

**Readings and Prayers for  
Low Sunday  
19th April 2020**

**Collect**

Almighty Father,  
who hast given thine 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 alway serve thee  
in pureness of living and truth;  
through the merits of Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,  
who liveth and reigneth with thee,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Readings**

**Psalm 16**

Refrain: The Lord is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

1 Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge;  
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord,  
all my good depends on you.'

2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,  
upon those who are noble in heart.

3 Though the idols are legion that many run after,  
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,  
neither make mention of their names upon my lips.

4 The Lord himself is my portion and my cup;  
in your hands alone is my fortune.

5 My share has fallen in a fair land;  
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

6I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel,  
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.

7I have set the Lord always before me;  
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

8Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices;  
my flesh also shall rest secure.

9For you will not abandon my soul to Death,  
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.

10You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence is the fullness of joy  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Refrain: The Lord is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

Give to us, Lord Christ,  
the fullness of grace,  
your presence and your very self,  
for you are our portion and our delight,  
now and for ever.

## **1 Peter 1 v 3 - 9**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith – being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## **John 3 v1 -8**

When it was evening on 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.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced 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 Holy 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.

### **Intercessions by Rebecca**

Dear Lord, you transform despair to wonder with the celebration of Easter. Let Christ's rising spread joy and peace, fill the world with light and confirm our faith in you.

#### **Lord in your mercy hear our prayer**

Lord, as you visited the disciples in the upper room, help us see the positives and the unexpected joys that have come from these unprecedented times. For the friendships rekindled, hobbies and gifts discovered, the unexpected memory making with those we are with. Comfort those for whom, the joy cannot be found, for those scared for themselves and loved ones, those who are on their own when we need each other most and for everyone who cannot see the light in the darkness. We pray that we believe more readily than Thomas that as you have risen again, that we will also emerge stronger, embracing a normal and not taking the little things for granted.

#### **Lord in your mercy hear our prayer**

Lord, we thank you for all the ways we are able to gather in your name even though we are apart and cannot enter our beautiful churches. We are more thankful than ever for the communities that churches build. For those ensuring we can still worship together, pray for each other and meet together, if not in person. For all the music and hymns we can listen to and sing, knowing somewhere, someone is singing with us.

**Lord in your mercy hear our prayer**

We pray for our local community and for the support we can give each other. In particular the residents of Florida Terrace and Wishford Mews.

**Lord in your mercy hear our prayer**

Good shepherd, you gave your life for us. Help us to follow in your footsteps and do what we can to recover the stragglers, care for the sick and comfort those in need. We thank you for all those risking themselves for others at this time. For all our key workers, whether they are health workers, police, delivery drivers or those working in shops. May they be recognised as such always and may we and those with influence, be guided in future decisions with these people in mind.

**Lord in your mercy hear our prayer**

We pray for those who are sick. For their families and friends concerned about them and for those caring for them. May they all feel your healing presence. We pray particularly for:

Rachael Macfarlane, Rhoda, David, Evan & Annie Dwyer, Judy Flook, Miranda Cooper, Rose Stenner, Paul & Margaret Knott, Eric Mitchard, Irene Leet, Faye McDermott, Anne Hatton, Rob & Glyn Gilliland, Gerrard Monks, Trevor & Elizabeth Bell, Fr Roy Boots, Nicholas Hambleton, Mary Hickmott, Helen Plummer & Daniel Plummer.

**Lord in your mercy hear our prayer**

We pray for those who have followed you to Heaven, whether recently or years ago. We pray especially for those who have died in the recent weeks due to the coronavirus. May they be remembered as more than just a daily statistic. Bring comfort to those that love them and are mourning particularly those who were unable to be with them at the end and grieve and say goodbye as they would wish to.

**Lord in your mercy hear our prayer**

We pray for our years mind:

**Years Mind:-** (S) Albert Boots, Vera Purnell (M) Rita Hughes, Francis Spooner, George Chiswell (T) Ruth Gregory, Sarah Carpenter (W) Eric Turnbull, Clarice Hughes (T) Mildred Gulliford, Gladys Smith (S) Bernard Wright.

May they be resting in peace in the faith of knowing the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Lord in your mercy hear our prayer**

And so rejoicing in the fellowship of Mary, John and all the saints, we commend ourselves and the whole of creation to your unfailing love.

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen**