

# Collect and Readings for Worship at Home

Sunday 14th April -

## Collect:

Risen Christ,  
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:  
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life  
and fill us with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father

**Amen**

## Readings:

**Acts 3:12-19**

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

'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out

**Luke 24:36b-48**

**Jesus Appears to His Disciples**

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look 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.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

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.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

## Reflection:

Peter and John went to pray; they met a lame man on the way. He asked for alms and held out his palms, and this is what Peter did say: "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee.

In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" He went walking and jumping and praising God, walking and jumping and praising God. "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." Acts chapter 3 starts with the story of the lame beggar being healed by Peter and John as they approach the Temple. The words I remember from Sunday School, it is one of the fascinating stories and quite rightly describes the Acts of the Apostles. It answers the question What happened next to the disciples? In Matthew 27 we have the Crucifixion of Jesus and we read that Jesus died at about 3pm. I don't think it's a coincidence that the healing here in Acts shares this time of the afternoon. There is a significant connection here between Jesus' sacrifice, sins forgiven, healing and restoration. The writers are getting us to think on this in our own lives. Sacrifice followed by forgiveness. In Acts 3 we read that this happened at a time of prayer. And so we have from verse 12 a startling sermon from Peter. Picture the scene as you read his words again. How did he get out of there alive? Peter addresses his fellow Israelites and offers words of condemnation. You rejected Jesus, he tells them, you chose a murderer, rejecting the Holy and Righteous path. Peter firmly lays the blame on his fellow Israelites. But, he tells them that he and John are witnesses to God raising Jesus, your Messiah from the dead, and it is by this fact and faith that the man walks. Restored. But, but, Peter offers them a way out, a way they too can be restored. They acted in ignorance he tells them so that God's word could be fulfilled. "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out". It is a message that is repeated often in the New Testament so that all may be saved. As Paul writes Colossians 1 v 13 - 14 He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. In the next chapter you can read that Peter and John were put in jail, for preaching the Gospel. But, "But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand"