

Old Testament Reading for Third Sunday of Easter

Zephaniah 3: 14-end

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken

away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory:

he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you:

for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes, says the Lord.

Epistle Reading for Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3: 12-19

When Peter saw it, he 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,

Gospel Reading for Third Sunday of Easter

John 20 : 19 - end

When 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 vou.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples reioiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again. 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you,' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holv Spirit, If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So 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.'

A 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.' Then 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.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But 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.

Please don't forget the foodbank. They are always grateful for your support. Donations can be left at the back of every Church in our group or in our Co-Ops in Moretonhampstead or Bovey Tracey

