

# THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



## Stay with Us

Lord of Glory, Risen One,  
you have begun to recreate our world.  
Stay with us  
when we feel sorrow and need  
your consolation.  
Stay with us  
when we need your wisdom and guidance,  
and when we study and reflect on your Word.  
Stay with us

when we gather at table  
to meet you and one another in fellowship  
and love.  
And stay with us, Lord,  
as we go forth to tell others  
that you are with us always,  
and that you want us always to be with you.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 26, 2020

Persuading

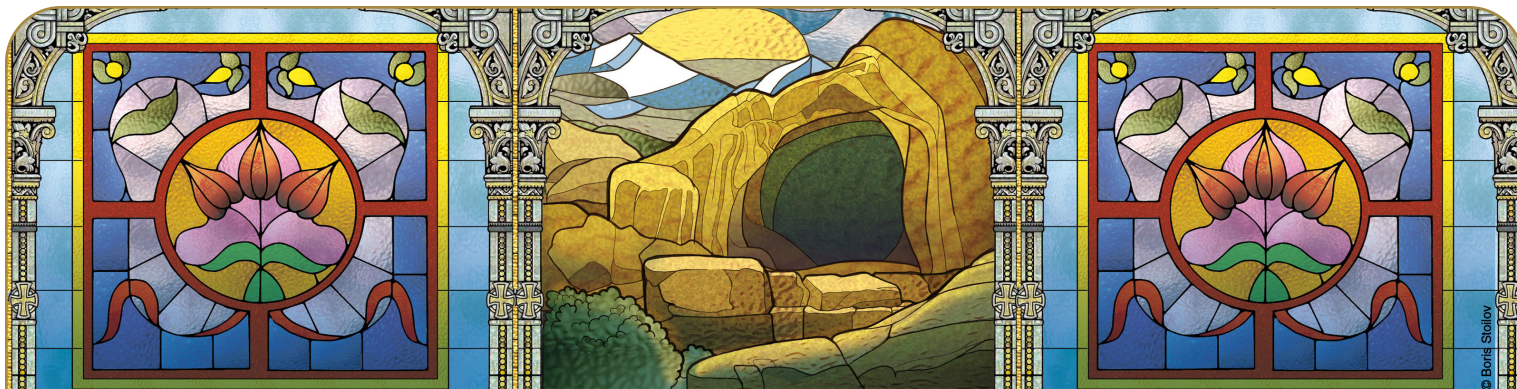


*Today's Readings: Acts 2:14, 22–33; Psalm 16:1–2, 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11 (11a); 1 Peter 1:17–21; Luke 24:13–35.* When the Risen Christ appears to the disciples who are leaving Jerusalem, he gets them talking—about his ministry, crucifixion, and even the reports that he was alive. He then helps them to interpret these events with reference to their shared Scriptures, which we call the Old Testament. With their hope renewed, Christ then breaks bread with them, and they finally recognize him and understand that Christ is in communion with them.

In his speech in Acts, Peter uses different techniques to persuade his hearers of the truth of what he says. He appeals to what they themselves witnessed during the min-

istry of Jesus. He quotes the Scriptures and what they know about King David. He speaks of his encounter with the Risen Lord. Finally, he refers back to the unmistakable presence of God's Spirit, which is enabling Jews of every language to understand his words.

The Second Reading tells us what we already know and believe about Jesus, but in language that is rich and eloquent, thereby reinvigorating our faith. We might not be as eloquent as St. Peter, but there are other ways to persuade people of the life-giving power of the cross. By conducting ourselves “with reverence” and following the guidance of God's Spirit, we will open people's eyes to the presence of the Risen Christ.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, April 27

#### Signs

When the people ask Jesus how to do God's will, Jesus tells them to believe that God sent him. In Acts, we hear how Stephen so utterly believed in Jesus that he shared Christ's power to work "great wonders and signs." Such signs were meant to help people believe that God sent Jesus for the salvation of the world, but many people struggled to accept the meaning of the signs as well as Jesus' identity. Read John 6:1–15 and reflect on all that this sign means. *Today's Readings: Acts 6:8–15; Psalm 119:23–24, 26–27, 29–30; John 6:22–29.*

### Tuesday, April 28

#### Always

After eating the bread that Jesus gave them, the crowd asks to have "this bread always." Jesus clarifies that he himself is their bread—and those who believe in him will have this bread always. Even during death, a death that resembled Jesus', the apostle Stephen experiences the enduring presence of Christ. In what ways have you seen that Christ is always with you? *Today's Readings: Acts 7:51–8:1a; Psalm 31:3cd–4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab; John 6:30–35.*

### Wednesday, April 29

#### St. Catherine of Siena

Jesus declares that he will welcome everyone who seeks him, for God wills that people find life through his Son. The Samaritans find life in the Son because of Philip, who preaches, expels demons, and heals people in their midst. St. Catherine, who also wanted Christ to have all that his Father entrusted to him, passionately and persistently advocated for reforms within the Church. Her work was quite different from Philip's, but both labored in fidelity to Christ and his Father. Learn a little more about St. Catherine of Siena today. *Today's Readings: Acts 8:1b–8; Psalm 66:1–3a, 4–5, 6–7a; John 6:35–40.*

### Thursday, April 30

#### Drawn by God

Before Jesus, God revealed himself in events, through the prophets, and in his laws. Now God draws people through the fullest revelation of himself possible: his Son. The man in the passage from Acts first encounters God through the prophet Isaiah. When Philip, led by the Holy Spirit, explains the meaning of the text and tells him about Jesus, the man believes and is baptized. We cannot know God all by ourselves. Thank someone today who helped draw you to God. *Today's Readings: Acts 8:26–40; Psalm 66:8–9, 16–17, 20; John 6:44–51.*

### Friday, May 1

#### Seeing and Believing

When Jesus continued talking about how he is the bread of life, people became more resistant to his claims. Saul rejected Jesus' claims so completely that he attacked Jesus' followers. Then Saul had an encounter with Jesus that left him as physically blind as he was spiritually blind. Saul, now St. Paul, only recovered his sight when he accepted that Jesus truly did come from heaven, sent by his Father. How have you failed to see Christ? What helped you to see him? *Today's Readings: Acts 9:1–20; Psalm 117:1bc, 2; John 6:52–59.*

### Saturday, May 2

#### St. Athanasius

When others turn away from Jesus, Peter remains, saying that Jesus has "the words of eternal life." Filled with faith in Christ, Peter later heals people and even raises a woman from the dead. During the fourth century, people vigorously debated whether Jesus was truly one with his Father. St. Athanasius insisted that he was, because only then would God have fully revealed himself and his saving love for the life of the world. Reflect on and pray with the words of the Nicene Creed. *Today's Readings: Acts 9:31–42; Psalm 116:12–13, 14–15, 16–17; John 6:60–69.*

