

Easter 2 Sunday April 7

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.

Psalm 133

¹ Behold how good and pleasant it is
to dwell together in unity.

² **It is like the precious oil upon the head,
running down upon the beard,**

³ Even on Aaron's beard,
running down upon the collar of his clothing.

⁴ **It is like the dew of Hermon
running down upon the hills of Zion.**

⁵ For there the Lord has promised his blessing:
even life for evermore.

Reading: Acts 1:1-11

1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning **2** until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. **3** After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. **4** While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; **5** for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'**6** So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' **7** He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria,

and to the ends of the earth.'**9** When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. **10** While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. **11** They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Easter 3 Sunday April 14

Collect

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

Psalm 4

¹ Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness;
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

² **How long will you nobles dishonour my glory;
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?**

³ But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness;
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

⁴ **Stand in awe, and sin not;
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.**

⁵ Offer the sacrifices of righteousness
and put your trust in the Lord.

⁶ **There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?'
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.**

⁷ You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.

⁸ **In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.**

Reading: Acts 1:12-26

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of ^[c] James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers. ¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers ^[d] (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, ¹⁶ 'Friends, ^[e] the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— ¹⁷ for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.' ¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong, ^[f] he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ 'For it is written in the book of Psalms, "Let his homestead become desolate, and let there be no one to live in it"; and "Let another take his position of overseer."²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' ²³ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Easter 4 Sunday April 21

Collect

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.

Psalm 23

- ¹ The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
- ² **He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**
- ³ He shall refresh my soul and guide me in
the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- ⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
- ⁵ You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.
- ⁶ **Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

Reading: Acts 2:1-10

¹ One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. ² And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. ⁴ Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, 'Look at us.' ⁵ And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ But Peter said, 'I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, ^[a] stand up and walk.' ⁷ And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸ Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹ All the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.