

CONFESSING CHRIST - DAILY LECTIONARY AND PRAYERS

Eastertide 2014

Frederick R. Trost and Colleen Darling, Editors

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“Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever...”

(Revelation 1:18)

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The Festival of Easter, 4/20	John 20:1-18	John Van Epps Ivoryton, CT
Easter Monday, 4/21	Mark 16:1-8 +1109, Anselm of Canterbury	Edward A. Walker Dennis, MA
Easter Tuesday, 4/22	Mark 16:9-20 +1945, Käthe Kollwitz	John R. & Eileen Weiler Bethlehem, PA
Easter Wednesday, 4/23	Matthew 28:1-10 1529, Luther's Large Catechism *1940, Ita M. Ford +1960, Toyohiko Kagawa	Roger & Frances Wentz Black River Falls, WI
Easter Thursday, 4/24	Luke 24:1-12	Timothy Wepner Newton, NC
Easter Friday, 4/25	Luke 24:13-27	John A. Werley Malone, NY

Easter Saturday, 4/26	Luke 24:28-53	Glenn W. Wernecke Sun City, AZ
Second Sunday in Eastertide, 4/27 (Quasimodogeniti)	John 20:19-31 1940, Taizé Community	Fritz West Marine on St. Croix, MN
Monday, 4/28	1 Peter 1:3-9	Rudolf Weth Neukirchen-Vluyn, Germany
Tuesday, 4/29	Psalms 113:1-4 +1380, Catherine of Siena	Jean T. Whitcomb Paxton, MA
Wednesday, 4/30	Psalms 116:1-4 1975, End of Vietnam War	David Yochum Whitewater, WI
Thursday, 5/01	Psalms 116:5-11 *1837, Mary Harris Jones ("Mother" Jones)	Nathaniel Yordon Norwalk, CT
Friday, 5/02	Psalms 116:12-19 +373, Athanasius +1519, Leonardo da Vinci +1960, Hans Joachim Iwand	Elga Zachau Bochum, Germany
Saturday, 5/03	Psalms 95:1-7	Leonard Zecchini Lyndeborough, NH
Third Sunday in Eastertide, 5/04 (Misericordias Domini)	John 10:11-16 1521, Luther at Wartburg	Walter Ziegenhals Burlington, NC
Monday, 5/05	Psalms 23 *1813, Søren Kierkegaard	Lowell & Maya Zuck St. Louis, MO
Tuesday, 5/06	1 Peter 1:17-21 +1952, Maria Montessori	Hans-Juergen Abromeit Greifswald, Germany

Wednesday, 5/07	Acts 14:21-23 1945, End of World War II Europe	Clifford B. Anderson Nashville, TN
Thursday, 5/08	Proverbs 17:1-3	F. Christopher Anderson York, PA
Friday, 5/09	Psalms 67:1-3 *1921, Sophie Scholl White Rose Society	Franklin Anderson E. Waterboro, ME
Saturday, 5/10	Psalms 67:4-7 *1886, Karl Barth	Ralph Anderson West Seneca, NY
Fourth Sunday in Eastertide, 5/11 (Jubilate)	Psalms 66:1-7 1816, American Bible Society	Rupert E. Annis Topsfield, MA
Monday, 5/12	Psalms 66:8-12 *1820, Florence Nightingale	Sally S. Bailey Raleigh, NC
Tuesday, 5/13	Psalms 66:13-20 +2006, Jaroslav Jan Pelikan	William Baran Kittery Point, ME
Wednesday, 5/14	Psalms 81:1-5 1980, Massacre at the Sumpul River, El Salvador	William Barker S. Wellfleet, MA
Thursday, 5/15	Psalms 89:1-8	Linda U. Barnes Colchester, CT
Friday, 5/16	Psalms 90:1-6	Martha Ann Baumer Belleville, IL
Saturday, 5/17	Psalms 91:1-6 1954, Brown vs. Board of Education	Helen M. Benz New Haven, MO

Fifth Sunday in Eastertide, 5/18 (Cantate)	John 14:1-7	Matthew T. Berry Harrisonburg, VA
Monday, 5/19	John 14:8-14 *1925, Malcolm Little (Malcolm X)	Gerald & Cynthia Bertsch Sheboygan, WI
Tuesday, 5/20	John 14:15-24	David Biebighauser Ipswich, SD
Wednesday, 5/21	John 14:25-25-31	Eugene Birmingham Bensenville, IL
Thursday, 5/22	Psalms 98	Cathie Fisher Braman Fredericksburg, VA
Friday, 5/23	Psalms 28:6-9	Charles Brizius Elkhorn, WI
Saturday, 5/24	Proverbs 8:1-11 +1543, Copernicus	Robert F. Broeder El Sueur, MN
Sixth Sunday in Eastertide, 5/25 (Rogate)	Psalms 92:1-4	Calvin Brown Ontario, Canada
Monday, 5/26	Psalms 19:1-6	Richard S. Brueseke Owensville, MO
Tuesday, 5/27	Psalms 19:7-14 +1564, John Calvin +1676, Paul Gerhardt	Martin Bupp, II Wyomissing, PA
Wednesday, 5/28	Matthew 7:7-8 1962, Amnesty Int'l.	John Burgess Pittsburgh, PA

