

Psalms, readings and collect

Date: 3rd April – Easter Wednesday

For the Easter Octave people will variously decide to use the Office or the form of Spiritual Communion or both. Readings &c are, therefore, provided for both. However, it is the philosophy of the provision that if you only celebrate the Office, you should use the Gospel reading from the Act of Spiritual Communion.*

Office

Psalm:

(113) PRAISE the Lord, ye servants : O praise the Name of the Lord.
2 Blessed be the Name of the Lord : from this time forth for evermore.
3 The Lord's Name is praised : from the rising up of the sun unto the going down of the same.
4 The Lord is high above all heathen : and his glory above the heavens.
5 Who is like unto the Lord our God, that hath his dwelling so high : and yet humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven and earth?
6 He taketh up the simple out of the dust : and lifteth the poor out of the mire;
7 That he may set him with the princes : even with the princes of his people.
8 He maketh the barren woman to keep house : and to be a joyful mother of children.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

(147: 13 - end) For he hath made fast the bars of thy gates : and hath blessed thy children within thee.
14 He maketh peace in thy borders : and filleth thee with the flour of wheat.
15 He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth : and his word runneth very swiftly.
16 He giveth snow like wool : and scattereth the hoar-frost like ashes.
17 He casteth forth his ice like morsels : who is able to abide his frost?
18 He sendeth out his word, and melteth them : he bloweth with his wind, and the waters flow.
19 He sheweth his word unto Jacob : his statutes and ordinances unto Israel.
20 He hath not dealt so with any nation : neither have the heathen knowledge of his laws.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Reading:

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: "We have a strong city; he sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks. Open the gates, that the righteous nation which keeps faith may enter in. Thou dost keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusts in thee. Trust in the LORD for ever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. For he has brought low the inhabitants of the height, the lofty city. He lays it low, lays it low to the ground, casts it to the dust. The foot tramples it, the feet of the poor, the steps of the needy."

The way of the righteous is level; thou dost make smooth the path of the righteous. In the path of thy judgments, O LORD, we wait for thee; thy memorial name is the desire of our soul. My soul yearns for thee in the night, my spirit within me earnestly seeks thee. For when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. If favour is shown to the wicked, he does not learn righteousness; in the land of uprightness he deals perversely and does not see the majesty of the LORD. O LORD, thy hand is lifted up, but they see it not. Let them see thy zeal for thy people, and be ashamed. Let the fire for thy adversaries consume them. O LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us, thou hast wrought for us all our works. O LORD our God, other lords besides thee have ruled over us, but thy name alone we acknowledge. They are dead, they will not live; they are shades, they will not arise; to that end thou hast visited them with destruction and wiped out all remembrance of them. But thou hast increased the nation, O LORD, thou hast increased the nation; thou art glorified; thou hast enlarged all the borders of the land. O LORD, in distress they sought thee, they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them. Like a woman with child, who writhes and cries out in her pangs, when she is near her time, so were we because of thee, O LORD; we were with child, we writhed, we have as it were brought forth wind. We have wrought no deliverance in the earth, and the inhabitants of the world have not fallen. Thy dead shall live, their bodies shall rise. O dwellers in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For thy dew is a dew of light, and on the land of the shades thou wilt let it fall.

Collect of the day:

Almighty God, Who through Thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life: We humbly beseech Thee, that as by Thy special Grace preventing us Thou dost put into our minds good desires, so by Thy continual help we may bring the same to good effect; through Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord; Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, throughout all ages world without end. Amen.

Act of Spiritual Communion

Collect:

Lord of all life and power, Who through the mighty Resurrection of Your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in Him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to You in Jesus Christ, may reign with Him in glory; to Whom with You and the Holy Spirit be all might, majesty, power and dominion now and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

First Reading:

A Reading from the Book of the Apostles.

Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at that gate of the temple which is called Beautiful to ask alms of those who entered the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked for alms. And Peter directed his gaze at him, with John, and said, "Look at us." And he fixed his attention upon them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up he stood and walked and

entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and recognized him as the one who sat for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Psalm:

O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; ♦ make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises, ♦ and tell of all his marvellous works.

Rejoice in the praise of his holy name; ♦ let the hearts of them rejoice who seek the Lord.

Seek the Lord and his strength; ♦ seek his face continually.

O seed of Abraham his servant, ♦ O children of Jacob his chosen.

He is the Lord our God; ♦ his judgements are in all the earth.

He has always been mindful of his covenant, ♦ the promise that he made for a thousand generations:

The covenant he made with Abraham, ♦ the oath that he swore to Isaac.

*** Gospel:**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke.

Two of the disciples of Jesus were going to a village named Emma'us, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cle'opas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up 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 this happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even 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 him they did not see." And he said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they constrained him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and

how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.