

<sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”  
<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

# The Word of God



**Second Sunday of Easter**

**April 16, 2023**

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## Prayer of the Day

Help us, almighty God, that our joyful celebration of the resurrection feast may be reflected in our daily work and conversation. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## First Reading: Acts 5:29-42

<sup>29</sup>Peter and the apostles answered {the high priest and the council}, “We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup>The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.” <sup>33</sup>When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. <sup>34</sup>But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. <sup>35</sup>And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. <sup>36</sup>For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. <sup>37</sup>After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. <sup>38</sup>So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; <sup>39</sup>but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, <sup>40</sup>and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not

**Lessons for Next Week:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-16;  
1 Peter 1:17-25; Luke 24:13-35

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to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. <sup>41</sup>Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. <sup>42</sup>And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

## Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;\*  
praise him | in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise him, all you an- | gels of his;\***  
**praise him, | all his host.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise him, | sun and moon;\*  
praise him, all you | shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise him, heav- | en of heavens,\***  
**and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name | of the LORD;\*  
for he commanded, and they | were created.

<sup>6</sup>**He made them stand fast forev- | er and ever;\***  
**he gave them a law which shall not | pass away.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD | from the earth,\*  
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup>**Fire and hail, | snow and fog,\***  
**tempestuous wind, do- | ing his will;**

<sup>9</sup>Mountains | and all hills,\*  
fruit trees | and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup>**Wild beasts | and all cattle,\***  
**creeping things and | winged birds;**

<sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth | and all peoples,\*  
princes and all rulers | of the world;

<sup>12</sup>**Young | men and maidens,\***  
**old and | young together.**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name | of the LORD,\*  
for his name only is exalted,

his splendor is over | earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>**He has raised up strength for his people**  
**and praise for all his | loyal servants,\***

**the children of Israel, a people who are near him. | Hallelujah!**

## Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup>obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## Gospel: John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup>And 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 withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." <sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, 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 in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." <sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, 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; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"