

# Readings + The Second Sunday of Easter, year B + April 7, 2024

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

## First Reading Acts 4:32-35

<sup>32</sup> Now 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.

<sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

## Psalmody Psalm 133

How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!

**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

**For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.**

## Second Reading 1 John 1:1 – 2:2

*The elder writes:* <sup>1</sup> 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 – <sup>2</sup> 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 – <sup>3</sup> what we have seen and heard we also declare to you so that you also may have

communion with us; and truly our communion is with the Father and with Jesus Christ, the Son. <sup>4</sup> We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from Jesus Christ and proclaim to you, that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say that we have communion with God while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup> but if we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have communion with one another, and the blood of Jesus, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make God a liar, and God's word is not in us.

<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup> 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; <sup>2</sup> who is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

## Holy Gospel John 20:19-31

*These verses are only in John's Gospel, although Luke does have a different version of the Upper Room visit of the risen Jesus.*

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

<sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not trust this.”

<sup>26</sup> A week later Jesus’ disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side.

Do not doubt but trust.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered Jesus, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have you trusted because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to trust.”

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to trust that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through trusting you may have life in his name.