

A few words on the readings Easter 3 18-04-2021

Zephaniah 3:4-end Zephaniah was writing in the 7th century BC warning of God's judgement for those who strayed from his ways but ending his prophecy with this joyful message of God's salvation and restoration. *Sing aloud Daughter of Zion. Rejoice and exult with all your heart.*

Acts 3:12-19 Peter and John had just healed a lame man at the gate to the temple causing great astonishment and commotion amongst the people gathered there. Peter therefore tells the crowd that the man was healed in the name of Jesus. He seizes this opportunity to explain the Passion and how Jesus had brought new life to the man they knew to be lame, calling on them to have faith in Jesus and to turn to God.

1 John 3: 1-7 John stresses that God's love towards us makes us his children. Three things follow from that: We need to break away from sin, to have hope in Christ's salvation and to try to live pure lives. *Beloved, we are God's children now.*

Luke 24:36b-48 In his account of Jesus' appearance to the disciples Luke stresses the physical aspects of Jesus resurrection. He is no ghost. The disciples are first of all frightened but are then convinced. Jesus uses words of the Old Testament to explain his resurrection and gives them the commission of bearing witness to him and preaching the Gospel of repentance. **This is our commission today.**