

Third Sunday of Easter - Yr. C

[Reading I: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41](#)

[Responsorial Psalm: 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13](#)

[Reading II: Revelation 5:11-14](#)

[Gospel: John 21:1-19 or 21:1-14](#)

Readings may be found on the US Bishop's website:

[Third Sunday of Easter | USCCB](#)



Jesus on the shore

In Chapter 4, the Apostles had been ordered not to speak any more about Jesus by the Sanhedrin. (The Sanhedrin was the authoritative body in Judaism and was composed of the Chief Priests, leaders of the Sadducees and the Pharisees, and scholars of the Law.) The Apostles did not accept this and continued preaching. Earlier in Chapter 5, they had been arrested and imprisoned by the Sanhedrin but an angel let them out and they returned to their preaching. They were again brought before the Sanhedrin in our passage from Acts today.

The Apostles respond with one of the guiding principles of Christians facing persecution: "We must obey God rather than men." They then proclaim a part of the basic Christian message that God has raised Jesus whom the Sanhedrin had killed.

One striking element is their reliance on the Holy Spirit. They declare that they are witnesses to this fact and so is the Holy Spirit. They are confident in the truth that they proclaim because they know it is in harmony with the Spirit that God gave them. They understand that the inconvenience that they have experienced through the suffering and death of Jesus. Thus, they are proud to be following in the way of Christ.

The Book of Revelation presents an image of God's throne room. Before God, the angels, the elders (humans who had served God, and all living creatures offered praise to the Lamb (Jesus). Then all of creation sang to God (one who sits on the throne) and the Lamb. The heavenly bodies then worshiped.

Two elements are important. Jesus as the lamb connects his sacrificial death to the Passover lamb who had died so that the lives of the people of Israel might be saved and brought to freedom. Christ was addressed as the Paschal Lamb in Paul's letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor 5: 7) John the Baptist also refers to Jesus as the Lamb of God. (Jn 1:36) Secondly, vision also presents Jesus as God. The one on the throne and the Lamb receive the same praise and honor. Jesus is God.

The Gospel passage has three parts, the catch of fish, Jesus sharing a meal with the disciples and the dialogue with Peter. The catch of fish points to the mission of the church. They are to go out and at God's direction gather in a vast number of people from every place, symbolized by the number, 153.

As in Luke where the disciples recognize Jesus at a meal, Jesus is present for a meal with the disciples. When Jesus was previously at the lake, he fed the multitude and commanded them to eat the bread that was his flesh. Each Christian comes to the Eucharist to encounter Jesus who nourishes us and gives us life. The church highlights that one can encounter Jesus in the Eucharist through the sacrament of communion, through the scriptures that are proclaimed, in the community that is gathered, and in the priest who is presiding.

The dialogue with Peter presents a new role for Peter. Peter is addressed as "Simon, son of John" a clear identification. In the dialogue, Peter will be given a new role by which he will be identified. The dialogue uses the three-fold denial as a backdrop and presents Peter being

asked three times to shepherd those who follow Jesus. This is a sharing in the shepherding that was presented as Jesus' role in chapter 10 of the Gospel.

In chapter 10, Jesus identified three things that the shepherd does: lead them to pasture, know them personally, and lay down one's life for them. Jesus tells Peter to feed and care for the sheep. The sheep remain Jesus' flock but Peter will be caring for them. Jesus warns Peter about how he will die, as he becomes the one caring for the sheep. This orientation of service should mark all who exercise ministry in the church. Ministry is not about power or prestige. It is about service to people and drawing closer to Jesus through loving Jesus and doing deeds of service. Peter is not left to chart his own direction. Jesus' final statement is "Follow me."

Reflection Questions:

How do you strive to share the Good News with others?

Do you ever think of your prayer being united with the prayer and worship taking place in Heaven?

What aspect of the Sunday celebration helps you encounter Jesus each week?

What impact does Jesus' example of leadership have on your approach to authority?

What will following Jesus mean for you this week?

Themes

Petrine Ministry

Paschal Lamb

Witness and discipleship

Divinity of Jesus

Prayer Suggestions:

For the Church: that empowered by the Holy Spirit, we may give convincing witness to the freeing and healing power of the Risen Christ

For the grace of awareness: that God will open our minds and hearts to recognize Christ in the Eucharist, the people, events, and experiences of daily life

For all who face suffering or persecution for being a Christian: that the Spirit will strengthen them to give faithful witness to Christ and God's love for all

For all who exercise ministry in the Church: that their actions may be rooted in love, service, and commitment to Christ as they assist fellow Christians in deepening their discipleship