

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

May your people exult for ever, O God,
in renewed youthfulness of spirit,
so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of
our adoption,
we may look forward in confident hope
to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 3:13-15.17-19

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter said to the people: "You are Israelites,
and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and
Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has
glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus
you handed over and then disowned in the
presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided
to release him. It was you who accused the
Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded
the reprieve of a murderer while you killed
the prince of life. God, however, raised him
from the dead, and to that fact we are the
witnesses.

"Now I know, brothers, that neither you
nor your leaders had any idea what you were
really doing; this was the way God carried
out what he had foretold, when he said
through all his prophets that his Christ would
suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God,
so that your sins may be wiped out."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 4

Response:

Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.
or
Alleluia!

1. When I call, answer me, O God of justice;
from anguish you released me,
have mercy and hear me! (R.)

2. It is the Lord who grants favours to those
whom he loves;
the Lord hears me whenever I call him. (R.)

3. 'What can bring us happiness?' many
say.
Lift up the light of your face on us,
O Lord. (R.)

4. I will lie down in peace and sleep comes
at once,
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in
safety. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 John 2:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St John.

I am writing this, my children,
to stop you sinning;
but if anyone should sin,
we have our advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ, who is just;
he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,
and not only ours,
but the whole world's.

We can be sure that we know God
only by keeping his commandments.
Anyone who says, 'I know him,'
and does not keep his commandments,
is a liar,
refusing to admit the truth.
But when anyone does obey what he has
said,
God's love comes to perfection in him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us.

Make our hearts burn within us as you talk
to us.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 24:35-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.

The disciples told their story of what had
happened on the road and how they had
recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about this when
Jesus himself stood among them and said
to them, "Peace be with you!" In a state of
alarm and fright, they thought they were
seeing a ghost. But he said, "Why are you
so agitated, and why are these doubts rising
in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet;
yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for
yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones
as you can see I have." And as he said this
he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy
was so great that they could not believe it,
and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to
them, "Have you anything here to eat?" And
they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which
he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, "This is what I meant
when I said, while I was still with you, that
everything written about me in the Law of
Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms,
has to be fulfilled." He then opened their
minds to understand the scriptures, and he
said to them, "So you see how it is written
that the Christ would suffer and on the third
day rise from the dead, and that, in his name,
repentance for the forgiveness of sins would
be preached to all the nations, beginning

from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under

Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory

to judge the living and the dead

and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,

the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is adored

and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and

apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness

of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the

dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, we pray,
these offerings of your exultant Church,
and, as you have given her cause for such
great gladness,

grant also that the gifts we bring

may bear fruit in perpetual happiness.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Christ had to suffer and on the third day
rise from the dead;

in his name repentance and remission of sins
must be preached to all the nations, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look with kindness upon your people,

O Lord,

and grant, we pray,

that those you were pleased to renew by

eternal mysteries

may attain in their flesh

the incorruptible glory of the resurrection.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



I'M NO GHOST!

(LUKE 24:35-48)

The two disciples who encountered the risen Jesus on the way to Emmaus have returned to Jerusalem and tell the others about their experience.

The Jesus they met was so different to the person they had known that they did not recognise him. In that story, Luke was underlining that Jesus was not resuscitated, like Lazarus, and brought back to the life he had lost, but now exists in a different kind of life. In the episode today, we are confronted with the other side of the resurrection coin, that it is indeed the same person who was crucified and buried who is now truly present among his disciples. Jesus is really present, but in a different way. He challenges them to touch his hands and his feet as proof – there is no mention here of wounds from the nails of the crucifixion. His eating of the fish also suggests a presence different to that of a ghost or spirit. But Luke is still portraying through narrative the life of the resurrection. The disciples simply cannot believe what they are seeing; they are overcome with joy. This apparent lack of belief is not the same as that which occurred during Jesus' ministry.

For Luke, Jerusalem is not simply a physical city: it is the focus of Jesus' journey, the place where God's plan of salvation will be worked out. He had said himself that it was not fitting that a prophet should perish outside Jerusalem. The risen Jesus now commands his disciples to carry his message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins to all the nations, "beginning from Jerusalem". Instead of being the destination to which Jesus is heading on his mission, Jerusalem will become the starting point for the disciples' mission to the Gentiles and will lose its significance in the process. The scene is set for Act Two of Luke's Gospel story in the Acts of the Apostles. That will commence with the final act in the Paschal Mystery at the feast of Pentecost. ■

LEARN

For Luke, Jerusalem is the place where the divine plan will be brought to its fulfilment.

To understand the Gospels properly, we need to bear in mind the Old Testament background: So at Mass, the first reading from the Jewish Scriptures is connected with the Gospel and sheds light on it.

In today's Gospel, Jesus explains what happened to him in the light of the Jewish Scriptures, which we call the Old Testament.

REFLECT

Catholics are familiar with the expression 'The Real Presence'. This refers to the presence of Christ in the Eucharistic bread reserved in the tabernacle. It tells us that Christ is truly (or *really*) present there. However, it can have the unfortunate and unintended consequence that we imagine that the Lord is *only* to be found among us in that particular way, that any other kind of presence is somehow unreal. This is not to say that people positively believe this, but we can slip into a way of thinking which limits the divine presence to special places and occasions, for instance Mass in church on Sunday. Somehow the Lord is absent from our lives for most of the time.

One of the lessons of Easter is that Christ cannot be limited by time and space or confined within human or earthly boundaries. This applies to theological and other kinds of speculation as well. We might reflect on the saying that 'bidden or unbidden, God is present'. ■

DO

Open a Bible which has cross-references for the Gospels: notice how often the Old Testament is quoted or alluded to. Look up some of these references and see if this sheds light on the Gospel passage you are reading.



SAY

Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.