

THIRD SUNDAY OF Easter

APRIL 18, 2021



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When the two disciples returned from Emmaus,
they recounted what had
taken place on the way.

Luke 24:35

Feast of Faith

The Second Reading

The Liturgy of the Word generally follows a consistent pattern of three readings and a psalm. The second reading is always taken from one of the New Testament epistles or the book of Revelation, and generally is not intentionally aligned with either the Gospel or the first reading.

Where would we be without these letters in which great saints and apostles like Paul, Peter, James, and John share their wisdom and pastoral good sense with the early Christian communities? It is in these letters, even more than in the Gospel narratives, that we learn what it means to be church: to live with each other, in the world yet not of the world, in these days after the Lord's resurrection. Each New Testament letter was written by a particular leader for a particular community at a particular time. We are reminded of this at the beginning of the proclamation—"A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians," or the Corinthians, or the Thessalonians. These texts were shaped by their particular historical and cultural context, but at the same time, through the liturgy, these letters are written to us, here, today. They speak to the realities of Christian living no matter where—or when—we live. They are truly "the word of the Lord" for us.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Martyrdom

It is not the suffering but the cause that makes the martyr.
—English proverb

Fulfillment

It is interesting that during the Easter season, when we do not hear a reading from the Old Testament, it becomes so important. This is particularly true today. Peter's speech begins with a prayer formula familiar to Jews: "The God of Abraham . . ." (Acts 3:13). It likewise contains the potent phrases "Holy and Righteous One" and "mouth of all the prophets" (3:14, 18). Peter was stating in no uncertain terms that the law, psalms, and prophets had been fulfilled in Christ. This is reinforced by Jesus himself in the Gospel passage, when he states that everything in the scriptures (to the early Christians "the scriptures" were what we call the Old Testament) had to be fulfilled. Above all, Jesus and Peter both emphasize that we are witnesses to all of this, and are sent forth to bear witness to it in the world. The Latin Missa, from which our word "Mass" comes, means "sent" (as in "mission"). As we leave Mass today, let us remember to be witnesses to all that has been fulfilled in the risen Christ.

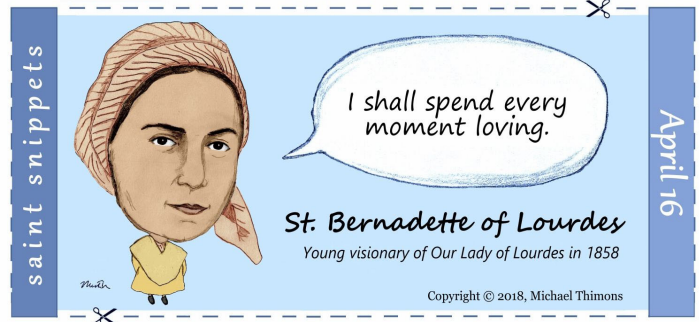
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Readings for the Week

Monday:	Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday:	Acts 7:51 — 8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab; Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday:	Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a; Jn 6:35-40
Thursday:	Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51
Friday:	Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59
Saturday:	Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-17; Jn 6:60-69
Sunday:	Acts 4:8-12; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday:	Third Sunday of Easter
Wednesday:	St. Anselm; Administrative Professionals Day
Thursday:	Earth Day
Friday:	St. George; St. Adalbert
Saturday:	St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen



Nature's Lessons

Believe one who has tried, you shall find a fuller satisfaction in the woods than in books. The trees and the rocks will teach you that which you cannot hear from the masters.

—St. Bernard of Clairvaux

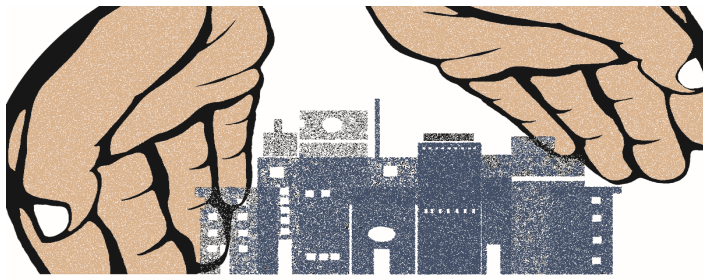
Today's Readings

First Reading — The author of life you put to death, but God raised him from the dead (Acts 3:13-15, 17-19).

Psalm — Lord, let your face shine on us (Psalm 4).

Second Reading — We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one (1 John 2:1-5a).

Gospel — Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day (Luke 24:35-48). The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



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Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021

You alone, O Lord
Bring security to my dwelling.

—Psalm 4:9

Treasures From Our Tradition

The month of May has not only good weather, but an interesting pedigree. It is named after the Roman goddess Maia, said to be the mother of Hermes, or Mercury. The Romans saw it as “love’s month,” while in England, more practical farmers called it “Three Milks,” since the cows grazing on springtime’s bounty could produce at a phenomenal rate. Old customs die hard, and Christians have never made peace with Maytime frolics. No wonder that popular tradition dedicated the month’s prayers and devotions to Mary, although we cannot lose sight of the fact that the liturgy always has Easter at the center of celebration. Recent developments have enriched Mary’s place in a cycle of feast days woven through the whole year, dedicated Saturday as a weekly day for devotion, and highlighted Mary’s role in the Advent story. In fact, every day of the year Evening Prayer centers on the singing of Mary’s Cantic of Praise. The fifty days of Easter culminate on Pentecost with Mary, present of course for Christ’s birth, waiting in the upper room for the birth of the church.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Fault or Fate?

Peter seems to be pretty tough with his listeners in the first reading. He says they handed Jesus over, denied him before Pilate, asked for a murderer to be released in his place, and put Jesus to death. They must have thought they were doomed. Suddenly, he tells them they were just ignorant. And that God had planned all this long ago. So is he saying Jesus' death is their fault, or just fate?

