

Aided by the Spirit, they continue Jesus' judicial role in the world, forgiving the sins of the faithful and holding others blameworthy ("retain", v. 23) for their actions. Thomas is expected to believe without having seen, but he demands: show me the evidence! (v. 25)

The next Sunday, the community gathers again (v. 26). Upon seeing, Thomas makes the most complete affirmation of faith of anyone in the gospel (v. 29). Henceforth the faith of all Christians in all ages will rest on the testimony of the first believers. Vv. 30-31 tell us John's purpose in writing the book. His eyewitness account is intended to help us, who were not witnesses of Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension to "come to believe" and thus "have life in his name", eternal life. © 1996-2022 Chris Haslam

~ Notices ~

### Easter Vestries

#### Kilnasoolagh Church

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 8.00pm

#### St Columba's with Spanish Point

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 12.30pm

#### Ukraine

The Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal has launched a special appeal encouraging all parishes in Ireland to have a special collection this/next Sunday to support the appeal. To donate please use the link on our website: <https://clareanglicans.ie> or go direct to: [www.christianaid.ie](http://www.christianaid.ie)

#### Prayers for peace – Friday at 12.00

In solidarity with the Ukrainian people (who are largely Orthodox Christians) the Jesus Prayer is recited every Friday at 12.00 at St Columba's Church.. Leaflets are at the back of church, and available in the prayer section of the website. Millions of Ukrainians will be saying this prayer as the bombs and missiles fall.

### - Future events -

#### Consairtín: National Concertina Convention

Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> – Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> April from 2.00pm each day

#### 'Beloved' – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00pm

An evening concert of Arias and Song with soprano, Helen Hancock and pianist, Mark Keane.

#### Genie Ensemble – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022

A string quintet performing a selection of pieces from the classical and traditional Irish repertoire, plus film and jazz.

#### Clare Music Makers Festival Sat 28<sup>th</sup> – Sun 19<sup>th</sup> May.

Saturday 10.00 - 5.00pm, Sunday 1.00pm – 5.00pm

#### Enthronement of +Michael Burrows

Kilfenora Cathedral Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 4.00pm

All welcome. (We will need to organise a cleaning party in early May to make ready – if you are able to help please let me know – refreshments will be provided).

Website: [clareanglicans.ie](http://clareanglicans.ie)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/c/clareanglicans](https://www.youtube.com/c/clareanglicans)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/clare.anglicans](https://www.facebook.com/clare.anglicans)

Rector: Email: [frkevinobrien@me.com](mailto:frkevinobrien@me.com) Tel: 065 672 4721

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# The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter 2022

(Year C)

**Collect** Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:

open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father. **Amen**

**Suggested Hymns** - For the online service you might like to view these hymns with lyrics on YouTube.

1) Love's redeeming work is done

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsPsuTkNz4c>

2) In Christ there is no east or west

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpITJOSHix0&t=9s>

3) King of Glory, King of peace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikj7CiC7v0U>

4) Glorious things of thee are spoken (646)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNQOcpECK4A>

#### Acts 5.27-32

When the Temple police had brought the Apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

#### Psalms 150

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty firmament!

Praise him for his mighty deeds;

praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

Praise him with trumpet sound;

praise him with lute and harp!

Praise him with tambourine and dance;

praise him with strings and pipe!

Praise him with clanging cymbals;

praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

#### Revelation 1.4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

### John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' 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 retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, 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 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 believe.'

A week later his 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.' 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 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 come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

### Post Communion Prayer

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**

### Commentary

#### Acts 5:27-32

Peter and John have been arrested by the religious authorities for teaching and proclaiming that "in Jesus there is resurrection of the dead" (4:2). The Sanhedrin has ordered them "not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus" (4:18). So popular are they with the people that the Sanhedrin does not punish them. But later the growth in believers leads the high priest to take further action; he and the Sadducees see the disciples doing what they cannot do, i.e. healing the sick. This time, all the apostles are imprisoned; however, a divine messenger sets them free (v. 19). They go right back to preaching – in the outer court of the Temple (v. 21). The temple police bring them to appear before the council.

