

# SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

EASTER 2 (YEAR B)

## 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 4.32–35*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

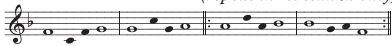
*Ps 133*



*R.* How good it is to dwell in unity.

*(All repeat)*

*(repeat in 1st stanza only)*



O how good and pleas-ant it is,  
when brothers dwell togeth-er in unity!  
It is like precious oil up-on the head,  
running down up-on the beard,  
upon the beard of Aaron,  
running down upon the collar of his robe. *R.*

It is like the dew of Hermon  
falling upon the hills of Zion.  
For there the Lord has or-dained the  
blessing:  
life for evermore. *R.*

## SECOND READING

*1 Jn 1.1–2.2*

A reading from the first letter of John.

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us – we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia.**

Jesus said, 'Do you believe because you have seen me?

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

**Alleluia.**

## GOSPEL READING

Jn 20.19–31

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And 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 withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, 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 in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, 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; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, 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 believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, Lord, these offerings your people make to you. Grant that we, being born to new life by baptism and faith in your name, may attain to the everlasting joy of heaven; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## SOLEMN BLESSING

God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life. **Amen.**  
 God the Son, who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing ...