

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 15 April 2018

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3.12-20 Psalm 4
1 John 2.15-17; 3.1-6 Luke 24.36b-48

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: Margaret Elliott Robinson,
Margaret Ellen Lamb, Robert Kither, Lawrence Krome,
Lucy Beaumont Slobom, Sue Angliss, Maxwell Robinson, Arthur Carter,
Lilla White, Marjorie Powell, Corrie Mark, Donald Eric Bowman,
Guy Sexton and Franz Schnelle *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the week

April 9 transferred from March 25 The Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary. This key story in God's saving purposes is related in Luke 1.26-38, and celebrated in art and music, creating some of the greatest works in Western art.

April 11 George Augustus Selwyn (1809-1878) First Bishop of New Zealand and had an important influence on the development of the New Zealand church.

Second Sunday of Easter

8 April 2018

Sentence 'Peace be with you,' says the Lord. 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you. *John 20.21*

Collect

Risen Christ, whose absence leaves us in despair
but whose presence is overwhelming:
breathe on us with your abundant life,
that where we cannot see we may have courage to believe
that we may be raised with you. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

During the Easter season readings from the Hebrew Scriptures are replaced with the book of the Acts of the Apostles written by the Greek physician Luke who travelled with Paul. In this second part of his two writings, Luke seeks to give us an account of the early church. Scholars agree Acts is not historical so much as theological. Today we hear of the just sharing of resources that flowed from a genuine love of one another. Love of God and one another is the only force strong enough to motivate such generosity.

The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means 'son of encouragement'). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet. *Acts 4.32-27*

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

Psalm 133 APBA page 365 at 8.00am & 10am said

Originally a prayer for national unity, this psalm is a song in praise of the beauty of a community of one heart and mind in God.

A Reading from the first letter of John.

The second reading in this Easter season will be taken from John's first letter. John explains that Jesus was sent to us from God so that we might come to share in the life of the Father and the Son through the gift of the Spirit. The image of 'walking in the light' best depicts the new life Christ brings us.

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 1.1-2.2

Reader May your word live in us.

ALL And bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

ALL 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.

Jesus appears publicly to the disciples and bestows the gift of the Holy Spirit. Alas, Thomas is absent and so doubts. He cannot believe without some physical evidence which he receives a week later. There is no rebuke in Jesus' words to Thomas. Rather, the reply is for all generations, ours included, who are challenged to believe without having seen.

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