

26th April 2020
The third Sunday of Easter

Thought for the day

_God's promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.

COLLECT a special prayer for Easter 3

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

ACTS 2.14a, 36-41

On the day of Pentecost, Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd,
'Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

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?' 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. 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 baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added to their number.

PSALM 116.1-3, 10-17

The Psalmist celebrates that God frees us from our chains, whatever they are.

Gracious is the Lord and righteous;

I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him

The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the name of the Lord: 'O Lord, I pray you, save my life.'

How shall I repay the Lord for all the good things he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

Gracious is the Lord and righteous;

O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the Lord.

Gracious is the Lord and righteous.

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

1 Peter 1.17-23

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. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited

from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. 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. 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. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

A reading from the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. Ch. 24.13-35

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 recognizing 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 recognized 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord . Praise to you, O Christ

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION -

please add your own petitions and asking prayers

Lord of life, help us to remember that all Christian people are on a journey of faith. Grant that as we meet with you along our own particular road we may recognise your presence with us. **Stay with us Lord**

Lord of justice and peace, in this time of world crisis, we pray for the leaders of the nations throughout the world. We give thanks for our Queen and her parliament and we ask your guidance and wisdom for them all in the present difficulties, doubts and insecurities.

Stay with them Lord

Lord you call us to be your family on earth, brothers and sisters together; we ask your blessings on our communities, our homes, families, neighbours and friends..

Stay with us Lord

We bring to you those who are ill, physically, mentally or spiritually, who need your healing, We pray particularly for those afflicted in this present epidemic, give them the strength and hope needed for recovery . We bring to you with special thanksgiving, those who offer their lives and risk their safety to care for all in need.

Stay with them Lord

We bring to you the dying, especially those who are unprepared to meet you. We place into your care those who have died. And we pray for those who are grieving . In your mercy Lord, bring them comfort **Stay with them Lord**

Lord and Saviour , we bring to you, the love of our hearts as we recall the extent of your love for us, which understands our frailty and reaches out to us wherever, whatever and whoever we may be . **Stay with us Lord and help us always to honour and worship your name. Amen**

+Bishop Desmond Tutu

Father and friend

Help us to learn

That goodness is stronger than evil:

That love is stronger than hate :

That light is stronger than darkness :

That life is stronger than death:

And that every victory is ours

Through your forgiving love

Amen

From Chile – author unknown

Empower me Lord

To take the risks of faith today

For your sake and the gospel

Alleluia Christ is risen !

He is risen indeed !

Alleluia

The Church office is closed during the present crisis
For enquiries please email BSHplurality@hotmail.com
or telephone 01642 597454 and leave a message. .

**If you need a priest urgently please phone the
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01642 964664**

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