

COLLECT

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.

FIRST READING

(Alternative readings)
*The reading from Acts must be read
as either the First or Second Reading.*

Either Acts 3:12-19

*A reading from the Acts of the
Apostles.*

Peter 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."

Or **Zephaniah 3:14-end**

PSALM Psalm 4

R *Lift up the light of your
countenance upon us, O Lord.*

Answer me when I call, O God,
defender of my cause;
you set me free when I am hard-
pressed;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
"You mortals, how long will you
dishonour my glory;
how long will you worship dumb idols
and run after false gods?" **R**

Know that the Lord does wonders for
the faithful;
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear
me.
Tremble, then, and do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence upon
your bed. **R**

Offer the appointed sacrifices
and put your trust in the Lord.
Many are saying,
"O that we might see better times!"
Lift up the light of your countenance
upon us, O Lord. **R**

You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when grain and wine and
oil increase.
I lie down in peace; at once I fall
asleep;
for only you, Lord, make me dwell in
safety. **R**

SECOND READING

(Alternative readings)

Either 1 John 3:1-7

A reading from the first letter of John.

See what love the Father has given
us, that we should be called children
of God; and that is what we are. The
reason the world does not know us
is that it did not know him. Beloved,
we are God's children now; what we
will be has not yet been revealed.
What we do know is this: when he is
revealed, we will be like him, for we
will see him as he is. And all who have
this hope in him purify themselves,
just as he is pure. Everyone who
commits sin is guilty of lawlessness;
sin is lawlessness. You know that he
was revealed to take away sins, and
in him there is no sin. No one who
abides in him sins; no one who sins
has either seen him or known him.

Little children, let no one deceive you.
Everyone who does what is right is
righteous, just as he is righteous.

Or **Acts 3:12-19**

GOSPEL Luke 24:36b-48

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Luke.*

While the eleven and their
companions were talking about
what they had heard, 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."

POST COMMUNION

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his
disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his
redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for
ever.