



Third Sunday of Easter

30 April 2017

Sentence Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. *Acts 8.94-39*

Collect O God of mystery, out of death you delivered Christ Jesus, and he walked in hidden glory with his disciples.

Stir up our faith, that our hearts may burn within us at the sound of his word, and our eyes be opened to recognize him in the breaking of the bread.

Grant this through Jesus Christ, the first-born from the dead, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In the Easter season, the readings from the Hebrew scriptures are replaced with a selection from the Acts of the Apostles, Luke's account of the early days of the infant church. Today, Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost continues from last Sunday. The call to repentance is a call to re-orient our lives towards God

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.' Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the

promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. *Acts 2.14a, 36-41*

Reader Hear the word of the Lord

ALL Thanks be to God

Psalm 116.1-4, 11-18 APBA page 346

In this song of thanksgiving, the psalmist recalls God's past experience of salvation in present troubles and calls on God to be faithful.

A reading from the first letter of Peter

Peter's letter provides teaching for the newly baptised who face hostility for their acceptance of Christ. This passage exhorts us to persist in faith, no matter the cost.

Prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the

heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. For
'All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,
but the word of the Lord endures for ever.'
That word is the good news that was announced to you.

1Pt. 1.13-25

Reader May your word live in us
ALL and bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us. Make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

ALL Alleluia!

Reader The Lord be with you

ALL And also with you

Reader A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Though initially they do not know him, the disciples recognise the risen Jesus when he breaks bread – but not before they have welcomed this stranger rather than rejected him!

On that same day [the day of resurrection] two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth,

who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’ Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. *Luke 24.13-35*

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

Prayer for the Week Gracious Father, who in your great mercy made glad the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such awareness of his presence with us that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life, and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bible Readings next week

Acts 2.42-47 Psalm 23

Fourth Sunday of Easter

1 Peter 2.1-10 John 10.1-10

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Jane Akehurst, June Manders, Reginald Weller, Cyril Sadlier, John Rudolph Whitbourne, Evelyn Cartledge, Stuart Budds, Reginald Edward Gregory MBE, *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the Week

May 1 Philip and James, Apostles and Martyrs. Philip was born in Bethsaida, became a disciple and persuaded Nathanael to follow Jesus also (John.1.43-51). He was with the apostles after the resurrection (Acts.1.13). He then disappears from history and later references are legends. James was the son of Zebedee and brother of the apostle John. He was a close disciple of Jesus and was present at the raising of the daughter of Jairus, at the Transfiguration and in the Garden of Gethsemane. He was the first apostle to be martyred (Acts.12.2).

May 2 Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria (c.296-373). Attended the Council of Nicaea in 325 (from where we get the Nicæan Creed) as a Secretary to his bishop and succeeded him as bishop in 328. He was a defender of orthodoxy against the Arians, who did not believe in the divinity of Christ. He wrote numerous works, the most famous being one on the Incarnation.

