

**Sunday 5 April 2026**  
**Easter Sunday**

**Collect:**

God of glory,  
by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the chains of death and hell:  
fill your Church with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Readings for this week:**

*Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18*

We won't be hearing much from the Old Testament during Eastertide as the readings from Acts are treated as mandatory throughout this season, holding almost as much weight as the Gospel because they show the results of the resurrection. However, it is worth casting our eyes over the Jeremiah passage set by the Lectionary, verses that offer hope for the exiles returning to Israel. Hope both for their renewed future in their homeland and for their relationship with God. Where once they walked away from God, now they are coming home to God. The imagery is full of growth, fruitfulness and joyful celebration. That celebration, combined with trust in the Lord, carries over into the selection of verses from Psalm 118. The psalmist is giving thanks for being rescued by God from assault by a coalition of nations in lines that echo with both gratefulness and righteousness. Verse 22 strikes out unexpectedly, speaking of a stone designed for masonry when nothing has been previously mentioned about building to give us the image of the rejected block becoming the vital cornerstone, an image readily taken up by New Testament writers to describe Jesus.

While Jeremiah and the psalmist celebrate deliverance from national enemies, prominent in Paul's preaching in Acts is God's deliverance of Jesus from death. For Paul this isn't simply a miracle, it is a profoundly divine event that opens up the possibility of living a radically different life. Old perceptions have been broken apart, new possibilities abound, but with them are responsibilities – if we are to live as resurrection people this is not just for ourselves but for all creation. Meanwhile, Mary Magdalene's understanding of what is possible is also broken open in the Gospel. The resurrected Jesus is much more than a reanimated corpse, rather he is the cornerstone to a new kingdom, one which delivers divine justice that transcends the prevailing rules of society, a fact emphasised by Jesus choosing a woman, Mary, to be the first witness and the first evangelist.

God of Life,  
who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son  
to the death of the cross,  
and by his glorious resurrection  
have delivered us from the power of our enemy:  
grant us so to die daily to sin,  
that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Readings for next week:**

*Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21; Psalm 16; Acts 2:14a,22-32; John 20:19-31*  
*Second Sunday of Easter*