



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

**Second Sunday of Easter**

**3 April 2016**

**Sentence** Jesus 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.'  
*John 20.27*

**Collect**

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,  
on God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

*The apostles are arrested for preaching 'Christ crucified and risen' but the motif of this story is the importance of obeying God rather than human beings, represented by the Jewish Council. (Remember everyone in this story is Jewish; this is not) Gamaliel is later identified as Paul's teacher and his counsel of 'by their fruits you will know them' as a way of judging the apostles evokes Jesus' own wisdom.*

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they made them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, 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.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

*Acts 5.27-32*

Reader For the word of the Lord  
**All Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 118.14-29 APBA, page 348**

*Psalm 118, with its reference to the rejection of the stone and its subsequent elevation to be the chief cornerstone, was perhaps the earliest Old Testament passage the early Christian community applied to Christ's death and resurrection.*

**A reading from the book of Revelation**

*This is the opening vision of the Apocalypse, in which John the Seer sees the risen Christ and receives the messages for the seven churches. Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet is like A-Z in English: the beginning and end of all things. These Greek letters are on the large Paschal Candle which stands in the sanctuary for the fifty days of Easter.*

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, 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, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

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.

‘I am the Alpha and the Omega’, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. *Revelation 1.4-8*

Reader May your word live in us,

**ALL And bear much fruit to your glory.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Blessed are those who have not seen  
and yet have come to believe.

**ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Reader The Lord be with you

**ALL And also with you**

Reader A reading from the holy gospel according to John

**ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

*This is the traditional gospel for the second Sunday of the Easter season and describes two appearances: to the disciples on Easter evening, in various forms in Matthew, Luke, and here; and to Thomas a week later, a story only in John. The element of doubt demonstrates that the appearances were not merely wish-fulfillment. If they had been, the disciples would have admitted no doubts. Notice how the risen Christ establishes his identity by showing his wounds. This emphasis on the physical reality of the risen body preserves the truth that the resurrection is life as we know it yet utterly transformed.*

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.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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.' 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.' 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.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' 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.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*John 20.19-31*

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord  
**ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**Bible Readings next week      Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 9.1-6   Psalm 30   Revelation 5.6-14   John 21.1-19

**Prayer for the Week.** Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life of all who put their trust in him: raise us, we pray, from the death of sin, to the life of righteousness; that we may ever seek the things which are above, where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Pray for the Faithful Departed**

We remember before God:

Joyce Helen Granger, Gertrude Edington, Charles Matthew Cooch Bennett, Graham Slobom, Robert Lemon, Eileen Fulton, Dorothy Clark, Hilda Amos, Arthur Corless, Margaret Elliott Robinson *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

**Commemorations of the week.**

**April 4** *transf.* The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Luke 1.26-38 .

**April 6** **Frederic Barker**, bp of Sydney, and pioneer of theological education and of the General Synod. (d. 1882)

**April 8** **Georgiana Molloy** (1805-1843), arrived in the Colony of Western Australia in 1829, pioneer church leader and botanist.

**April 9** **William Law** (1686-1761), spiritual writer. Author of the most influential English spiritual work, except for the *Pilgrim's Progress*, in post-Reformation England, called, *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*'.

**April 9** **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** (1906-1945), German Lutheran theologian, joined the Confessing Church (the church opposed to Hitler's State Church), He was executed by Hitler in a concentration camp a few days before the Allies arrived.

