

**Sunday, April 9, 2023**

**The Sunday of Resurrection: Easter Day, Year A**

**First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>Listen you coastlands, to me,  
And pay heed, you peoples from afar!  
The CREATOR OF ALL called me from the womb,  
from my mother's belly God made my name known.

<sup>2</sup>God made my mouth like a sharpened sword,  
and in the shadow of God's own hand, hid me;  
God made me like a polished arrow,  
in God's own quiver, hid me.

<sup>3</sup>And God said to me, "You are my slave,  
Israel, in you I am glorified."

<sup>4</sup>But I, I said, "In vain have I labored,  
I have spent my strength for nothingness and vanity;  
surely my judgment is with the FAITHFUL ONE,  
and my wages with my God."

<sup>5</sup>And now says the AUTHOR OF LIFE,  
who formed me in the womb to be God's slave,  
to return Jacob back to God,  
and that Israel might be gathered to God;  
I am honored in the sight of the HOLY ONE OF OLD,  
and my God is my strength.

<sup>6</sup>God says,  
"It is too light a thing that you should be my slave  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob [the line of Rebekah],  
and to restore the survivors of Israel [born of Rachel and Leah, and Bilhah  
and Zilpah].

I will give you as a light to the nations,  
for it will be that my salvation reaches to the end of the earth."

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the FAITHFUL ONE,  
the Redeemer of Israel, God's holy one,  
to one despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,

"Queens and kings shall see and arise,  
princes and princesses, and they too shall prostrate themselves,

on account of the FIRE OF SINAI, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

<sup>8</sup>Thus says the MIGHTY GOD:

In a favorable time I have answered you,  
on a day of salvation I have helped you;

I have kept you and given you  
as a covenant to the people,

to establish the land,  
to apportion the desolate portions;

<sup>9</sup>saying to the prisoners, “Go free!”

to those who are in darkness, “Let yourselves be seen.”

Along the paths they shall pasture,

and on all the bare heights shall be their pasture.

<sup>10</sup>They shall not hunger nor shall they thirst,

neither shall heat nor sun strike them down,

for the one who mother-loves them shall lead them,

and by springs of water shall guide them.

<sup>11</sup>And I will turn all my mountains into a pathway,

and my highways shall be raised up.

<sup>12</sup>Look! These shall come from far away,

and see! These from the north and from the sea to the west,

and these from the southland of Syene.

<sup>13</sup>Sing for joy, you heavens, and exult, O earth;

let mountains break forth into singing!

For the TENDER LOVING ONE has comforted God’s people,

and will mother-love God’s suffering ones.

## **Psalm: Psalm 18:2-11, 16-19**

<sup>2</sup>The ROCK WHO GAVE US BIRTH is my rock,  
and my fortress, and my deliverer,  
my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,  
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

<sup>3</sup>I call upon the HOLY ONE, may she be praised,  
and from my enemies I shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>The snares of death encompassed me;  
the rivers of wickedness assailed me.

<sup>5</sup>The snares of Sheol encircled me;  
the snares of death confronted me.

<sup>6</sup>In my distress I called upon SHE WHO HEARS;  
to my God I cried for help.

From her temple she heard my voice,  
and my cry came before her, to her ears.

<sup>7</sup>Then the earth shuddered and quaked;  
the foundations also of the mountains trembled  
and were shaken because of her anger.

<sup>8</sup>Smoke went up from her nostrils,  
and consuming fire from her mouth;  
burning coals blazed forth from her.

<sup>9</sup>She spread out the heavens, and descended;  
thick darkness was under her feet.

<sup>10</sup>She mounted up on a cherub, and flew;  
she soared upon the wings of the wind.

<sup>11</sup>She made darkness her veil around her,  
her canopy dark waters and thick clouds.

<sup>16</sup>She reached down from on high, she took me;  
she drew me out of the multitude of water.

<sup>17</sup>She delivered me from my strong enemy,  
and from those who hate me;  
for they were too mighty for me.

<sup>18</sup>They confronted me in the day of my calamity;  
yet the SHELTERING GOD was my support.

<sup>19</sup>She brought me out into a broad place;  
she delivered me, because she delights in me.

## Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-2, 23-24, 28-39

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the essence of things hoped for, the conviction of that which is not seen. <sup>2</sup>By faith, indeed, were our ancestors approved.

<sup>23</sup>By faith Moses was hidden after his birth by his mother and father for three months, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. <sup>24</sup>By faith Moses, after he had grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh's daughter.

<sup>28</sup>By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, in order that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn daughters and sons of Israel.

<sup>29</sup>By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though on dry land, but when the Egyptians chose to try, they were drowned. <sup>30</sup>By faith the walls of Jericho fell when encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup>By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who did not believe, because she had received the spies in peace.

<sup>32</sup>And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, female and male, <sup>33</sup>who through faith conquered realms, administered justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, felled foreign armies. <sup>35</sup>Women through resurrection received their dead. Other women and men were tortured, refusing to receive a release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup>Yet other women and men received a trial of mocking and whipping, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup>They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they were slaughtered by sword; they went about in animal-skins, in sheepskin and goatskin, impoverished, oppressed, tormented. <sup>38</sup>The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup>And all these, commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised.

## Gospel: John 20:1-18

<sup>1</sup>Now it was the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came, early on while it was still dark, to the tomb and saw the stone removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Messiah out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple came and went to the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple ran ahead of Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>And bending down to see, saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not enter. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb, and he saw the linen wrappings lying there. <sup>7</sup>And the facecloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up separately in another place. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, went in and saw and believed. <sup>9</sup>Indeed they did not understand the scripture, that it was necessary for Jesus to rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned once more to their homes.

<sup>11</sup>Now Mary stood outside, facing the tomb, weeping. As she wept, she bent down to see in the tomb. <sup>12</sup>Then she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. <sup>13</sup>They said to her, "Woman, why do you weep?" She said to them, "Because they have taken my Savior, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup>Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, why do you weep? For whom do you look?" Thinking that he was the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. Rather, go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Abba and your Abba, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Savior"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.