

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



It Is the Lord!

Lord Jesus,
you are the source of all hope.
When the disciples had fished all night
only to find empty nets,
you provided a bountiful yield.
May we turn to you
in the Eucharist,
where you continue to feed us.
Help us to recognize
your presence among us
in both the Breaking of the Bread
and one another.
You live and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, May 5, 2019

Feed My Lambs



Today's Readings: Acts 5:27–32, 40b–41; Psalm 30:2, 4, 5–6, 11–12, 13; Revelation 5:11–14; John 21:1–19. In today's Gospel, we hear that Jesus filled the nets of the disciples to overflowing and then cooked them breakfast. The Apostles may well have wondered how any of this could be happening to them. First, after having yielded nothing all night, their net is overflowing, and then the Lord has prepared breakfast for them.

At this third appearance to the disciples, Jesus calls them to their mission. Having shown his love for them with the bounty of fish, he seeks a statement of love from Peter. Each time Peter declares his love, Jesus responds with an

instruction. Only a week ago, Peter had denied Jesus, now he affirms his love and is told, "Feed my sheep." Before Jesus returns to the Father, he makes sure that his people will receive care. Jesus' use of the word "my" three times portrays his relationship to those he leaves behind.

The Gospel reading begins with Peter leading the disciples to return to the work of fishing. By the end of the reading, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, invites Peter to take on the role as shepherd and tend to the needs of the sheep. Jesus has portrayed his unending love through the bountiful catch of fish. Now he calls Peter and the others to service. Just as when the Apostles were first called, he says, "Follow me."



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 6 A Blameless Life

“Happy are those of blameless life.” This refrain from today’s Responsorial Psalm certainly applies to St. Stephen. In the Acts of the Apostles, we find that the first martyr is filled with wisdom, grace, and power. As others gave false testimony intended to dishonor him, his face seemed like that of an angel. Could Stephen’s face have reflected his close relationship with the Risen Lord? Is the peace of knowing God visible in your life? *Today’s Readings: Acts 6:8–15; Psalm 119:23–24, 26–27, 29–30; John 6:22–29.*

Tuesday, May 7 Bread of Life

In today’s Gospel, Jesus responds to the request for a sign by attributing the Father with “the bread of heaven.” When the crowd seeks a lifetime supply of this bread, Jesus tells them to believe. What do you hunger and thirst for today? It is in Jesus that all hunger and thirst will be satisfied; he will meet all of our needs. Have you taken your deepest needs to him in prayer? *Today’s Readings: Acts 7:51–8:1; Psalm 31:3–4, 6, 7, 8, 17, 21; John 6:30–35.*

Wednesday, May 8 Longing for God

Jesus tells the crowds that he will fill their hungers and thirsts. Children have a deep desire and capacity to be in a loving relationship. It is their deepest need, and when it is met, it is their greatest joy. Ann Garrido writes that because a child’s capacity for relationship is so large, it is difficult to satisfy. In *Mustard Seed Preaching*, she states, “For, only in God, does the child’s need and capacity fully meet its match.” What are you longing for? Do you long for God just as you long for your best friend? *Today’s Readings: Acts 8:1b–8; Psalm 66:1–3, 4–5, 6–7; John 6:35–40.*

Thursday, May 9 Gather a People to Yourself

Jesus says that only those whom the Father sends will be drawn to him. We also hear how God initiates relationships during the Eucharist Prayer. In Eucharistic Prayer III, the priest prays, “From age to age you gather a people to yourself, so that from east to west a perfect offering may be made to the glory of your name.” What is your story of God drawing you to him? How would you describe God gathering a people to himself? *Today’s Readings: Acts 8:26–40; Psalm 66:8–9, 16–17, 20; John 6:44–51.*

Friday, May 10 Christ’s Presence Today

Today’s Gospel is from the “Bread of Life” discourse in John’s account of the Gospel. Here, Jesus tells his followers that eternal life is granted to those who eat his flesh and drink his blood. Where do you find Christ’s presence in your life? Christ can be encountered in his Word, in the assembly gathered at liturgy, and in his Body and Blood. Allow yourself the gift of time with the Lord at Mass and in Eucharistic adoration. Be sure to seek him in the face of the poor, the homeless, and the struggling. *Today’s Readings: Acts 9:1–20; Psalm 117:1, 2; John 6:52–59.*

Saturday, May 11 Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?

When many of the disciples return to their former way of life, Jesus asks the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?” Peter makes a declaration of faith, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” Have you ever had doubts about Jesus? Pray for those in your family or parish community who no longer practice the faith or profess to follow Jesus. *Today’s Readings: Acts 9:31–42; Psalm 116:12–13, 14–15, 16–17; John 6:60–69.*

