

**ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH**  
**READINGS FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025**  
**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**THE COLLECT**

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**THE FIRST READING: ACTS 5: 27-32**

***The Sanhedrin has ordered Peter and John not to go on preaching the Good News, but they have continued to do so. Arrested a second time, they have escaped from prison with God's help. The temple police have picked them up, and now bring them before the Sanhedrin again.***

***A Reading from the Word of God, written in the Book of Acts, Chapter 5, beginning at the twenty-seventh verse.***

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this

name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

### **The Word of the Lord**

***The people:*** *Thanks be to God.*

## **PSALM 150**

***A song of praise and rejoicing in which all that has breath is invited to join.***

1. Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy temple; \*  
praise him in the firmament of his power.
2. Praise him for his mighty acts; \*  
praise him for his excellent greatness.
3. Praise him with the blast of the ram' s-horn; \*  
praise him with lyre and harp.
4. Praise him with timbrel and dance; \*  
praise him with strings and pipe.
5. Praise him with resounding cymbals; \*  
praise him with loudclanging cymbals.
6. Let everything that has breath\*

praise the Lord. Hallelujah!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son:\*  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now:\*  
and shall be forever. **Amen.**

**OR**

**PSALM 118: 14 - 29**

***A festival hymn sung in procession in praise of the Lord's salvation and deliverance from death.***

14. The LORD is my strength and my song, \*  
and he has become my salvation.
15. There is a sound of exultation and victory \*  
in the tents of the righteous:
16. "The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! \*  
the right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!"
17. I shall not die, but live, \*  
and declare the works of the LORD.
18. The LORD has punished me sorely, \*  
but he did not hand me over to death.

19. Open for me the gates of righteousness; \*  
I will enter them;  
I will offer thanks to the LORD.
20. "This is the gate of the LORD; \*  
he who is righteous may enter."
21. I will give thanks to you, for you answered me \*  
and have become my salvation.
22. The same stone which the builders rejected \*  
has become the chief cornerstone.
23. This is the LORD'S doing, \*  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
24. On this day the LORD has acted; \*  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
25. Hosanna, LORD, hosanna! \*  
LORD, send us now success.
26. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; \*  
we bless you from the house of the LORD.
27. God is the LORD; he has shined upon us; \*  
form a procession with branches up to the horns of  
the altar.
28. "You are my God, and I will thank you; \*  
you are my God, and I will exalt you."
29. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; \*  
his mercy endures for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son: \*  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now: \*  
and shall be forever. **Amen.**

## **THE SECOND READING: REVELATION 1: 4-8**

***John begins and ends this book as a letter. Literally, it is “to the seven churches of Asia” , that is, of the Roman province in western Asia Minor, but “seven” symbolizes totality, so John may speak to all churches in the province, or to all churches, everywhere.***

***A Reading from the Word of God, written in the Revelation to John, Chapter 1, beginning at the fourth verse.***

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

**The Word of the Lord**

***The people: Thanks be to God.***

## **THE GOSPEL - JOHN 20:19-31**

***Early on Easter Day, Mary Magdalene has recognized a man standing near the tomb as Jesus. She has told the disciples: "I have seen the Lord." The disciples fear that they may suffer the same fate as their master.***

***Gospeler: The Lord be with you***

***All: And also with you***

***Gospeler: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.***

***All: Glory to Christ Our Saviour.***

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." 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.

**This is the Gospel of Christ**  
***The people: Praise to Christ our Lord.***