

MEDITATIONS AND READINGS

Second Week of Easter

During this Easter season we will draw from the rich Ge'ez liturgy antiphons, verses and extracts referring to the resurrection to give us food for our personal or shared meditations. These sources have been used for the past tens of centuries by the clergy, monks, hermits, and devout lay people in their liturgies and reflections. Besides their spiritual help, they will acquaint us also with the richness of Christian Tradition and the depth of the ge'ez spirituality.

There is a joyful tone in them, and even though the memory of the Passion is never too far distant, still the bitterness is consoled by the victorious Christ of Easter. For the coming six weeks, therefore, our gaze will not depart from the victory of life over death and our final glory, thus giving us hope over the present sufferings.

The readings will be taken from the Gospel of John and the Acts of the Apostles, which in fact, describe the power of the resurrected Jesus to attract to himself peoples who had never hoped to be saved, from the Jews, Greek and Barbarians, from the young and the old, from the priests in Jerusalem, the learned Greek philosophers in Athens and the powerful officers in the court of Caesar in Rome. For the Spirit of Jesus was with those early witnesses of the Resurrection.



MONDAY

Antiphon: - Christ rose from the dead. He died and trampled death. He gave the life of eternal rest to those who are in the grave. (An Easter antiphon from the Liturgy of the Presanctified)

Readings: - Acts 2: 14. 22-32 John 1: 1 -18

TUESDAY

Antiphone: The Immortal One died, he died to destroy death, he died to give life to the dead as he promised them through the word of covenant. (Anamnesy from the Eucharistic Prayer of Dioscorus of Alexandria)

Reading - Acts 3: 1-10 John 1:18 - 34

WEDNESDAY

Antiphon - O Lord, we commemorate your death and resurrection. As we praise you we believe in you and offer you this bread and this cup. O Lord you made us worthy of the privilege of standing before you and serving you. (Anamnesy from the Eucharistic Prayer of the Apostles)

Reading: - Acts 3:11-26 John 1: 35-51

THURSDAY

Antiphon - He rose on a Sunday and broke the brazen gates; Him, the Lord of Sunday. On the third day he conquered death and rose on a Sunday.

Reading - 4: 1-12 John 2: 1-12

FRIDAY

Antiphon - Listen all you peoples, Christ is risen from the dead with great power and strength. He who rose Lazarus from the tomb rose himself on a Sunday.

Reading: Acts 4:13-21 John 2: 13-25

SATURDAY

Antiphon - V. They struck his face with a cane,
R/ He who did not know death nor sorrow.
V. They pierced his side with a lance, R/
V. When his mother was crying bitterly, R/
V. When the saints were rejoicing in Paradise, R/
V. When he split the sinners on a Sunday, R/
The Immortal One died.

Reading: Acts 2: 42-47 John 3: 1-21