

Psalm 118.1-2, 14-24

[Worship]

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.

Consider:

[Think & Pray...]



In the 20th chapter of the fourth gospel Mary Magdalene is dismayed by the absence of Jesus' dead body. "They," she keeps repeating, "have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Her obsession with a missing corpse

carries over even to her encounter with the living Jesus. "Stop clinging to me!" he tells her.

Don't sentimentalize Mary. She is one of the oppressed seeking the body of her teacher who was executed by a hated colonial power and its client rulers. I have met quiet, determined women in similar circumstances. Had Mary in fact discovered a dead body, it could have led to anything. In Belgrade, Zagreb, and Sarajevo after the wars there, I have seen the victim's grave become the blessed point of departure for the next murder. Beloved corpses function as inspirations for slaughter. The death penalty lies in waiting in our hearts.

Theological propaganda has isolated the resurrection of Jesus from the event it followed. The crucifixion was an atrocity, standing for all the atrocities committed against loved ones from then until now. We are liberated from bondage to that parade of corpses by the resurrection of all our beloved victims into the forgiveness of the living God —*Jim Douglass*

[The Scripture]

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."