

Readings for the Second Sunday of Easter

Prayer of the Day

**Living God,
for whom no door is closed,
no heart is locked:
draw us beyond our doubts,
till we see your Christ
and touch his wounds where they bleed in others.
This we ask through Christ our Saviour,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Acts 5.27-32

The apostles proclaim the good news of the resurrection of Jesus but the Jewish leaders take offence.

They brought the apostles in and made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. "We gave you strict orders not to teach in the name of Jesus," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood."

Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men! The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead – whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Saviour that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 118.14-29

The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

The sounds of joy and deliverance: are in the tents of the righteous.

The right hand of the Lord does mighty things: the right hand of the Lord raises up.

I shall not die but live: and proclaim the works of the Lord.

The Lord has disciplined me hard: but he has not given me over to death.

Open me the gates of righteousness:

and I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord: the righteous shall enter it.

I will praise you, for you answered me: and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected: has become the head of the corner.

This is the Lord's doing: and it is marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made:

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Blessed is he who comes, in the name of the Lord:
from the house of the Lord we bless you.

The Lord is God, and he has given us light:

You are my God and I will praise you: you are my God, I will exalt you.

**O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:
and his mercy endures for ever.**

Revelation 1.4-8

John, writes to the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father – to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

John 20.19-29

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now Thomas (called "The Twin"), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.