



16 April 2023

Second Sunday of Easter

The Collect

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading Acts 2.14a,22-32

On the day of Pentecost, ¹⁴Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ²²'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know – ²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁹'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, *"He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption."*

³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.'

Gospel John 20.19-31

¹⁹When it was evening on 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.' ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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.'

²⁶A 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.' ²⁷Then 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.' ²⁸Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But 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.



Collect and Readings for Holy Communion Services

Registered Charity 1132975

23 April 2023

Third Sunday of Easter

The Collect (prayer for the day)

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge 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 your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading *Acts 2.14a,36-41*

On the day of Pentecost, ¹⁴Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, ³⁶‘Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.’

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’ ³⁸Peter 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. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.’ ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’

⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added to their number.

Gospel *Luke 24.13-35*

Now on that same day, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus,

about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’ They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then 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?’ ¹⁹Jesus 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, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But 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. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and 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. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Jesus.’ ²⁵Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him



Collect and Readings for Holy Communion Services

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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. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They 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?' ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

30 April 2023 Fourth Sunday of Easter

The Collect (prayer for the day)

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

First Reading

Acts 2.42-47

Many were baptized and were added to the community. ⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Gospel *John 10.1-10*

Jesus said, ¹'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by

another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'



14th May 2023

Sixth Sunday of Easter

The Collect

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of
darkness and brought us into the
kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has
recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he
may raise us to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

First Reading *Acts 17.22-31*

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him - though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For "In

him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring." ²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

Gospel *John 14.15-21*

Jesus said, ¹⁵'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'



THURSDAY 18th May 2023

Ascension Day

The Collect – (priest only)

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that as we believe your only-begotten Son
our Lord Jesus Christ
to have ascended into the heavens,
so we in heart and mind may also ascend
and with him continually dwell;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading *Acts 1.1-11*

¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote
about all that Jesus did and taught from
the beginning ²until the day when he was
taken up to heaven, after giving
instructions through the Holy Spirit to
the apostles whom he had chosen.

³After his suffering he presented himself
alive to them by many convincing proofs,
appearing to them during forty days and
speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴While staying with them, he ordered
them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait
there for the promise of the Father.

‘This,’ he said, ‘is what you have heard
from me; ⁵for John baptized with water,
but you will be baptized with the Holy
Spirit not many days from now.’

⁶So when they had come together, they
asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when
you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’

⁷He replied, ‘It is not for you to know
the times or periods that the Father has
set by his own authority. ⁸But you will

receive power when the Holy Spirit has
come upon you; and you will be my
witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and
Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’

⁹When he had said this, as they were
watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud
took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he
was going and they were gazing up
towards heaven, suddenly two men in
white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said,
‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand
looking up towards heaven? This Jesus,
who has been taken up from you into
heaven, will come in the same way as
you saw him go into heaven.’

Gospel *Luke 24.44-53*

⁴⁴Jesus said to the disciples, ‘These are my
words that I spoke to you while I was still
with you – that everything written about
me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and
the psalms must be fulfilled.’ ⁴⁵Then he
opened their minds to understand the
scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, ‘Thus it is
written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to
rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and
that repentance and forgiveness of sins is
to be proclaimed in his name to all nations,
beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are
witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am
sending upon you what my Father
promised; so stay here in the city until you
have been clothed with power from on
high.’

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany,
and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.

⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew
from them and was carried up into heaven.

⁵²And they worshipped him, and returned to
Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were
continually in the temple blessing God.



21st May 2023

Seventh Sunday of Easter and APCM meeting

The Collect

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus
Christ with great triumph to your kingdom
in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not
comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to
strengthen us and exalt us to the place
where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading - Acts 1.6-14

⁶When the apostles had come together,
they asked Jesus, 'Lord, is this the time
when you will restore the kingdom to
Israel?' ⁷He replied, 'It is not for you to
know the times or periods that the Father
has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will
receive power when the Holy Spirit has
come upon you; and you will be my
witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and
Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

⁹When he had said this, as they were
watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took
him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going
and they were gazing up towards heaven,
suddenly two men in white robes stood by
them. ¹¹They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do
you stand looking up towards heaven? This
Jesus, who has been taken up from you into
heaven, will come in the same way as you
saw him go into heaven.'

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from
the mount called Olivet, which is near
Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.

¹³When they had entered the city, they

went to the room upstairs where they
were staying. ¹⁴All these were constantly
devoting themselves to prayer, together
with certain women, including Mary the
mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Gospel - John 17.1-11

¹Jesus looked up to heaven and said, 'Father,
the hour has come; glorify your Son so that
the Son may glorify you, ²since you have
given him authority over all people, to give
eternal life to all whom you have given him.
³And this is eternal life, that they may know
you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ
whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on
earth by finishing the work that you gave
me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in
your own presence with the glory that I
had in your presence before the world
existed.

⁶'I have made your name known to those
whom you gave me from the world. They
were yours, and you gave them to me, and
they have kept your word. ⁷Now they
know that everything you have given me is
from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to
me I have given to them, and they have
received them and know in truth that I
came from you; and they have believed that
you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I
am not asking on behalf of the world, but
on behalf of those whom you gave me,
because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are
yours, and yours are mine; and I have been
glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer
in the world, but they are in the world, and
I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect
them in your name that you have given me,
so that they may be one, as we are one.'



28th May 2023

Pentecost

The Collect

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading

Acts 2.1-21

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes,

Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

¹⁴But 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. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

Gospel - John 20.19-23

¹⁹When it was evening on 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.' ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'