

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



Blessed, Broken, Shared

Generous God,
you who have given your people so
many blessings:
who saved them from a life of slavery
in Egypt,
and who blessed them with a land flowing
with milk and honey;
You walked with your disciples on the
paths they chose,
and blessed them with bread and fish;
Bless us this day as we yearn to find you
along the way,
and strive to know you in strangers
and Scripture,
in shared meals and broken bread.
May our hearts burn with your love
and may our generous spirits be unleashed
for others
who also seek to know you.
We ask this through your Son and our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

April 30, 2017

Recognizing Christ

Today's Readings: Acts 2:14, 22–33; Psalm 16:1–2, 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11; 1 Peter 1:17–21; Luke 24:13–35. After encountering a stranger, two disciples have a conversion of heart. As impossible as that may seem to be on the surface, the Gospel today is full of the newly possible. Not recognizing the Risen Christ is the first impossibility. Most of us are quick to judge by appearances. Who is this stranger? Why is this person whom I do not know approaching me? If Christ were to come to me today, what would he look like? That is the question we must ask if we are to believe that Christ is alive and present in the world.

The second impossibility is the topic of conversation. Purposefully fleeing Jerusalem, two disciples are committed to hiking to Emmaus, just beyond the reach of Jerusalem's influence. Yet the topic begins with them laying out their

concerns to this stranger: the disbelief that Jesus, one of their own, has been killed and, then even more unbelievable, perhaps risen from the dead. It is all too confusing. Yet this stranger, chiding them for their foolishness, walks the distance with them, teaching them and revealing hidden truths to them. Later they confess that their hearts were burning within them on the road.

However, the final action—the sacramental moment for the two—is Jesus taking bread, blessing it, breaking it, and sharing it with them. This is the moment of revelation for them: knowing Jesus through the breaking of the bread and all that that implies. We, too, find our way to moments of knowing Jesus: in the least of the strangers we encounter, in others opening up the meaning of Scripture and faith for us, and in the blessing and breaking of bread.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 1

See the Glory of God

We hear in today's Gospel, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." During this Easter Time, you might reflect the joy of your belief in your surroundings. Water your flowers and open the blinds! Let in the sunlight, lighten your spaces where you live and work. How is the Easter season celebrated visually in your parish, in your home, in your life? It is not enough to sing alleluia, although it is necessary. Does your face reflect the joy of the season? *Today's Readings: Acts 6:8–15; Psalm 119:23–24, 26–27, 29–30; John 6:22–29.*

Tuesday, May 2

St. Athanasius

When the Apostles look for a sign, they tell Jesus of the manna that was sent to their ancestors in the desert. Jesus tells them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." During this Easter season, we have time to take these words to heart. How do we take in and share the bread of life that we are given in Christ? *Today's Readings: Acts 7:51–8:1a; Psalm 31:3cd–4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab; John 6:30–35.*

Wednesday, May 3

Sts. Philip and James, Apostles

In the middle of the Easter season, it is appropriate to remember the Twelve, who were witnesses of Jesus' years of ministry, as well as his Passion, Death, and Resurrection. From their witness, they proclaimed to their death the meaning of the Paschal Mystery. The Apostles' lives are both a reminder and an invitation for us to continue to live and witness to that same mystery. *Today's Readings: 1 Corinthians 15:1–8; Psalm 19:2–3, 4–5; John 14:6–14.*

Thursday, May 4

Baptism Offered for All

When Philip baptizes the eunuch in today's passage from the Acts of the Apostles, we know that this adds meaning to the universality of Baptism in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Sacrament of Baptism continues to root all Christians in the fullness of life in the Trinity. As you make the Sign of the Cross today, call to mind all the baptized, who share in your faith and calling. *Today's Readings: Acts 8:26–40; Psalm 66:8–9, 16–17, 20; John 6:44–51.*

Friday, May 5

Sharing in the Paschal Mystery

The Eucharist proclaims a sharing in Christ's Body and Blood, and also a sharing in Christ's Death and Resurrection. When we partake of the Eucharist, we are gaining life everlasting. It is only when we fully enter into the mystery of Christ, as did Paul in today's First Reading, that we can be nourished enough to go out into the world and "proclaim Jesus." *Today's Readings: Acts 9:1–20; Psalm 117:1bc, 2; John 6:52–59.*

Saturday, May 6

Everlasting Life

The belief that Jesus is the "Holy One of God," prompts Peter to proclaim not only his belief and loyalty to Jesus. Peter is all in. He states that he could not turn his back on Jesus, since he is God. To whom else could he possibly turn? It is only through Jesus that we have the holiness of God. revealed completely. He has the words of everlasting life. *Today's Readings: Acts 9:31–42; Psalm 116:12–13, 14–15, 16–17; John 6:60–69.*

