

## Easter 2

St Barnabas Church, Thatcham

Service Companion

### Opening Prayer

We are the people of God.

Risen Lord, as we gather today,

may we see you and hear you,

may we feel you and touch you,

may we know your presence with us now.

**Amen.**

### Readings

*Acts 2:14-32 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them,

<sup>22</sup> “You that are Israelites,<sup>[a]</sup> listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth,<sup>[b]</sup> a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—<sup>23</sup> this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him up, having freed him from death,<sup>[c]</sup> because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup> For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

<sup>26</sup> therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

<sup>27</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

<sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

<sup>29</sup> “Fellow Israelites,<sup>[d]</sup> I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup> Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Foreseeing this, David<sup>[e]</sup> spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah,<sup>[f]</sup> saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

<sup>32</sup> This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.’

### *John 20:19-end*

<sup>19</sup> 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 you.” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup> 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 retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin<sup>[g]</sup>), one of the twelve, 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 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.”

<sup>26</sup> 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.” <sup>27</sup> 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.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <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 come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe<sup>[d]</sup> that Jesus is the Messiah,<sup>[e]</sup> the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## Prayers

God of peace, we pray for all the places in the world that need your peace: places where conflict continues despite this pandemic; we pray for the places where the lack of peace has caused so much destruction; places where people have to flee their homes, we pray for all those who have nowhere to go, those who have been forgotten, for refugees everywhere. Lord, bring your peace which passes all understanding.

God of all, give wisdom to world leaders: to presidents, prime ministers, politicians of all governments, that they may strive to make their best way through this pandemic, not putting personal ambitions before the needs of their people.

We pray for all we see on the news, where we are bombarded with statistics, numbers of new cases, numbers of deaths and the latest goals of testing and prevention. Lord walk with us through all this confusion and bless us with your peace.

As the corona virus seeks to attack our breath help us to remember that in your word that we shared today as Jesus appeared to the disciples bringing peace he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'. When we are afraid Lord help us to remember that the breath of God dwells within us.

We pray for protection for those countries that are beginning to relax their lockdown rules, keep them safe Lord and we ask in your mercy that you will prevent a resurgence of Covid 19 cases.

Help us to learn from others and share the knowledge we gain.  
Lord, bring your peace which passes all understanding.  
God of mercy, we pray for those who need peace of mind: those weighed down by the stresses and strains of everyday life that is so magnified by this lockdown, those who suffer with anxiety, or are oppressed by worry and fear; those who are in danger of domestic and emotional abuse. we pray for those who find it hard to let go of things and simply trust.

Lord, strengthen the new ways that people have found to communicate with one another, grant that all who need help, or a listening ear may find someone who cares and know that they have been sent by you.  
Lord, bring your peace which passes all understanding.  
God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; Lord, bring your peace which passes all understanding.

God of love, by your Son's unexpected, amazing resurrection, you show his followers that suffering – and even death – are not the end.

Be with us through him in our times of doubt and fear,  
unite us through him with those we love,  
and when the darkness has gone, raise us through him to new life;  
through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
As our Saviour taught us so we pray:  
Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

The peace of God,  
which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**