

Third Sunday of Easter

19 April 2026

Sentence

Repent, and be baptised 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.

Acts 2.38–39

Collect

O 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 his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

1st Reading

Acts 2.14a; 2.36-41

¹⁴ 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. ³⁶ Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.' ³⁷ 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?' ³⁸ 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. ³⁹ 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.' ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt

generation.' ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Psalm

Psalm 116.1-4; 116.11-18

¹ I love the Lord, because he heard my voice:
the voice of my supplication;
² Because he inclined his ear to me:
in the day that I called to him.
³ The cords of death encompassed me,
the snares of the grave took hold on me:
I was in anguish and sorrow.
⁴ Then I called upon the name of the Lord:
'O Lord, I beseech you, deliver me !'
¹¹ How shall I repay the Lord:
for all his benefits to me?
¹² I will take up the cup of salvation:
and call upon the name of the Lord.
¹³ I will pay my vows to the Lord:
in the presence of all his people.
¹⁴ Grievous in the sight of the Lord:
is the death of his faithful ones.
¹⁵ O Lord, I am your servant,
your servant and the child of your handmaid:
you have unloosed my bonds.
¹⁶ I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving:
and call upon the name of the Lord.
¹⁷ I will pay my vows to the Lord:
in the presence of all his people,
¹⁸ In the courts of the house of the Lord:
even in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.

2nd Reading

1 Peter 1.13-25

¹³ Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed.

¹⁴ Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance.

¹⁵ Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct;

¹⁶ for it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile.

¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold,
¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.

²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake.

²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart.

²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

²⁴ For

'All flesh is like grass

and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers,

and the flower falls,

²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures for ever.' That word is the good news that was announced to you.

Gospel

Matthew 28.8-15a

⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.' ¹¹ While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹² After the priests had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, ¹³ telling them, 'You must say, "His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep."¹⁴ If this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.' ¹⁵ So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told among the Jews to this day.