

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Collect

Living God,
for whom no door is closed,
no heart is locked:
draw us beyond our doubts,
till we see your Christ
and touch his wounds where they bleed in others.
This we ask through Christ our Saviour,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

1st Reading

Acts 5.27-32

²⁷ When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

Psalm

Psalm 118.14-29

¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my song:
and has become my salvation.
¹⁵ The sounds of joy and deliverance:
are in the tents of the righteous.
¹⁶ The right hand of the Lord does mighty things:
the right hand of the Lord raises up.
¹⁷ I shall not die but live:

- and proclaim the works of the Lord.
- 18 The Lord has disciplined me hard:
but he has not given me over to death.
- 19 Open me the gates of righteousness:
and I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.
- 20 This is the gate of the Lord:
the righteous shall enter it.
- 21 I will praise you, for you answered me:
and have become my salvation.
- 22 The stone that the builders rejected:
has become the head of the corner.
- 23 This is the Lord's doing:
and it is marvellous in our eyes.
- 24 This is the day that the Lord has made:
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- 25 O Lord, save us, we pray:
O Lord, send us prosperity.
- 26 Blessed is he who comes, in the name of the Lord:
from the house of the Lord we bless you.
- 27 The Lord is God, and he has given us light:
guide the festal throng up to the horns of the altar.
- 28 You are my God and I will praise you:
you are my God, I will exalt you.
- 29 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:
and his mercy endures for ever.

2nd Reading

Revelation 1.4-8

- 4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,
- 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,
- 6 and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ 'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Gospel

John 20.19-31

¹⁹ 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.' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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.' ²⁶ 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.' ²⁷ 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.' ²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ 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.' ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ 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.