

Sunday 19th April

3rd Sunday of Easter

Collect

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

First Reading Zephaniah 3.14 – 18

A reading from the book of Zephaniah

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
The LORD has taken away the judgements against you, he has
turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster
no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do
not let your hands grow weak.
The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach
for it.

Second Reading Acts 2.14a,36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice
and addressed the crowd, '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 to their number.

Psalm 116. 1-3, 10-19

- 1 I am well pleased : that the Lord hath heard the voice of my prayer;
- 2 That he hath inclined his ear unto me :
therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.
- 3 The snares of death compassed me round about :
and the pains of hell gat hold upon me.
- 10 I believed, and therefore will I speak; but I was sore troubled :
I said in my haste, All men are liars.
- 11 What reward shall I give unto the Lord :
for all the benefits that he hath done unto me?
- 12 I will receive the cup of salvation :
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 13 I will pay my vows now in the presence of all his people :
right dear in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.
- 14 Behold, O Lord, how that I am thy servant :
I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid; thou hast broken my
bonds in sunder.
- 15 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving :
and will call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 16 I will pay my vows unto the Lord, in the sight of all his people :
in the courts of the Lord's house, even in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem.
Praise the Lord.

Gospel Luke 24.13-35

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

On that same day, two of the 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?' Jesus 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 Jesus.'

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 Jesus; 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.

Communion Motet

Post Communion Prayer

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.