

THE FIRST READING IS FROM THE ACTS OF THE  
APOSTLES

After Jesus was taken up into heaven the Apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers and sisters.

*The word of the Lord*

THE RESPONSE TO THE PSALM IS

*I believe I shall see the LORD'S goodness in the land of the living.*

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
whom should I dread?

*I believe I shall see the LORD'S goodness in the land of the living.*

There is one thing I ask of the LORD,  
only this do I seek: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my  
life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD, to enquire at his temple.

*I believe I shall see the LORD'S goodness in the land of the living.*

O LORD, hear my voice when I call;

have mercy and answer me.

Of you my heart has spoken,

‘Seek his face.’

*I believe I shall see the LORD’S goodness in the land of the living.*

THE SECOND READING IS FROM THE FIRST LETTER  
OF PETER

Beloved: Rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an evildoer, or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

*THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*

Alleluia, alleluia.

I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord.

I am going away and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

Alleluia.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING  
TO JOHN

At that time: Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all

whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

‘I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.’

## REFLECTION

I begin to understand the agony of trying to get a Taylor Swift concert ticket when in mid-May booking opens for the Proms concerts. It's a season of 50 concerts but as well as the last night many sell out two hours after the box office opens. You are given a place in the queue and wait until something happens and hope not to be distracted. 8275 was not a bad place. I only had to wait for 90 minutes.

Waiting must have bothered the disciples, the Lord Jesus had died, risen from the dead and now ascended into heaven. Was that it? Peter and the fishermen had discussed going back to fishing. The promised Holy Spirit wasn't coming. God had glorified his Son, was this the end of the story, to tell children and grandchildren

Waiting for the 1982 London marathon to start we were near the start, all 3,000 of us. But when would the klaxon go? Some had injured themselves already doing warm up exercises.

One great challenge to us is to wait, God will help us on our way and strengthen our faith and confidence but at times he seems very slow and there are obstacles in the way.

Great Saints have written in their private notes that they had difficult moments too. Their response was always to keep going, not to let the difficulties grind them down because there will be moments of light

when it does all come together. A strange sense of peace came over me when I was in hospital and was visited by 4 of the elderly ladies, the old biddies. They had a sure certainty, don't lose the faith was their message, they were sympathetic and worried about me but did not doubt themselves after a long life of ups and downs.

If we look around we can see goodness, people doing extra to make others happy and their belief strengthens as they do more. Our faith is both heart and minds, they affect each other, it's a role and responsibility to keep alive by trying, learning and doing to build and keep the faith.