Thursday, 5/29 (Ascension Day)	Acts 1:1-11	Christine Busch Dusseldorf, Germany
Friday, 5/30	Matthew 6:9-13	Michael Caldwell Wolcott, VT
Saturday, 5/31	Psalms 130:1-6 +1680, Joachim Neander 1934, Barmen declaration	John Cedarleaf Fairport, NY
Seventh Sunday in Eastertide, 6/01 (Exaudi)	John 17:1-11 +1971, Reinhold Niebuhr	Richard & Lainie Christensen Ephrata, PA
Monday, 6/02	Psalms 27:1-5 +1944, Hildegard Jacoby 1924, Native Americans granted U.S. citizenship	Colleen Darling Kiel, WI
Tuesday, 6/03	Ephesians 3:14-21 +1963, Pope John XXIII	Herbert & Lillian Davis Honey Brook, PA
Wednesday, 6/04	1 Peter 4:13-16	James G. Deitz Amherst, OH
Thursday, 6/05	Hebrews 1:1-6	Uwe Dittmer Potsdam, Germany
Friday, 6/06	Matthew 10:16-20	Vernon Dolde Wausau, WI
Saturday, 6/07	Philippians 2:1-11	Wayne & Colleen Drucek Schofield, WI

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PRAYERS AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR EASTERTIDE - 2014

A Morning Prayer:

Lord of Eternity, whose knowledge is without beginning or end, piercing even the veil of time, have mercy on us who stand before the mystery of each unfolding day with hearts divided by hopes and fears. Bind together one by one the vagrant impulses of our goodness and every holy desire, until we do your will in all things, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Samuel H. Miller)

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An Evening Prayer:

Forgive us, O God, for the pretentiousness with which we have built vast but empty ideals, and restore us to such humility and honesty that we may do your will in the plain circumstances in which we live. (Samuel H. Miller)

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A Prayer on Easter Sunday:

O Christ our Savior, born of the Father before all ages, you assumed the flesh of our humanity, you who was crucified and buried, and who then did rise from the dead according to your promise: We worship you; you are the hope of our lives and are immortal. O Christ, victorious, glory be to you!

As the day draws to a close, we offer our worship to you, the unfailing Light. At the end of time, you shall shine forth in our mortal flesh, as in a mirror, to lighten the world and to reveal to all the light of your resurrection. Upon the cross, you did nail the act of our judgment and you erased it; in descending to the place of the dead, you broke there the bolts and opened the doors to free us from our chains and to release us from darkness. O Christ victorious, glory be to you!

Your resurrection, O Christ our Savior, has enlightened the whole world and given new life to all creation enslaved to corruption; now fallen humanity is freed from its bondage and rises up; the Evil One is crushed beneath our feet and choirs of angels rejoice with hymns. O Christ victorious, glory be to you!

In your cross, O Christ, we glorify your grace and your truth. Your resurrection we praise, for by death you have destroyed death and you have given us life. O Christ victorious, glory be to you!

The angels and archangels in heaven sing of your resurrection. Make us also worthy to worship you on earth with a pure heart and to praise you in with great joy, singing together with one voice, a hymn of deliverance. O Christ victorious, glory be to you!

Be merciful to us sinners. We seek refuge in you. We fall down before you. We direct our prayers to you, for you are our God and our Savior. O Christ victorious, glory be to you! (Taizé Community, France)

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A Prayer for Guidance throughout Eastertide:

O Lord, by your cross you have conquered death. You have opened the gates of paradise to the thief. You have changed the sorrow of your people into joy. You have demanded your apostles to proclaim your resurrection. Grant to the world your great mercy, and to the Church grace and peace, that we might live humbly in faith, hope and love, now and forever. (Taizé Community, France, adapted)

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A Prayer of Those Who Seek to Live by Faith:

Almighty God, Eternal Treasure of all good things! You fill all things with plenteousness. You clothe the lilies of the field and you feed the young ravens that call upon you: Let your Providence be our storehouse, our own necessities the measure of our desires; but never let our desires of this world be greedy, nor our labor immoderate, nor our care vexatious or distracting, but moderate, holy, subordinate to your will, the measure you have appointed for us. (Jeremy Taylor, 1613-1667)

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A Prayer for Help:

Lord, the Lord whose ways are right: Keep us in your mercy from lip-service and empty forms; from having a name that we live, though our souls be dead. Help us to worship you by righteous deeds and lives of holiness, that our prayers also be set forth in your sight as... incense and the lifting up of our hands be as an evening sacrifice. (Christina Rossetti, 1830-1894, adapted)

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Why The Angel Rolled Away the Stone:

