

A READING BEFORE HEARING THE GOSPEL

Reader 1: Friends, we are not eye-witnesses to an event,
as were Mary and the disciples;
we have not journeyed through a dangerous city
to seek answers or consolation;
we have not seen angels gathering at the rim of this day,
or wept in the garden this morning
because we could not find Him.

Reader 2: But we are here to attest to a story
that has not lost its power
during twenty centuries
of change and conflict.

Reader 1: We are here because those before us
carried this story
as if it were precious gold;
cherished it as if it were
the key to a hidden wisdom.

Reader 2: Sisters and brothers in Christ,
Ready yourselves for these ancient, modern words.
What you are about to hear again,
has the capacity to change the world.
Your very presence attests
to the rising up of life
from the tomb of despair,
and to the uncontrollable power of God.
It is Easter morning again ...

"Now Sing the Gospel Story"

(Sung to the tune: "The Day of Resurrection")

Now sing the gospel story, the news we have received!
To God be all the glory for what we now believe:
Christ died to take our sinning; the scriptures say it's true!
It seemed that death was winning, yet God makes all things new.

There's news by which God saves us, if we believe God's way;
See! Death cannot enslave us; God gave us Easter Day.
For Christ our Lord was buried, the scriptures say it's true!
His friends all grieved and worried, yet God made all things new.

God raised him on a Sunday; the women saw the joy.
Then Peter and the others learned death could not destroy.
Then many more bore witness; the scriptures say it's true!
God's love for us is endless, for God makes all things new.

We sing the gospel story that Jesus is the Christ.
He is God's Son! Give glory! Through him, God gives us life.
For he was the beginning; he also is the end.
Christ Jesus is our Savior, our Lord and God. Amen!

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