

**REFLECTION:** I remember a time I was given a second chance to start over.... I remember...  
I remember...

# The Resurrection of the Lord

Easter Sunday | Cycle A | April 5, 2026

## WISDOM FROM THE CELLS

I remember when I first learned about our Lord Jesus Christ and about His forgiveness for those who are willing to receive it. At first, it was hard for me to accept that I could be forgiven for everything that I have done. I felt like it was too much. Like I crossed a line from where I couldn't come back. I was wrong, of course. I read the Word of God and found out how many different types of sins the Lord has forgiven, and that His sacrifice of dying on the cross and resurrection on the 3rd day is atonement and payment for the whole world's sin. This convinced me that our Lord Jesus Christ has completely forgiven me. When I realized that in fact, I am 100% forgiven by Him and accepted Him as my savior and giver of Eternal Life, I realized I had been given a second chance to live an honest and responsible life. I do not have to be my past anymore. I am born again, and I have a new life in Christ.

In His name, I am a new man who is patient, kind, forgiving, of service, and a man of integrity. A responsible man. This gift of a second chance has led me to daily work on myself and aim to be the man I was born to be under the holy name of our Lord Jesus Christ. A second chance is the best gift through Jesus Christ I ever got.

-Gustavo, who is in a California State Prison.



Art by J. Salazar

## PENITENTIAL RITE

**Lord, have mercy.**  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
**Lord, have mercy.**  
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.  
**R. Amen.**

## OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray:  
Lord,  
As we celebrate your rising today, we recognize the light and hope that you bring into our lives. May your example give us the strength to rise above our the darkness.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **Have mercy on us.**  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **Have mercy on us.**  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **Grant us peace.**

This is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are we who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

## COMMUNION

## CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray:  
Lord,  
You have led us out of the darkness into your wonderful light. Bless us with your abundant love so that we may find hope and healing in the darkest moments of our life.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**

## OUR FATHER

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**  
**R. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

## SIGN OF PEACE

Jesus, you said to your apostles: "I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever and ever. **Amen.**"

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**R. And with your spirit.**



# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## First Reading: Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Peter proceeded to speak and said: "You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.  
**R. Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Brothers and sisters: If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

The Word of the Lord.  
**R. Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

**R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.**

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say,  
"His mercy endures forever."

**R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.**

"The right hand of the LORD has struck with power;

the right hand of the LORD is exalted.

I shall not die, but live,

and declare the works of the LORD."

**R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.**

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done;

it is wonderful in our eyes.

**R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.**

## Gospel: John 20:1-9

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

# MEDITATION: THE OTHER SIDE

*(from the eyes of  
mary of magdala)*

i was hearing my name  
being called  
mary  
in that moment  
the person who  
i thought was a gardener  
was jesus

jesus, you are alive  
i said

we sat down in the garden  
the sun was strong

everything is different  
jesus, you have risen  
you have conquered death  
i remember seeing you  
on the cross with  
no breath coming forth

there are some who  
have always claimed  
that with death  
everything ends  
so you might as well  
enjoy life  
as much as you can  
but jesus you are alive  
there are so many who  
are so terrified of death  
they cannot talk about it  
and they do everything  
they can to run away from it  
but i know there is a way  
to remain in contact  
with those who have died

mary, said jesus  
let's go over to that stream  
in the middle of the garden  
so we walked over  
my whole being  
was filled with joy  
that jesus is alive  
he is with me  
he is talking to me  
we stopped at the stream  
the whole universe  
was filled with his presence

mary, your faith is solid  
life does not end with death  
but another phase begins  
the mist now thickening  
with the sun hitting  
the grass

jesus was asking me

about my parents  
how it had been  
many years  
since they had died  
with jesus asking me this  
i felt a surge of emotions  
remembering the last time  
i said goodbye to them

one morning  
i never saw them again  
because their boat  
turned over in the storm  
ever since then  
i knew they were still alive

mary, said jesus  
step over the stream

i went with jesus  
to the other side  
of the stream  
greeting me  
on the other side  
were my parents  
i knew they still  
went on living  
i began to draw  
closer to them  
to embrace them  
and then just like that  
they physically  
disappeared but  
they were still there

then jesus said  
mary, speak with them  
they can hear you  
and on some level  
you will receive an answer  
whenever you want  
to communicate  
even if it is someone  
who has died  
go to that place  
to speak with them

jesus, the risen one  
quietly stood with me  
as i brought to mind  
different friends  
who had died  
during the years  
i could feel  
they were with me

then jesus said  
call out their names  
and talk to them  
tell them what you  
most liked about them  
and say goodbye

tears started to fill my eyes  
as i thought about a friend  
who had passed away  
jesus, the risen one  
moved me to say  
i miss you but  
i feel you are present  
i still have a lot  
of memories  
of when we fought  
i liked your sense of humor  
your compassion

i looked at jesus  
and knew he could see  
what i could not see  
the mystery of death

jesus, i like being with you  
otherwise it would  
seem so crazy  
as i said this  
i could feel benjamin  
was communicating  
with me  
he was telling me  
that he was glad  
he could also be with me  
i could also hear  
about how loved we are  
by jesus' abba  
the vast valley of love

jesus smiled  
and said  
mary  
stepping over onto  
this side of the stream  
is the greatest adventure  
i will always be there  
to meet you  
feel the connectedness  
of the spirit world

the sun in the garden  
was rising higher  
the mist was lifting  
it was good to be  
with the risen one  
alive  
putting me in touch  
with those who have  
gone before me  
and seeing again  
the faces of my parents  
i know they are here  
at first i couldn't  
say anything  
this was more real  
than anything  
saying to my parents

thank you  
for giving me life  
thank you for  
accompanying me  
you are not at my side  
like before  
but you hear me  
thank you for also  
being with me  
during these years  
since your death  
i feel you are still  
guiding me  
accompanying me  
in a different way  
from a deep  
mysterious place within  
i could hear the words:  
i love you

mary saying out loud  
i tell you that my life  
has changed  
during these last  
three years  
i have been  
a follower of jesus  
i have learnt how life  
can be different

being his follower  
i have learnt  
what it is to be  
in community  
to struggle against  
this empire  
against religious  
oppression

when you had just died  
i had these sweeping  
and overwhelming  
emotional pangs of grief  
but as the years  
quickly pass  
you seem more distant  
your memories  
are not as fresh  
that's why i am so grateful  
for being with jesus  
for being with you  
on this side of the stream

i have not felt  
this presence  
since the day you died

these tears fill me with joy  
to know that you  
truly are alive

