

1 Peter 1:3-9^{iv}

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

^{iv} About the Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Throughout the Easter season, the second reading is taken from 1 Peter, written to the Christians of Asia Minor who were facing persecution for their faith. The bulk of 1 Peter is not like a letter in form or style, but more like a sermon given at a baptism. Some have even suggested that it is the text for the Easter baptismal liturgy.

Today's reading is a prayer of thanksgiving for God's opening to believers a rebirth and new life through the resurrection of Jesus. This life is lived in the hope of an inheritance kept in heaven (v. 4). The Christian is guarded now even in trial, sustained by the faith of those who have not seen.