

Readings for the Third Sunday of Easter

The Prayer of the Week

**Gracious Father,
who in your great mercy made glad the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such awareness 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 our Lord. Amen.**

Acts 9.1-6

Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 30

I will exalt you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up from the depths:
and have not suffered my foes to triumph over me.

O Lord my God, I cried to you: and you have made me whole.

You brought me back, O Lord, from the land of silence:

Sing praises to the Lord, all you his faithful ones:
and give thanks to his holy name.

**For if in his anger is havoc, in his good favour is life:
heaviness may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.**

In my prosperity I said 'I shall never be moved:

your goodness, O Lord, has set me on so firm a hill.'

Then you hid your face from me: and I was greatly dismayed.

I cried to you, O God: and made my petition humbly to my Lord.

'Hear, O Lord, and be merciful: O Lord, be my helper.'

You have turned my lamentation into dancing:

you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with joy,

That my heart may sing your praise and never be silent:

O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

Revelation 5.11-14

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: **"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!"**

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: **"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!"** The four living creatures said, **"Amen,"** and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

John 21.1-19

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.

When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.