

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

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,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 5:27-32,40-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The high priest demanded an explanation of the apostles. “We gave you a formal warning,” he said “not to preach in this name, and what have you done? You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and seem determined to fix the guilt of this man’s death on us.” In reply Peter and the apostles said, “Obedience to God comes before obedience to men; it was the God of our ancestors who raised up Jesus, but it was you who had him executed by hanging on a tree. By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins through him to Israel. We are witnesses to all this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.” They warned the apostles not to speak in the name of Jesus and released them. And so they left the presence of the Sanhedrin glad to have had the honour of suffering humiliation for the sake of the name.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 29

Response:

I will praise you, Lord,
you have rescued me.
or
Alleluia!

1. I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead,

restored me to life from those who sink into the grave. (R.)

2. Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him,
give thanks to his holy name.
His anger lasts but a moment; his favour through life.
At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn. (R.)
3. The Lord listened and had pity.
The Lord came to my help.
For me you have changed my mourning into dancing;
O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever. (R.)

SECOND READING

Apoc 5:11-14

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

In my vision, I, John, heard the sound of an immense number of angels gathered round the throne and the animals and the elders; there were ten thousand times ten thousand of them and thousands upon thousands, shouting, “The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing.” Then I heard all the living things in creation – everything that lives in the air and on the ground, and under the ground, and in the sea, crying, “To the One who is sitting on the throne and to the Lamb, be all praise, honour, glory and power, for ever and ever.” And the four animals said, “Amen”; and the elders prostrated themselves to worship.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us.

Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 21:1-19

(For shorter form, read between > <)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

>Jesus showed himself again to the disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, “I’m going fishing.” They replied, “We’ll come with you.” They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night.

It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, “Have you caught anything, friends?” And when they answered, “No”, he said, “Throw the net out to starboard and you’ll find something.” So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in. The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord.” At these words “It is the Lord”, Simon Peter, who had practically nothing on, wrapped his cloak round him and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net and the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land.

As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread there, and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.”

Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples were bold enough to ask, “Who are you?”; they knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead.<

After the meal Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?” He answered, “Yes Lord, you know I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He replied “Yes, Lord, you know I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Look after my sheep.’ Then he said to him a third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was upset that he asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” and said, “Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

“I tell you most solemnly, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go.”

In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, “Follow me.”

>The Gospel of the Lord.<

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

(all bow during the next two lines)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
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.

5 MAY 2019

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 3

THE TURNING POINT

(JOHN 21:1-19)

The full Gospel passage for today falls into two main sections: the appearance of Jesus to seven disciples in Galilee with the miraculous catch of fish and the meal, then the reconciliation with Peter after his denials.

This material has been added by the final editor of the Gospel, and we may find it puzzling that the attitude of Peter and the other disciples suggests that they are unaware that Jesus is risen and have returned to their old haunts and occupation. It is the overwhelming size of the catch at the word of Jesus, after a night of fruitless toil, which leads the Beloved Disciple to realise that *It is the Lord*. The impulsive Peter leaps out of the boat to reach Jesus, just as he had raced to the tomb on hearing that it was empty. The fourth evangelist gives Peter a certain priority as the leader of the disciples, but it is the disciple whom Jesus loved who is the more perceptive because of his intimate relationship with the Lord. The catch of fish may well symbolise the bringing of people to Jesus, just as he would draw all women and men to himself on the cross. The net which is not torn is often regarded as a symbol of the church, which can contain all sorts of individuals without being torn apart: this recalls Jesus’ robe not being divided at Calvary.

The mention of Jesus taking and giving bread to the disciples suggests his ongoing presence in the Eucharist: that he continues to be *the bread of life* for them and for ourselves. This is one of the ways in which he sustains his disciples until he comes again. ■

REFLECT

In some churches, on June 29, the Feast of Peter and Paul, the statue of Saint Peter is decorated with a red cope and a papal tiara. However, we might reflect that the scene in today’s Gospel shows Simon Peter at his rock-bottom. He has failed the crucial test and his life is in ruins. His decision to go fishing has all the hallmarks of someone who is trying to fill in their time, to do anything to take their mind off their plight for which they are mainly responsible. But this situation of hopelessness and shame after his denying three times that he even knew

Jesus is the very turning-point for Peter. Whatever his past regrets and self-reproaches, the exclamation of his companion that *It is the Lord* causes him to jump out of the boat in his haste to reach his friend and master.

This encounter with the risen Lord puts everything into perspective and allows Peter to move on with his life and mission. It is only when he stands before Jesus, not in any robes of office but only in his fishing-smock and faces up to who he really is that he becomes a worthy leader of the disciples. In this, he is a lesson for us all. ■

SAY

Lord, teach me your ways.

LEARN

Today’s Gospel passage is known as *The Johannine Appendix*: it is a very early addition to the original narrative.

The *charcoal fire* recalls the scene in which Peter denies that he knows Jesus.

Peter’s three-fold profession of love for Jesus cancels out his earlier three-fold denial.

DO

Notice how many people there are in your area whose lives have fallen apart like Peter’s. See how you might help by contributing to a food bank or other centre: better still, ask if you can do something, because what many people really need is someone to listen to them.

