



COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION
SUNDAY 5 APRIL 2026 – Easter Day

COLLECT

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.

Psalm 118. 1-2, 14-24

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; ♦
his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let Israel now proclaim, ♦
'His mercy endures for ever.'
- 14 The Lord is my strength and my song, ♦
and he has become my salvation.
- 15 Joyful shouts of salvation ♦
sound from the tents of the righteous:
- 16 'The right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds;
the right hand of the Lord raises up; ♦
the right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds.'
- 17 I shall not die, but live ♦
and declare the works of the Lord.
- 18 The Lord has punished me sorely, ♦
but he has not given me over to death.
- 19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, ♦
that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.
- 20 This is the gate of the Lord; ♦
the righteous shall enter through it.
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me ♦
and have become my salvation.
- 22 The stone which the builders rejected ♦
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the Lord's doing, ♦
and it is marvellous in our eyes.
- 24 This is the day that the Lord has made; ♦
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

A reading from the letter to the Colossians, chapter 3, verses 1-4.

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

At Morning Prayer, the Gospel is simply the second reading, people sit to hear it and is introduced in the same way as the first:

The second reading is Matthew, chapter 28, verses 1-10.

and then at the end:

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

For Eucharists/ Communion people stand to hear the Gospel.

Alleluia. **Alleluia.**

This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew, chapter 28, verses 1-10.

Glorify to you, O Lord

And then at the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

An Easter message will appear on Easter morning! In the meantime, here is a picture and commentary from the Visual Commentary on Scripture (vcs.org):



Unknown Byzantine Artist

All Hail of the Myrrh-Bearers, 14th century (c.1360?), Mural, Church of Saint Panteleimon, Zymvragou (Kissamos), Chania, Crete; Photo and commentary by Angeliki Lymberopoulou.

This wall painting illustrates the ‘All Hail of the Myrrh-Bearers’, as described in Matthew 28:9–10, where Christ met and greeted ‘Mary Magdalene and the other Mary’ (v.1) as they returned from visiting His empty tomb. The work is part of the monumental decoration depicted on the south wall of the sanctuary in the church of Saint Panteleimon, in the village of Zymvragou, prefecture of Chania, western Crete—built and decorated when the island was under Venetian rule.

Christ is placed in the middle of the scene, flanked in the background by two mountains and in the foreground by two haloed women kneeling among plants. He is depicted full-length, turned to the left of the composition and

extending His right hand in blessing towards the kneeling woman on this side. He holds a closed scroll in His left hand, indicating his authority and power. Both His hands bear a white mark from the nails of the crucifixion. As is typical in Christian art, Christ’s halo includes a cross, as a visual reference to His death. The kneeling women extend their covered hands towards Christ, as is customary when in the presence of the divine.

The scene and Christ are identified in white majuscule Greek letters, placed at the top middle, to the left and right of Christ’s halo:

TOXAI / PETΩNMYPOΦOPΩN (*To Chaire tōn Myrophorōn*; the All Hail of the Myrrh- Bearers)

IC / XC (abbreviation for Jesus Christ, I(HCOY)C X(PICTO)C).

The scene is specific to Matthew’s Gospel, and (as the first appearance of the risen Christ in that Gospel).

The early Christian theologian Peter Chrysologus writes of this episode:

‘He does not wait to be recognized. He does not demand to be understood. He does not allow himself to be questioned. Rather, he extends this greeting immediately, enthusiastically. He did this because the force of his love overcomes and surpasses all. Furthermore, by doing so Christ himself greets the church.... This greeting itself evidently shows that the full figure of the church abides in these women. They are contrasted with those disciples whom Christ scolds who were wavering over the resurrection.’