

Sunday Message

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year C • 4th May 2025 • Psalter Week 3

JESUS AND THE MIRACULOUS CATCH OF FISH

JOHN 21: 1-19

After the crucifixion of Jesus, Peter and the disciples return to their old trade of fishing. Jesus's death had struck a blow to their confidence and any sense that they had a mission to carry out was gone.

Their hopes went into the tomb with Jesus and they returned to their old familiar ways. After a long night's fishing, they catch nothing and a figure in the distance, speaking from the shoreline, tells them to try again. They catch a huge haul of fish and the scene is automatically filled with hope once again. It is the disciple who knows him the best, the beloved disciple, who recognises that this figure is Jesus and they sit with him and have a meal. After the meal, Jesus asks Peter three times about the reality of his love. Three times Peter affirms his love. With this profession of faith and love from Peter, Jesus commissions him to care for his flock. ■

REFLECT

The meeting with Jesus beside the lakeshore can be seen as the story of Peter's repentance and restoration. Others prefer to see it as his Confession, or declaration of faith. His repeated answer "Yes, Lord!" is surely a declaration of love and loyalty. This is really a story about the transformation of Peter and it all happens through the lens of love. His love of Jesus Christ transforms his life. Now which kind of love are we talking about in this Gospel? The great writer CS Lewis, wrote a book called *The Four Loves*:

The first one is the love of affection, the quiet liking you might feel for a cheerful neighbour whom you meet from time to time. Then there is sensual love, the love that unites a couple in a relationship or marriage. The third kind of love is often associated with friendship, a trusting companionship with people with whom we share some real interest. Finally there's Agapé love, which means generous, self-giving love, which we value even when there is nothing tangible to be gained.

In this meeting beside the lake, Peter was not the boastful man who thought he was better than the other disciples but a wiser, humbler heart that would not claim more than he can deliver. What Peter said was, "I love you, Lord; help my lack of love." In our own lives, our lack of love or lack of belief can affect our relationship with Jesus Christ. On this third Sunday of Easter, we join with Peter at the Lakeshore and say, 'I love you Lord. Help my unbelief.' ■

DO

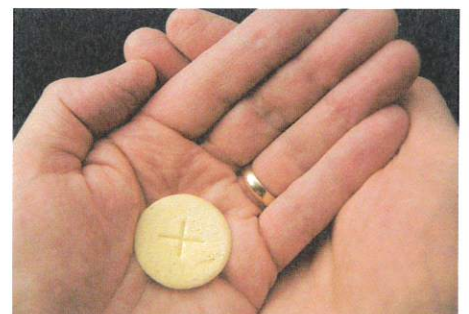
Organise a meeting of your parish pastoral council and reflect on how your faith community responds to the needs of people on the margins of society.

SAY

The Lord makes us capable of fulfilling the works of faith. He gives us the strength to act and to serve with a love which is permeated with his mercy.

LEARN

'The joy of Easter can be nurtured by encountering the Risen One in the Eucharist.'
(Pope Francis)



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.*

COLLECT

May your people exult for ever, O God,
in renewed youthfulness of spirit,
so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption,
we may look forward in confident hope
to the rejoicing of the day of Resurrection.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Acts 5:27b-32. 40b-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In those days: The high priest questioned the Apostles, saying, 'We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.' But Peter and the Apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.'

Having called in the Apostles, the council beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonour for the name.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 30(29):2. 4. 5-6. 11. 12a. 13b. R. 2a

R: I will extol you, LORD, for you have raised me up.

1. I will extol you, LORD, for you have raised me up,
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O LORD, you have lifted up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from those who sink into the pit. **R.**
2. Sing psalms to the LORD, you faithful ones;
give thanks to his holy name.
His anger lasts a moment; his favour all through life.
At night come tears, but dawn brings joy. **R.**
3. Hear, O LORD, and have mercy on me;
be my helper, O LORD.
You have changed my mourning into dancing.
O LORD my God, I will thank you for ever. **R.**

SECOND READING Revelation 5:11-14

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

I, John looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!' And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, 'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever!' And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' and the elders fell down and worshipped.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ is risen, who created all things
and has shown compassion on the human race.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL John 21:1-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

(For shorter form read between > <)

>At that time: Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, do you have any fish?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred metres off.

When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. <

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' He said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' He said to him a second time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' He said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' and he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.' (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, we pray,
these offerings of your exultant Church,
and, as you have given her cause for such great gladness,
grant also that the gifts we bring
may bear fruit in perpetual happiness.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*Jesus said to his disciples: Come and eat.
And he took bread and gave it to them, alleluia.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord,
and grant, we pray,
that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries
may attain in their flesh
the incorruptible glory of the Resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.