

Readings for 18th April 2021 – Easter 3

A reading from Acts chapter 3 beginning at verse 12. [3.12-20]

¹²When Peter saw it, he addressed the people,

‘You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?

¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him.

¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷ ‘And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer.

¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

²⁰so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 4.

1. Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness:
when I was hard-pressed you set me free; be gracious to me now and hear my prayer.
2. **Children of earth, how long will you turn my glory to my shame:
how long will you love what is worthless and seek after lies?**
3. Know that the Lord has shown me his wonderful kindness:
when I call to the Lord he will hear me.
4. **Tremble, and do no sin:
commune with your own heart upon your bed and be still.**
5. Offer the sacrifices that are right:
and put your trust in the Lord.
6. **There are many who say ‘Who will show us any good?:
the light of your countenance, O Lord, has gone from us.’**
7. Yet you have given my heart more gladness:
than they have when their corn, wine and oil increase.
8. **In peace I will lie down and sleep:
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.**

Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen

A reading from the First Letter of John 2.15-17;3.1-6

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world.

The love of the Father is not in those who love the world;

¹⁶for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh,

the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—comes not from the Father but from the world.

¹⁷And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live for ever.

³See what love the Father has given us,

that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.

The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

²Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed.

What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

4 Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke chapter 24 beginning at verse 36. [24.36b-48]

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

36^b Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’

³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

³⁸He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?’

³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself.

Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’

⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them,

‘Have you anything here to eat?’

⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish,

⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

44 Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,

⁴⁶and he said to them,

‘Thus it is written that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,

⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.