



Readings for 19th April 2nd Sunday of Easter

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. **Amen**

First reading Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

But 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.

'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—this 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. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For 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;

therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;

moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

'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. Since 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. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the

Messiah, saying,

"He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption."

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

Psalm 16

The Lord is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge;

I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord,
all my good depends on you.'

All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,

upon those who are noble in heart. **R**

Though the idols are legion that many run after,
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,
neither make mention of their names upon my lips.
R

The Lord himself is my portion and my cup;
in your hands alone is my fortune.

My share has fallen in a fair land;
indeed, I have a goodly heritage. **R**

I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel,
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.
I have set the Lord always before me;
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall. **R**

Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices;
my flesh also shall rest secure.

For you will not abandon my soul to Death,
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.

You will show me the path of life;
in your presence is the fullness of joy
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.
R

New Testament reading 1 Peter 1: 3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are

receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel reading John 20: 19-end

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.

Prayer for the week

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

Amen

THIS WEEK

Saturday 18th 6.00 pm Easter 2 meditation posted

Sunday 19th 9.30 am 2nd Sunday of Easter service (North Leightonstone benefice, St Peter and St Paul Alconbury Facebook pages, and Youtube link; posted on website afterwards

Saturday 25th 6.00 pm Easter 3 meditation posted

Sunday 26th 9.30 am 3rd Sunday of Easter service

TAKING FAITH FORWARD INTO LOCKDOWN.

So lockdown will carry on for at least another 3 weeks. How can we help you? We'll continue with a Sunday service and a weekly meditation. Team morning prayer will happen as usual, via Zoom, and others are welcome to join this.

What other resources would you like? It's really important that you let us know what will be helpful and supportive to you and to your faith. PLEASE.

LIGHT A VIRTUAL CANDLE

Originally set up to remember someone who died, the Church Support Hub has the facility to light a virtual candle. You might like to do this to remember someone who's not well, or on your heart at this time.

Look at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/light-candle>

PRAYER

We are beginning to hear of people ill with COVID-19, and of family members and friends elsewhere who have died.

BUT – we are also hearing of people who are having to make life-limiting choices about other kinds of medical care at this time, or whose operations have been delayed; of relatives who have died from other causes; of people who are now finding the isolation hard to bear.

Please remember that the staff team are here to listen and to offer prayers, prayers at the end of life, and funeral prayers.

Remember to pray for ‘your wards’ at Hinchingbrooke Hospital. On Friday, I received a phone call from a lady whose husband had died of COVID-19 in Hinchingbrooke. She hadn’t been able to see him for some weeks, and the family had to say their goodbyes over the phone. She said that the doctor who was working with them was in tears for the family. Please pray for the staff, who are both exhausted and overwhelmed by the emotions they are dealing with.

PHONE CALLS

It's also really important that we stay connected to those who have no link with the internet. If you know of anyone – church member or not – who needs a ‘keeping in touch’ phone call: do make it yourself, or let Mandy or Fiona know

Mandy will be taking the week after Easter (until 20th April) as Easter break.

Fiona will be having Easter break from 21st – 26th April as Easter break

Jim will be having Easter break from 24th April – 1st May

Please direct phone calls appropriately. We won't be going anywhere so will keep one another informed about pastoral need

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