

Sunday 4 May – Third Sunday of Easter

Collect

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: Acts 5:27-32

¹Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' ⁵He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.'

Psalm 30

I will exalt you, O Lord,
because you have raised me up ♦
and have not let my foes triumph over me.

O Lord my God, I cried out to you ♦
and you have healed me.

You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; ♦
you restored me to life from among those that go down to the Pit.

Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; ♦
give thanks to his holy name.

For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye,
his favour for a lifetime. ♦
Heaviness may endure for a night,
but joy comes in the morning. **R**

In my prosperity I said,
‘I shall never be moved. ♦
You, Lord, of your goodness,
have made my hill so strong.’

Then you hid your face from me ♦
and I was utterly dismayed.

To you, O Lord, I cried; ♦
to the Lord I made my supplication:

‘What profit is there in my blood,
if I go down to the Pit? ♦
Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

‘Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; ♦
O Lord, be my helper.’ **R**

You have turned my mourning into dancing; ♦
you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with gladness;

Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; ♦
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

Second Reading: Revelation 5:11-end

¹¹I, John, looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²singing with full voice,
‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered

to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honour and glory and blessing!’

¹³Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and
in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

‘To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honour and glory and might
for ever and ever!’

¹⁴And the four living creatures said, ‘Amen!’ And the elders fell down and
worshipped.

Gospel: John 21:1-19

¹Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he
showed himself in this way. ²Gathered there together were Simon Peter,
Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee,
and two others of his disciples. ³Simon 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.

⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know
that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, ‘Children, you have no fish, have you?’
They answered him, ‘No.’ ⁶He said to them, ‘Cast the net to 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 there were so many fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved
said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’ When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he
put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. ⁸But the
other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not
far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it,
and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, ‘Bring some of the fish that you have just
caught.’ ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large
fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the
net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, ‘Come and have breakfast.’ Now none
of the disciples dared to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ because they knew it was
the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the

same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵When 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.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' ¹⁶A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' ¹⁷He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt 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. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' ¹⁹He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God. After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'