:1-7, 12-13

*Here beginneth the fourteenth chapter
of the Revelation of St. John.*

1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

30 And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.

31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

33 And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,

34 Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

35 And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

19 And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

22 Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;

23 And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive.

24 And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.

25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

28 And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

29 But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

Homily

Christ is risen. Alleluia!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

This is the day which the Lord hath made. Alleluia!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!

The eternal Son, the everlasting Word of God, came down from heaven, took flesh of the virgin Mary,

was made man, and lived among us.

For our sins He suffered and died and was buried, and on the third day,

as it were, on this very day,

he rose from the grave, broke the bonds of death, declared freedom to those who had been bound, and everlasting life to those chained in death.

Christ has risen from the dead,
 trampling death by death,
 and, on those in the tomb, bestowing life.
 He is the Lamb slain
 from the foundation of the world,
 the one true and immortal Sacrifice
 that conquers sin.
 Let us rejoice!
 Let us rejoice!
 Let us rejoice!

We didn't hear the story of the Resurrection
 in this service,
 but the Scripture we did hear
 gives us ample reason to rejoice.
 We heard how the people of Israel,
 every year about this time,
 gathered for the Passover meal,
 for a feast of roast lamb
 to celebrate their deliverance
 from the angel of death,
 who passed over the houses
 that were marked with lamb's blood;
 and to remember in story and song,
 and in many symbols,
 the end of their slavery in Egypt,
 and the freedom of the sons of God.

"And this day shall be unto you for a memorial;"
 we heard,
"and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD
throughout your generations;
ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever."

16 And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I
 have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand,
 that I may plant the heavens, and lay the founda-
 tions of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my
 people.

Here endeth the First Lesson.

Second Lesson: Luke 24:13-35

*Here beginneth the thirteenth verse of the twenty-
 fourth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke.*

13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to
 a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusa-
 lem about threescore furlongs.

14 And they talked together of all these things
 which had happened.

15 And it came to pass, that, while they com-
 muned together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew
 near, and went with them.

16 But their eyes were holden that they should not
 know him.

17 And he said unto them, What manner of com-
 munications are these that ye have one to another,
 as ye walk, and are sad?

18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas,
 answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger
 in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which
 are come to pass there in these days?

Evening Prayer A

First Lesson: Isa 51:9-16

Here beginneth the ninth verse of the fifty-first chapter of the Prophet Isaiah.

9 Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon?

10 Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over?

11 Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

12 I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass;

13 And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?

14 The captive exile hasteneth that he may be loosed, and that he should not die in the pit, nor that his bread should fail.

15 But I am the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The LORD of hosts is his name.

And so it is, that even today we keep that feast,
every time we gather for Eucharist,
every time we partake of the Body and the Blood.
"Lamb of God,
who takest away the sin of the world,"
we sing, and we feast, and, in feasting,
we look forward
to the everlasting Supper of the Lamb,
which we shall celebrate in the heavenly places,
with him, with the ...

*"Lamb ... on the mount Sion,
and ... an hundred forty and four thousand,
having his Father's name
written in their foreheads.
And ... a voice from heaven,
as the voice of many waters,
and as the voice of a great thunder:
and ... the voice of harpers
harping with their harps:
... as it were a new song before the throne,
and no man could learn that song
but the hundred and forty and four thousand,
which were redeemed from the earth.*

And we, the redeemed,
for whom the Blood was shed,
who have passed through the waters of Baptism,
who have followed Him
in repentance and in prayer,
who have partaken of that Holy Meal here below,
who have trusted in Him for salvation,
we shall stand with that number,
we shall know His presence and His beauty
and His love.

And that rejoicing
 shall continue into ages of endless ages.
 He is risen!
 We are free!
 Let us begin that rejoicing that shall not end.

Hail thee, festival day!
 blest day that art hallowed forever;
 Day whereon Christ arose,
 breaking the kingdom of death.

Lo, the fair beauty of earth,
 from the death of the winter arising!
 Every good gift of the year
 now with it's Master returns.
 He who was nailed to the cross
 is Lord and the ruler of all men;
 All things created on earth,
 sing to the glory of God.

Hail thee, festival day!
 blest day that art hallowed forever;
 Day whereon Christ arose,
 breaking the kingdom of death.

God the All-Father, the Lord,
 who rulest the earth and the heavens,
 Guard us from harm without,
 cleanse us from evil within.
 Jesus the health of the world,
 enlighten our minds, thou Redeemer,
 Son of the Father supreme,
 only begotten of God.

Spirit of life and of power,
 now flow in us fount of our being,
 Light that dost lighten us all,
 life that in all dost abide.

Hail thee, festival day!
 blest day that art hallowed forever;
 Day whereon Christ arose,
 breaking the kingdom of death.
 Amen.
