

Notes for Next Sunday

Easter Sunday

The Point of this Week's Readings

First Reading (Acts 10:34-43). Prior to this text Peter had had a vision of being invited to eat what Jews deemed as impure foods. God reminded him that what God offered should never be seen as unclean. The vision was a prelude to Peter being invited to Cornelius' (a Roman centurion) house to teach about Jesus. In this text Peter explains his former Jewish attitude toward Gentiles. Peter seems to have seen the light of God's will and is ready to carry his ministry to these Gentiles. He goes on to teach them about life, death and resurrection and the offer of the forgiveness of sin to everyone who believes.

Epistle (Colossians 3:1-4). In the first two chapters Paul had heaped much encouragement on the Colossians concerning what they had received because of Christ's work in their lives. Being given something, usually leads to a response of gratitude. In that light Paul is telling them how they should respond now that they are in Christ.

Gospel (Matthew 28:1-10). This is the Resurrection account according to Matthew. Matthew has Mary Magdalene and presumably "Mary the mother of James and Joseph" (27:56) going to the grave at dawn. It seems significant that an earthquake marked both Jesus' death and His resurrection. These quakes were obviously more than coincidences of nature: both quakes signaled that great and mighty acts of God were taking place. It is as though the Father was tying the crucifixion and the resurrection of His Son together with a seismic knot. Since the women had also been at the cross, they may have made the connection. (PBC) An angel assures them that they need not be afraid and that Christ has arisen and that they are to tell the disciples to go to Galilee where they will meet Jesus. Christ next meets them and gives them the same message.

For more in-depth commentary on each reading, read the notes found after each text below.

FIRST READING – Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵ but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. ³⁶ You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷ You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. ³⁹ "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

10:36 Lord of all. A brief confession or creed, appropriate among Gentiles who had worshiped idols and who perhaps wondered whether the true God would be their God. (TLSB)

10:39 tree. Adam and Eve's willful reach for Eden's tree was cured by Christ's willing grasp of the cross. (TLSB)

10:43 forgiveness of sins through His name. “Peter says we receive forgiveness of sins through Christ’s name, that is, for His sake. It is not for the sake of our merits, not for the sake of our contrition, attrition, love, worship, or works. (TLSB)

EPISTLE – Colossians – 3:1-4

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory

3:1 set your hearts...things above. Not spatially but spiritually. Jesus has ascended to His rightful place, from which He governs all things (Jn 8:23). (TLSB)

3:1 right hand of God. The right hand is a symbol of power. The right hand of God, therefore, represents universal power (Eph 1:20–21). (CC p. 135)

3:4 appears with Him in glory. Our eternal life, which we possess now through Baptism, will be fully experienced in heaven. Through Christ, we are participants in God’s glory. (TLSB)

GOSPEL – MATTHEW 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵ The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” ⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

28:1 first day of the week. Early Sunday morning. (TLSB)

28:1 Mary Magdalene. She was from the village of Magdala which is on the southwest coast of the Sea of Galilee. Mary became a devoted follower of Jesus after He cast seven demons out of her (Mk. 16:9; Luke 8:1-2). She is often regarded as a prostitute which is not true. She was the first person to whom the risen Lord appeared (Mk. 16:9; Jn. 20:11-29). (Lutheran Bible Companion – Volume 2)

28:2 rolled back. The angel opens the tomb, but Christ has already risen. (TLSB)

28:6 He is not here. In was gentle way of saying, “I told you so! You should not be surprised. You should have known He would not be here anymore.”

28:8 afraid yet filled with joy. They were still frightened, but glad at the news. (TLSB)

28:9 clasped his feet. This was a sign of homage. (TLSB)

28:9 worshiped Him. They bowed before their Lord. (TLSB)

28:10 *my brothers*. Jesus still refers to His disciples as family. (TLSB)