

2018 04 01 Scripture Readings

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices so they could go and anoint Jesus' dead body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they came to the tomb.

They were saying to each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance for us?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. (And it was a very large stone!) Going into the tomb, they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right side; and they were startled. But he said to them, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified. He has been raised. He isn't here. Look, here's the place where they laid Him. Go, tell His disciples, especially Peter, that He is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see Him there, just as He told you."

Overcome with terror and dread, they fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid. **Mark 16:1-8**

Let me remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless you believed it without thinking it through. I passed on to you what was most important and what had been given to me.

Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and He was raised from the dead on the third day, as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, He was seen by more than 500 of His followers at one time—most of whom are still alive—though some have died. Then He was seen by James and later by all the apostles.

Last of all, as if to one born abnormally late, He appeared to me! For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God's church. But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out His grace on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by His grace. So it makes no difference whether I preach or they preach, for we all preach the same Gospel message you already believed.

Thanks be to God, Who gives us this victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! As a result of all this, my loved brothers and sisters, you must stand firm, unshakable, excelling in the work of the Lord as always, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord's service is ever wasted or worthless.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11, 57-58