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Lessons for April 2010

Lessons for April 1, 2010 – Maudy Thursday

First Lesson – Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14

1 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: **2** This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. **3** Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. **4** If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. [**5** Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. **6** You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. **7** They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. **8** They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. **9** Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. **10** You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.] **11** This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. **12** For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. **13** The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. **14** This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance. (NRSV)

Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19

- 1** I love the LORD, because he has heard,
my voice and my supplications.
- 2** Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
- 12** What shall I return to the LORD
for all his bounty to me?
- 13** I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD,
- 14** I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.
- 15** Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his faithful ones.
- 16** O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant,
the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.
- 17** I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the LORD.
- 18** I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
- 19** in the courts of the house of the LORD,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

23 For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "**This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.**" **25** In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "**This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.**" **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (NRSV)

The Gospel – John 13:1-17, 31b-35

1 Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. **2** The devil had already put it into the heart of

Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper **3** Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, **4** got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. **5** Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. **6** He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" **7** Jesus answered, "**You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.**" **8** Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "**Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.**" **9** Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" **10** Jesus said to him, "**One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.**" **11** For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "**Not all of you are clean.**" **12** After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "**Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. 14 So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. 16 Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. 17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. 31b** Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. **32** If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. **33** Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' **34** I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. **35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (NRSV)

Lessons for April 2, 2010 – Good Friday

First Lesson – Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

13 See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. **14** Just as there were many who were astonished at him —so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals— **15** so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. **1** Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? **2** For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. **3** He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. **4** Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. **5** But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. **6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. **7** He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. **8** By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. **9** They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. **10** Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. **11** Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. **12** Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (NRSV)

Psalm 22

- 1** My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?
- 2** O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.
- 3** Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- 4** In you our ancestors trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
- 5** To you they cried, and were saved;
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.
- 6** But I am a worm, and not human;
scorned by others, and despised by the people.
- 7** All who see me mock at me;
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;
- 8** "Commit your cause to the LORD;
let him deliver— let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"
- 9** Yet it was you who took me from the womb;
you kept me safe on my mother's breast.
- 10** On you I was cast from my birth,
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.
- 11** Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near and there is no one to help.
- 12** Many bulls encircle me,
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
- 13** they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.
- 14** I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within
my breast;
- 15** my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.
- 16** For dogs are all around me;
a company of evildoers encircles me. My hands and feet have shriveled;
- 17** I can count all my bones.
They stare and gloat over me;
- 18** they divide my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.
- 19** But you, O LORD, do not be far away!

- O my help, come quickly to my aid!
- 20** Deliver my soul from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog!
- 21** Save me from the mouth of the lion!
From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.
- 22** I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
- 23** You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you
offspring of Israel!
- 24** For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;
he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.
- 25** From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
- 26** The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!
- 27** All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.
- 28** For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.
- 29** To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.
- 30** Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord,
- 31** and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it. (NRSV)

Second Lesson – Hebrews 10:16-25

16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," **17** he also adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." **18** Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. **19** Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, **20** by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), **21** and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **22** let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. **23** Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised

is faithful. **24** And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, **25** not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Gospel – John 18:1-19:42

1 After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. **2** Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. **3** So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. **4** Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" **5** They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. **6** When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. **7** Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." **8** Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." **9** This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." **10** Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. **11** Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?" **12** So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. **13** First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. **14** Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people. **15** Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, **16** but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. **17** The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." **18** Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself. **19** Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. **20** Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. **21** Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." **22** When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" **23** Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I

have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" ²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. ²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶ One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed. ²⁸ Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰ They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." ³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." ³² (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.) ³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸ Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰ They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit. ¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ² And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³ They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. ⁴ Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." ⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" ⁶ When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." ⁷ The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God." ⁸ Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹ He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not

know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" **11** Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." **12** From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor." **13** When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. **14** Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" **15** They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." **16** Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; **17** and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. **18** There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. **19** Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." **20** Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. **21** Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" **22** Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." **23** When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. **24** So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." **25** And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. **26** When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." **27** Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. **28** After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." **29** A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. **30** When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. **31** Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. **32** Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. **33** But when they came to Jesus and

saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. **34** Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. **35** (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) **36** These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." **37** And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced." **38** After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. **39** Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. **40** They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. **41** Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. **42** And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. (NRSV)

Lessons for April 4, 2010 – Easter Sunday

First Lesson – Acts 10:34-43

34 Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, **35** but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. **36** You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. **37** That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: **38** how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. **39** We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; **40** but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, **41** not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. **42** He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. **43** All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (NRSV)

