

Bible Readings for Third Sunday of Easter (Year A)

COLLECT - God of life and love, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of the bread. Open our eyes that we may see him in his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! For the Lord will remove his hand of judgement and will disperse the armies of your enemy. And the Lord himself will live among you! At last your troubles will be over, and you will fear disaster no more. On that day the announcement to Jerusalem will be, "Cheer up, Zion! Don't be afraid! For the Lord your God has arrived to live among you. He is a mighty saviour. He will rejoice over you with great gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will exult over you by singing a happy song." "I will gather you who mourn for the appointed festivals; you will be disgraced no more. And I will deal severely with all who have oppressed you. I will save the weak and helpless ones; I will bring together those who were chased away. I will give glory and renown to my former exiles, who have been mocked and shamed. On that day I will gather you together and bring you home again. I will give you a good name, a name of distinction among all the nations of the earth. They will praise you as I restore your fortunes before their very eyes. I, the Lord, have spoken!"

Psalms 116.1-4, 13-16

- 1 I love the Lord, for he has heard the voice of my ¹ supplication; ♦
because he inclined his ear to me on the ¹ day I ¹ called to ¹ him.
- 2 The snares of death encompassed me;
the pains of ¹ hell took ¹ hold of me; ♦
by grief and ¹ sorrow ¹ was I ¹ held.
- 3 Then I called upon the ¹ name of the ¹ Lord: ♦
'O Lord, I ¹ beg you, deliver my ¹ soul.'
- 4 Gracious is the ¹ Lord and ¹ righteous; ♦
our ¹ God is ¹ full of compassion.
- 13 Precious in the ¹ sight of the ¹ Lord ♦
is the ¹ death of his ¹ faithful ¹ servants.
- 14 O Lord, ¹ I am your ¹ servant, ♦
your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have ¹ freed me ¹ from my ¹ bonds.
- 15 I will offer to you a ¹ sacrifice of ¹ thanksgiving ♦
and ¹ call upon the ¹ name of the ¹ Lord.
- 16 I will fulfil my vows ¹ to the ¹ Lord ♦
in the ¹ presence of ¹ all his ¹ people

Acts 2.36-41

Peter concluded his address by saying to the crowd, 'Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.' Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'What should we do?' Peter said to them, '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. 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 baptised, and that day about three thousand persons were added to their number.

Luke 24.13-35

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 recognising 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 recognised 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.