

Easter Scripture 2024

Psalm 118 (selected verses), by Nan Merrill

We give thanks to you, O Beloved, for you are kind;
your steadfast love endures forever!

Out of my distress I called upon you;
you answered, setting me on a new path.
You live within me and answer my prayer
as I face the fears that well up from within.
It is better to abandon yourself to the Beloved
than to trust in yourself alone.

“You, O Loving Presence, have been my strength,
You have stood beside me in the darkness,
You have walked with me into the light.”
I shall not give in to fear, but I shall live in peace
and give witness to your saving grace.
You turned my face from my weaknesses,
and you opened the door leading to new life.

Yes, you opened to me the gates of truth and justice
that I might enter through them.
Praise be to you, O Merciful One!
This is the gate to Life;
those who know Love shall enter through it.

I give thanks to you, O Beloved,
who answer our prayers and **invite us to new life**.
The stone which the builders rejected
has become the foundation of our lives.
This, Eternal Listener, is your work;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day which you have made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it!”

“We give thanks to you, O Blessed One, for you are kind;
your steadfast love endures forever!

Mark 16:1-8

“When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.”

So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.”