

LECTIONARY SUMMARIES

FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

(3 April 2022)

Isaiah 43:16–21

Philippians 3:(4b–7) 8–14

Luke 20:9–20

God's Beloved Son Has Redeemed Us

Our life and works apart from Christ, no matter how they may glitter to the eyes of the world, are ultimately rubbish and have no righteousness. Rather, in the scandalous cross of Jesus, we find our righteousness alone “*through faith in Christ*” (Phil. 3:9). By such faith, we “*know him and the power of his resurrection*” (Phil. 3:10). For the same God who brought Israel out of Egypt has done a “*new thing*” for us in Christ Jesus (Is. 43:19). He has sent His beloved Son into His vineyard to be killed by sinful men and to become “*the stone that the builders rejected.*” Yet, the One rejected by men “*has become the cornerstone*” of His Church (Luke 20:17). Through the waters of Holy Baptism, He provides us daily refreshment in our earthly pilgrimage, “*a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert*” (Is. 43:19).

PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

(10 April 2022)

John 12:12–19 (Palm Sunday Procession)

Deuteronomy 32:36–39

Philippians 2:5–11

Luke 22:1–23:56 *or* Luke 23:1–56 *or* John 12:20–43

The Cross and Passion of Our Lord Are the Hour of His Glory

The King of Israel comes into His royal glory by the path of humble obedience “*to the point of death, even death on a cross*” (Phil. 2:8). He “*goes as it has been determined*” (Luke 22:22), according to the Scriptures, willingly submitting to His Father’s plan for the salvation of sinners. “*Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name*” (Phil. 2:9). His suffering and death open the way of repentance for the forgiveness of sins because He goes to the cross bearing the sins of the world. In His resurrection, God the Father vindicates His people and has compassion on His servants (Deut. 32:36). He kills to make alive; He wounds in order to heal. In remembrance of Him, we praise God, confessing “*that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*” (Phil. 2:11).

HOLY (MAUNDY) THURSDAY

(14 April 2022)

Jeremiah 31:31–34 *or* Exodus 12:1–14

Hebrews 10:15–25 *or* 1 Corinthians 11:23–32

Luke 22:7–20 *or* John 13:1–17, 31b–35

Let Us Love One Another, as Christ Jesus Has Loved Us

By Holy Baptism, “*with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water*” (Heb. 10:22), we enter the holy place with Jesus. For Jesus is our Passover Lamb who has been sacrificed for us. He reclines at table with us and feeds us with His own flesh and blood: “*the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain*” (Heb. 10:20). In Christ, the Lord remembers us in mercy and remembers our sin no more; He forgives us all our iniquity (Jer. 31:34; Heb. 10:17). With such love, He “*loved his own who were in the world,*” and He even loves us “*to the end*” (John 13:1). As He washes us and feeds us in love, let us love one another, just as He has loved us (John 13:34).

GOOD FRIDAY

(15 April 2022)

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

John 18:1–19:42 *or* John 19:17–30

Behold the Lamb of God, Who Takes Away the Sin of the World

Jesus, the Lamb of God, is led to the slaughter of His cross as the sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the world. “*Despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief*” (Is. 53:3), He is the righteous Servant who justifies many by His innocent suffering and death. He bears our griefs and carries our sorrows; He is wounded for our transgressions; He is crushed for our iniquities; He suffers our chastisement, so that “*with his wounds we are healed*” (Is. 53:4–5). As the Son of God, He fulfills the Law for us in human flesh, and so fulfills the Scriptures (John 19:7, 24). In perfect faith and faithfulness, He shares all our weaknesses and temptations, “*yet without sin*” (Heb. 4:15), and as our merciful High Priest, He brings us to the Father in peace.

EASTER SUNRISE

(17 April 2022)

Job 19:23–27

1 Corinthians 15:51–57

John 20:1–18

Our Redeemer Lives!

In Adam, all die because all sin. The children of that first gardener have been driven out of Paradise and return to the dust whence they were taken. But now another Gardener has come, who has made His bed in the dust of the earth, and in His resurrection He has opened paradise for all the children of Adam. For “*death is swallowed up in victory*” (1 Cor. 15:54), and God “*gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*” (1 Cor. 15:57). So we each confess that “*my Redeemer lives*” and “*in my flesh I shall see God*” (Job 19:25, 26). As He has called us out of darkness into light and wiped away our tears, we behold Him now by faith and recognize His voice in the Gospel. We enter His tomb by the death of Holy Baptism, and we also share His resurrection. For as surely as He has risen, so we also one day “*must rise from the dead*” (John 20:9).

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

(24 April 2022)

Acts 5:12–20 (21–32)

Revelation 1:4–18

John 20:19–31

That You May Believe and Have Life in His Name

On the Lord’s Day, St. John the apostle was given a revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last. He is the Living One, “*the firstborn of the dead*” (Rev. 1:5). He died for all people, and behold, He is alive forevermore! Therefore, He has “*the keys of Death and Hades*” (Rev. 1:18). For His death atoned for sin and conquered death, and in His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to us. The “*sharp two-edged sword*” of His mouth (Rev. 1:16) calls you to “*believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,*” that by such faith “*you may have life in his name*” (John 20:31). To that end, He sends His ministers of the Word, as the Father sent Him, “*to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins*” (Acts 5:31).