

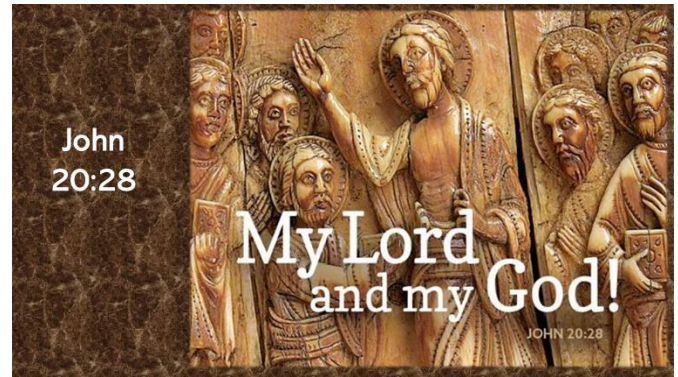
## The Readings on This Day

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## The Readings on This Day

### Second Sunday of Easter

The church keeps Easter for eight Sundays. Early Christians referred to Sunday as the eighth day, as if the extraordinary day of the resurrection could not fit within the normal week of seven days. The resurrection begins a new recording of time. The fifty days culminate at Pentecost. Each Sunday, individually and communally, we meet the risen Christ in word and sacrament.



### [Acts 5:27-32](#)

Throughout the Sundays of the fifty days of Easter, passages from Acts proclaim the ongoing power of Christ's resurrection, which is not a single day's event, but is the continuing power of God in the believing community. In this excerpt, the believers continue the ministry of Christ by testifying publicly to his death and resurrection with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

### The Psalm for the Day

Having heard Peter's testimony to his faith in Christ's resurrection, we join to sing [Psalm 118:14-29](#), which continues the psalm sung on Easter Day. As contemporary Christians, we sing an ancient battle song, in which the resurrection is the Lord's victory. Christ is the cornerstone; "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord," we cry out here and at the Lord's table; so we continue the joyous Easter procession. An option is [Psalm 150](#), in which our song of praise is accompanied by many musical instruments. We can think of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, and drum of Nebuchadnezzar's court now praising the risen Christ.

### [Revelation 1:4-8](#)

During the fifty days of Easter in year C, the second readings are exultant passages from the book of Revelation. It is as if in the resurrection of Christ, we all are already gathered around the heavenly throne with all the saints and angels to praise the victory of the Lamb. Yet at the same time, we look forward to the end of time, when the agonies described in Revelation will be no more, for believers will follow Christ to be born again from the dead. This creedal excerpt sets the stage for the subsequent six selections.

### [John 20:19-31](#)

The church continues the pattern alluded to in John's gospel, of assembling on the first day of the week to receive the Spirit of the cross and resurrection and to exchange the peace of Christ. As we expect of John, the narrative in chapter 20 testifies to the identity of Christ as Lord and God.

For Christians, to touch Christ is to touch God, and we do this in the flesh of our neighbor's hand at the peace and with the bread of Christ in our palm at communion.