

DAY 19: TUESDAY OF EASTER WEEK – Low Week

Opening Prayer

Almighty and everlasting Father
you have safely brought us to the beginning of another day:
defend us by your mighty power
that we may be kept free from all sin
and safe from every danger
and enable us this day to do
only what is right in your eyes;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Scripture Readings: Acts 2:36-41; Psalm 33:1-5, 17-21; John 20:11-18

Today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles is a continuation of yesterday's reading and in it we see Peter still teaching the crowd who had gathered around him. So moved are they by his personal testimony that they believe in his message and in Christ as their Risen Lord and Saviour. Peter begins by telling the people how they had put to death the promised Messiah. That day, we are told, about 3,000 people converted to Christianity. Today's gospel text is a further telling of the Resurrection, this time from St John's Gospel. Here we see Christ talking to Mary Magdalene and telling her to tell the disciples that he has risen and is preparing to ascend to the Father, who is also our Father. Mary goes back to the disciples and tells them: *"I have seen the Lord!"* with these words Mary Magdalene introduces to them the concept of the resurrection. But it is more than that, she is testifying about her own encounter with Jesus Christ. It is the same as with Peter testifying to the crowd speaking about the Risen Christ and introduces him as the Saviour and Lord. As a messenger of the Risen Christ, Mary *"told them that he said these things to her."* (John 20:18b). In the Acts reading Peter gives a long testimony about Christ, relating to the crowd what the prophets said about him and in that way opening their hearts and minds to the gospel – that Jesus of Nazareth whom they had crucified is both Lord and Christ! As a messenger we must always be true to the message and the One who gives the message.

Concluding Prayer

"But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him,
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,
to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.
We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.
In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name." Amen (Psalm 33:18-21)

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all for ever. Amen**