Psalm - 118: 1-2, 14-24

- 1** O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!
- 2** Let Israel say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."
- 14** The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.
- 15** There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;
- 16** the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."
- 17** I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.
- 18** The LORD has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.
- 19** Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.
- 20** This is the gate of the LORD;

- the righteous shall enter through it.
- 21** I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
- 22** The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23** This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24** This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it. (NRSV)

Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 15:19-29

19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. **20** But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. **21** For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; **22** for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. **23** But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. **24** Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. **25** For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **26** The last enemy to be destroyed is death. (NRSV)

The Gospel – Luke 24:1-12

1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. **2** They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, **3** but when they went in, they did not find the body. **4** While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. **5** The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. **6** Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, **7** that **"the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again."** **8** Then they remembered his words, **9** and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. **10** Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. **11** But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. **12** But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened. (NRSV)

Lessons for April 11th, 2010 – Second Sunday in Easter

First Lesson – Acts 5:27-32

27 When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, **28** saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." **29** But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. **30** The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. **31** God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. **32** And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him." (NRSV)

Psalm 118: 14-29

- 14** The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.
- 15** There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;
- 16** the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."
- 17** I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.
- 18** The LORD has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.
- 19** Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.
- 20** This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.
- 21** I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
- 22** The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23** This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24** This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- 25** Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!

O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!
26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.
We bless you from the house of the LORD.
27 The LORD is God, and he has given us light.
Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.
28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.
29 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever. (NRSV)

Second Lesson – Revelations 1:4-8

4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, **5** and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, **6** and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. **7** Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. **8** "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. (NRSV)

The Gospel – John 20:19-31

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." **20** After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. **21** Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." **22** When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." **24** But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." **26** A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and

stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." (NRSV)

Lessons for April 18th, 2010 – Third Sunday in Easter

First Lesson – Acts 9:1-20

1 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest **2** and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. **3** Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. **4** He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "**Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?**" **5** He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "**I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.**" **6 But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.**" **7** The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. **8** Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. **9** For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. **10** Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "**Ananias.**" He answered, "Here I am, Lord." **11** The Lord said to him, "**Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying,**" **12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.**" **13** But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; **14** and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." **15** But the Lord said to him, "**Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel;**" **16 I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.**" **17** So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." **18** And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, **19** and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, **20** and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." (NRSV)

Psalm 30

1 I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up,
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

- 2** O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.
- 3** O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.
- 4** Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.
- 5** For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
- 6** As for me, I said in my prosperity,
"I shall never be moved."
- 7** By your favor, O LORD, you had established me as a strong mountain;
you hid your face; I was dismayed.
- 8** To you, O LORD, I cried,
and to the LORD I made supplication:
- 9** "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit?
Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?"
- 10** Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me!
O LORD, be my helper!"
- 11** You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
- 12** so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever. (NRSV)

Second Lesson – Revelation 5:11-14

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, **12** singing with full voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" **13** Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" **14** And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped. (NRSV)

The Gospel – John 21:1-19

1 After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. **2** Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. **3** Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. **4** Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. **5** Jesus said to them, "**Children, you have no fish, have you?**" They answered him, "No." **6** He said to them, "**Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.**" So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. **7** That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. **8** But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. **9** When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. **10** Jesus said to them, "**Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.**" **11** So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. **12** Jesus said to them, "**Come and have breakfast.**" Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. **13** Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. **14** This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. **15** When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "**Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?**" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "**Feed my lambs.**" **16** A second time he said to him, "**Simon son of John, do you love me?**" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "**Tend my sheep.**" **17** He said to him the third time, "**Simon son of John, do you love me?**" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "**Feed my sheep.**" **18** **Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.**" **19** (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "**Follow me.**" (NRSV)

Lessons for April 25th, 2010 – Fourth Sunday in Easter

First Lesson – Acts 9:36-43

36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. **37** At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. **38** Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." **39** So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. **40** Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. **41** He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. **42** This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. **43** Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner. (NRSV)

Psalm 23

- 1** The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not want.
- 2** He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
- 3** he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
- 4** Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.
- 5** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- 6** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long. (NRSV)

Second Lesson – Revelation 7:9-17

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. **10** They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on

the throne, and to the Lamb!" **11** And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, **12** singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." **13** Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" **14** I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. **15** For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. **16** They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; **17** for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (NRSV)

The Gospel – John 10:22-30

22 At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, **23** and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. **24** So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." **25** Jesus answered, "**I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; **26** but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. **27** My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. **28** I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. **29** What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. **30** The Father and I are one."** (NRSV)