**Easter II: Collects (CW) & Readings for 7 April 2024**

**The Collect**

**Almighty Father,   
you have given your only Son to die for our sins   
and to rise again for our justification:   
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice   
 and wickedness   
that we may always serve you   
in pureness of living and truth;   
through the merits of 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. Amen.**

***Meditation before service***

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!  
 God hath brought his Israel into joy from sadness.  
‘Tis the spring of souls today; Christ hath burst his prison,  
 and from three days’ sleep in death as a sun hath risen.

*ascr* St John Damascene (c.676–749) *tr* John Mason Neale

**Acts 4.32–35**

The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. 33With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. 35They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

**Psalm 133 (BCP)**

1. Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is : brethren, to dwell together in unity!
2. It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down unto the   
   beard : even unto Aaron's beard, and went down to the skirts of his clothing.
3. Like as the dew of Hermon : which fell upon the hill of Sion.
4. For there the Lord promised his blessing : and life for evermore.

**I John 1.1 – 2.2 New Testament reading**

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— 3we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. 5This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. 6If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; 7but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. **2**1My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

**The Gospel Reading**

**John 20.19–end**

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.’ 20After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ 22When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. 23If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’ 24But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25So 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.’ 26A 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.’ 27Then 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.’ 28Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ 29Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’ 30Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31But 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.

**Postcommunion Collect**

**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.**

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**7 April 2024  
Second Sunday of Easter**

***Welcome to our Eucharist***

**Celebrant & Preacher** Fr Peter Holmes

**Reader**  Nick Clarke

**Intercessor**  Nicky Jervis

**Organist**  John Wardle

**Setting** Rawsthorne, *Festive Eucharist*

**Hymns 192** A brighter dawn is breaking  
 **217** The strife is o’er, the battle done  
 **203** Good Christians all, rejoice and sing

**Readings** Acts 4.32–35I John 1.1 – 2.2  
**Gradual psalm** 133

**The Gospel** John 20.19–end

**Communion anthem** Loosemore, *O Lord, increase our faith*

***Please remember in our prayers***

**The sick:** Jane Downs, Gail Nichols, Adrian Simper, Sybil Cripps Daniels, Philip Sargeant, Sonja Lennon, John Cullen, June Barber, Peter Lloyd, Trish Damen, Janette Coates, Barrie Burton, Lou, Lorraine Watkins, Chloe Gilmore

**The departed:** Tim Yeager

**Year’s mind:** Paul Britnell, Jim Doull Watson, Lester Richard Parker, John Michael Pickering, Christina Carter, John Mackenzie, Joan Taylor

**NOTICES**

**Services on Sunday** BCP Eucharist at 8 am; Sung Eucharist at 10.45 am.

**Concert** There will be a performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* by children from our church school (with a little assistance from the choir) on Friday **26 April** at 6.30 pm. This will be preceded in the first half of the programme by music from the choir including *Zadok the Priest* and *Hear my Prayer*. **For further details please see the poster below.**

**Candles for Ukraine** Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership is collecting new and used candles for Ukraine. The charity melts them down and sends blocks of wax out to Ukraine where they are reformed and used for heating and lighting. Huge areas of the country are regularly without electricity, as you know. If we can collect a good quantity, we can take them down to St Mary’s Church Sawston, from where they will be passed on to Swindon.

**Online Giving** It is now possible to make your donation to the church directly via this link: <https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=621>

**April Prayer Calendar**Countries of the North Pacific Ocean. This month’s prayer is written by Katharine Gaine.

*Almighty God, we pray that you will look down on the countries of the North Pacific Ocean. May the people of America, Mexico, Hawaii and the Caribbean Islands learn to live together more harmoniously and to lessen the gun violence and gang warfare that is so prevalent there and which so often leads to the harming of innocent people. Give strength and courage to those who strive to bring about a better understanding between rival sides, particularly when they endanger their own lives whilst doing so. We pray, too, that we may all work towards reducing the harm that we are causing to your created world, so that events such as hurricanes, flash floods, droughts and wildfires which occur frequently in that part of the world may become less common and we might learn to appreciate more fully the beauty of your creation. We pray this in Jesus’ name, Amen.*