After the resurrection the angel appeared. But for what purpose did the angel come? To roll back the stone. Why? To attest to the women of the resurrection so that they might believe. The women themselves had earlier witnessed him in the sepulcher. Now they behold an empty tomb. This is why the angel rolled the stone away and why an earthquake took place: that they might be thoroughly.... awakened to the resurrection. (Chrysostom, The Gospel of Matthew, Homily 89:2)

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Rolling Back the Stone:

An angel descended and rolled back the stone. He did not roll back the stone to provide a way of escape for the Lord but to show the world that the Lord had already risen. He rolled back the stone to help his fellow servants believe, not to help the Lord rise from the dead. He rolled back the stone for the sake of faith, because it had been rolled over the tomb for the sake of unbelief. He rolled back the stone so that he who took death captive might hold the title of Life. Pray,... that the angel would descend now and roll away all the hardness of our hearts and open up our closed senses and declare to our minds that Christ has risen, for just as the heart in which Christ lives and reigns is heaven, so also the heart in which Christ remains dead and buried is a grave. May it be believed that just as he died, so was he transformed. Christ the man suffered, died and was buried; as God, he lives, reigns, is and will be forever. (Chrysologus, Sermons 75,4)

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The Angel as Evangelist:

So the angel became an evangelist and herald of the resurrection to the women. "Do not seek," the angel says, "the one who" always "lives," who in his own nature is life, "among the dead. He is not here," that is, dead and in the tomb, "but he has been raised." He has become a way of ascent to immortality not only for himself but also for us. For this reason he made himself nothing and put on our likeness, that "by the grace of God," just as the blessed Paul says, "he might taste death on behalf of us all." And so he has become the death of death. (Cyril of Alexandria, Fragment 317)

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Why Did This Happen?

“My dear friends, why could this happen and why did it happen: this conquest,... this death of his death...? The reason for this I know no better than you do. Nothing is simpler than to say that you cannot believe it. Even at the time, it could not be told about, let alone described and explained. So there is no place in the New Testament in which such a thing is even attempted. The raising of Jesus was utterly and completely the work of God; as such it was indeed well done but also quite incomprehensible. Even at the time, it could only be recognized, acknowledged, attested and declared that such a thing had taken place. ‘Jesus Christ is risen’ is how one Christian greets another today... to which then the other answers: ‘He is risen indeed!’ But this is the point: that is not describing, it is witnessing and declaring...” (Karl Barth, Easter sermon, March 29, 1964)

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Living from the Resurrection:

“Not from the art of dying but from the resurrection of Christ can a new, purifying wind blow into the present world. If a few human beings would really believe this and would let themselves be moved by this in their earthly behavior, much would change. To live from resurrection—that indeed is the meaning of Easter.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer in “The Mystery of Easter”)

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The Gospel as Provocation:

“A church that doesn’t provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn’t unsettle, a word of God that doesn’t get under anyone’s skin, a word of God that doesn’t touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed, what gospel is that? Very nice, pious considerations that don’t bother anyone, that’s the way many would like preaching to be. Those preachers who avoid every thorny matter so as not to be harassed, so as not to have conflicts and difficulties, do not light up the world they live in. They don’t have Peter’s courage, who told that crowd where the bloodstained hands still were that had killed Christ... Even though the charge could cost him his life as well, he made it. The gospel is courageous; it’s the good news of him who came to take away the world’s sins.” (Oscar Romero, Homily, April 16, 1978)

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Humility:

Humility is... to have no hurt surprise when morning's ruddy promise dies.

When wind and drought destroy, or sweet spring rains apostatize in sleet,...

Humility is to have a place deep in the secret of God's face
where one can know, past all surmise, that God's great will alone is wise.

Where one is loved, where one can trust, a strength not circumscribed by dust.

It is to have a place to hide when all is hurricane outside. (Jessica Powers in "Loving a Passionate God,"
edited by Robert F. Morneau)

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Learning from a Peasant:

Rabbi Moshe Leib taught: "How to love is something I learned from a peasant. He was sitting in an inn along with other peasants, drinking. For a long time he was as silent as all the rest, but when he was moved by the wine, he asked one of the men seated beside him: 'Tell me, do you love me or don't you love me?' The other replied: 'I love you very much.' But the peasant replied: 'You say that you love me, but you do not know what I need. If you really loved me, you would know.' The other had not a word to say to this, and the peasant who had put the question fell silent again. But I understood. To know the needs of the other and to bear the burden of their sorrow—that is true love. And it was not learned in the "schul"; it was learned in a tavern, over wine, where feelings overflowed and facts did not count at all. (Joan Chittister in "There Is A Season")

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You are invited to refer to the Confessing Christ website at the following address: <http://confessingchrist.net>

Confessing Christ materials are being prepared at the Mission House Center, Lakeland College. Those no longer wishing to receive materials or those with address changes should contact Colleen Darling, Lakeland College, P.O. Box 359, Sheboygan, WI 53082-0359, by e-mail darlingca@lakeland.edu or by calling 920-565-1538.

"For no one can lay foundation other than the one that has been laid: that foundation is Jesus Christ."

(1 Cor. 3:11, NRSV)