

The Living Word

Third Sunday of Easter, Year C

4 May 2025

First Reading Acts 5:27-32, 40-41

We are witnesses of these words, and so is the Holy Spirit.

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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 29:2. 4-6. 11-13. R. v.2

**(R.) I will praise you, Lord,
for you have rescued me.**

or

(R.) 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 Rv 5:11-14

The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power, wealth, glory, and blessing.

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.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ is risen, the Lord of all creation;

he has shown pity on all people.

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 21:1-19

(or shorter form Jn 21:1-14)

Jesus stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

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 was 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.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

You and I, like Peter, are enabled by grace to repent of our betrayals of Our Lord, some major, most minor, and to claim: "Lord, you know that I love you."

But, this claim has to be evidenced by concrete action. In the case of Peter it was to feed and shepherd "my lambs, my sheep." What will manifest our professed love? In the words of Father Richard Rohr, it is to *love what God loves*.

Of course, we have to love our fellow human beings, but leaving it there would be inadequate. "For God so *loved the cosmos* as to give the Son." (Jn 3:16,17) So what must we do?

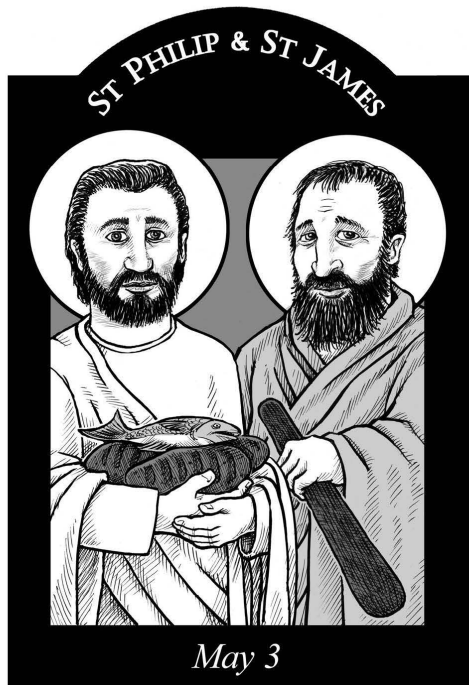
Recall, Our Lord says elsewhere, "You are the Salt of the Earth." You must preserve the Earth so that it does not decay and so that it is a suitable habitation for all the creatures, including us, for whom the Earth is a common home.

He went on: "You are the Light of the Cosmos." You are the enlightened mind and the enflamed heart of the whole cosmos, enabling it to understand its existence and to love God for it.

We could pause for a moment to reflect on the words of Pope Francis: "We, the women and men of the Church, we are in the middle of a love story and each of us is a link in this chain of love. And if we do not understand this, we have understood nothing of what the Church is."

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St Philip and St James were two of the twelve apostles chosen by Jesus. After St Philip was called to be an apostle, he persuaded Nathaniel (St Bartholomew) to also follow Jesus. At the feeding of the 5000, St Philip passed the remark that, "200 denari would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little". St James was the brother of St Jude, and is often referred to as "James the Lesser" to distinguish him from James, the son of Zebedee. Some traditions believe St James was a cousin of Jesus, and others name him as the author of the Epistle of St James. Traditionally, St Philip and St James share the same feast day because their remains were both brought to the Church of the Apostles in Rome, in early May, 561 AD.

Help Peter swim to shore to be with Jesus.



Wordsearch

Try to find these words:



boat
bread
caught
death
eat
fishing
full
jumped
morning
raised
shore
Zebedee

J	B	T	A	S	Y	T	W	N	O	F	U	L	L
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