Now the high priest imputes that the apostles place the blame for Jesus' death on the religious authorities ("you are determined ...", v. 28). Led by Peter, they insist that they must obey God's will rather than the Sanhedrin's orders (v. 29). They explain in Jewish terms: the "God of our ancestors" (v. 30) is the God of Israel (and of Christians): he has "raised" Jesus from the dead. The Law prescribed that a person guilty of a capital offence be hanged "on a tree"; Peter interprets cross as being the Roman equivalent to the Jewish tree. Moses was "Leader and Saviour" (v. 31) of Israel, under God; Jesus is much more so: he goes before us; now with the

Father, he continues to rescue us from sin and death. Jesus' message was first to "Israel". Both the apostles and the "Holy Spirit" (v. 32), given to the faithful, are "witnesses" to Christ's actions.

The council members are so enraged that they want to kill Peter, but a famous liberal rabbi, Gamaliel, cautions them: "if this ... is of human origin, it will fail" (v. 38); but if it is from God, they "will not be able to overthrow them" (v. 39) and they will be working against God. Peter and John are flogged for their earlier offence. Despite being ordered not to preach the Good News, the apostles continue to do so, both in the Temple and in homes.

### Psalm 150

The psalter ends with a doxology, praise to God. In Hebrew, v. 1 begins with Hallelujah! V. 1b calls on all the people to praise God in his earthly "sanctuary", the Temple. Hebrew poetry uses a device called parallelism: here v. 1c parallels v. 1b: it calls on the heavenly council to praise God in his heavenly temple. He is to be praised for his supreme power in the actions of creation and of restoring people from waywardness (v. 2). Vv. 3-5 tell us how psalms were accompanied: with various (to us) traditional instruments, with modern music ("clashing cymbals"), and with liturgical "dance" (v. 4). V. 6 returns to the theme of v. 1: may all living creatures praise the Lord!

### Revelation 1:4-8

John begins and ends this book as a letter. Literally, it is "to the seven churches that are in Asia" (v. 4a), Asia being a Roman province in western Asia Minor, but "seven" symbolizes totality, so John may speak to all churches in the province, or to all everywhere. The salutation combines both Greek ("grace") and Hebrew ("peace") forms, and is from God, here described as being throughout time, meaning eternal. The salutation is also from "the seven spirits": perhaps meaning the Spirit of God (in Isaiah 11:2, the Spirit operates in seven ways) or the seven angels (Michael, Raphael, etc) closest to God ("before his throne", v. 4) in contemporary Jewish thinking. Further, it is "from Jesus Christ" (v. 5), who is:

"the faithful witness": he revealed the Father perfectly in his earthly life, and crowned this by the sacrifice of his life;

"firstborn of the dead": in his resurrection, he inaugurated a new era; and "ruler ...": being now exalted, he has power over all creation. Vv. 5b-6 praise God:

Christ loves us continually and, by his death, he has freed us from sins; and he has marked us as God's, and has made us all "priests", mediators between God and the rest of humanity.

"Amen", a Hebrew word, means It is sure and trustworthy! or so be it!: it is both valid and binding. (In 3:14, Christ is called "the Amen".) V. 7 combines two Old Testament prophetic sayings to predict the return of Christ at the end of the age. Those who put him to death and all unbelievers "will wail" for showing hostility to Christ and his Church: they will be condemned when Jesus comes to us as judge. V. 8 tells us that, from A to Z, God is sovereign over all events of human history; his power is supreme ("Almighty").

#### John 20:19-31

Early on Easter Day, Mary Magdalene has discovered that Jesus' body is missing from the tomb; the stone door is open, so it looks as though someone has stolen it (v. 1). She has seen a man standing near the tomb. When he speaks to her, she recognizes him as Jesus. She has told the disciples: "I have seen the Lord" (v. 18).

Later the same day, Jesus joins the disciples, gathered behind locked doors. He shows them that he is the one who was crucified (v. 20). Jesus confers on "the disciples" (not including Thomas, but perhaps a group larger than the ten) "peace" (vv. 19, 21) and "the Holy Spirit" (v. 22). As God "breathed" life into Adam, the proto-human, so Jesus now breathes the new, spiritual, life of recreated humanity into his followers.