

Readings for 4th April 2021 – EASTER DAY – DAWN

A reading from Genesis chapter 1 beginning at verse 1. [1.1-5a,2.2]

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep,
while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.
³Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light.
⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.
⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.
^{2:2}And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done,
and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from Exodus chapter 14 beginning at verse 15. [14.15-31]

15 Then the LORD said to Moses,
'Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward.
¹⁶But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it,
that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground.
¹⁷Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them;
and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.
¹⁸And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD,
when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.'

19 The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them;
and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them.
²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel.
And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night,
and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.
²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.
²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers.
²⁴At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army,
and threw the Egyptian army into panic.
²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty.
The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.'

26 Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea,
so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.'
²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth.
As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea.
²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers,
the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained.
²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea,
the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians;
and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.
³¹Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians.
So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from Isaiah chapter 55 beginning at verse 1. [55.1-11]

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.
³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.
⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 28 beginning at verse 1. [28.1-10]

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning,
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.
²And suddenly there was a great earthquake;
for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven,
came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.
³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.
⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.
⁵But the angel said to the women,
'Do not be afraid;
I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.
⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.
Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples,
"He has been raised from the dead,
and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.'
⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy,
and ran to tell his disciples.
⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said,
'Greetings!
And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him.
¹⁰Then Jesus said to them,
'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee;
there they will see me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.