The answer of course is that it's everyone's fault. Our sins are the reason for Jesus' death. We deny Jesus when we choose to be selfish instead of loving. We hand him over when we tell ourselves we are too busy to take time to pray. We ask for Barabbas to be freed instead of Jesus when we insist on doing things our own way rather than God's way. We crucify Jesus when we follow the crowd instead of following the Lord.

It is only "fate" in the sense that our sins needed to be forgiven and God plan's for salvation was through Jesus' death and resurrection. Does that mean our sins cause something in the past to happen? There were sinners long before Jesus' time and God knew there would be sinners after that. God also planned to forgive anyone who repented their sins. In one sense, Jesus died for those who deserved to be punished for sin, and also for those who would deserve punishment in the future. He rose from the dead to show that God's forgiveness raises us up from guilt to a new life.

Peter wasn't laying a guilt trip on the listeners. After all, this is good news. God planned all this to show how much he loved us. Our response should be one of joy that we are forgiven because of that love. All we have to do is tell God we are sorry, mean it, and start living our response of love. Sins may be our fault, but Love is our fate.

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When the two disciples returned from Emmaus,
they recounted what had
taken place on the way.

Luke 24:35

NEW LIFE

Peter saw Jesus after the Resurrection. He listened as Jesus told the disciples all that had been written about him in the scriptures, all that he had said and done when he was ministering among them. Peter heard how Jesus had fulfilled all in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms. Jesus, the Messiah, had come to be among them to bring them peace, to offer forgiveness of their sins. Peter shared this Good News with the crowds who gathered to hear him tell the sacred story, the story of God's love, poured out in Jesus the Christ and offered to the whole world. All who hear and believe are offered new life, life in which God's love is perfected in them. Are you listening? Are you ready to share in this abundant new life?

NOT WHAT WAS EXPECTED

Have you ever waited for something for so long you began to think it might never happen? Your graduation day, or the day of your marriage, or the birth of a child, perhaps. The Israelites had waited for centuries for the coming of the Messiah. Yet when Jesus, the long-awaited Anointed One came, many failed to believe in him. He wasn't what they expected. The Messiah was supposed to be a strong, powerful commander of armies, not humble, compassionate, and suffering. After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples and explained all that he had said in his time with them, opening their minds to what had been written in the scriptures so that they could accept his suffering and death and rejoice in his resurrection.

GOD'S LOVE IN FLESH AND BONE

While the disciples had come to believe that Jesus was the Messiah, his crucifixion and death had left them fearful and confounded. The news of the empty tomb and his appearance to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus added to their confusion. It seems that at first, Jesus' presence with them did not alleviate their uncertainty. In fact, they were "startled and terrified and thought they were seeing a ghost" (Luke 24:37). Jesus saw that they needed physical proof that it was he who stood among them. They needed to see the nail marks in his hands and feet, to see God's love in flesh and bone, in one who ate among them. Only when their fear and confusion had been quelled could they hear the story, the sacred story of how the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead. Only when they were filled with the peace of Christ would they be ready to witness, to share the sacred story with others. We, too, are invited to hear the sacred story and to perceive God's love for us in Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 3:13–15, 17–19

Psalm 4:2, 4, 7–8, 9

1 John 2:1–5a

Luke 24:35–48

Prayer of the Faithful

We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one, and so we make our prayer to the Father for the needs of all the world.

For the safety of persecuted Christians everywhere, as they proclaim repentance for the forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

For nations to end to the use of violence and force, forsaking them for peaceful resolutions to their differences, let us pray to the Lord.

For those in every nation who suffer from injustice and the failures of their political systems, let us pray to the Lord.

For all the infants and young children being baptized this Easter season, as they grow in faith through the love and support of their family, friends, and faith community, let us pray to the Lord.

For farmers and farm workers who plant and tend the crops and foods that nourish and sustain us, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who are sick, for all who suffer from COVID-19, and for all who have died, especially N., N., and N., let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

**O God of all truth,
hear the prayers of your newborn people
and strengthen your Church to answer your call.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Risen Lord.**

God's Word for Children

The Gospel today tells about one of the times Jesus appeared to the disciples after the Resurrection. Sharpen your pencil and draw the pictures into the sentences so you can tell the story, too!



When the disciples saw Jesus they thought He was a .

Jesus showed them his and feet.

Jesus wanted them to touch him so they could see he was made of flesh and .

Then the disciples were very happy and gave Jesus a to eat!

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Third Sunday of Easter

We search for lots of answers in our lives, especially to questions like "Who loves me even when I do wrong?" "Who forgives me?" "Who brings my concerns to God?"

Use the letters in the question mark to fill in the blanks so they will spell out something you should always remember.

W H E S
E A
U T R S
S J

--- S ---
i ---
--- n --- !

(See 1 John 2:1-2)

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows

THE WORD OF GOD
KEEPS MY LIFE
ON TARGET

Whoever keeps his word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. 1 Jn 2:5

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CATHOLIC CORNER

PEACE BE WITH YOU

Jesus spoke these words to his disciples after the Resurrection. Before we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus at Mass the priest says these words to us. Then he invites us to exchange a sign of peace with the people around us. What do you say when you turn to the people around you? Do you say, "Peace be with you," or do you use different words? What do other people say to you? In the sacrament of confirmation, the bishop anoints the candidate with holy oil and then says, "Peace be with you." We believe the Holy Spirit brings peace to us and to the world.

People in countries all around the world long for peace. Make a banner or poster using the word "Peace" as it is spoken and written in many different languages. Some examples are written here. Put your banner or poster in your room or in the window of your house.

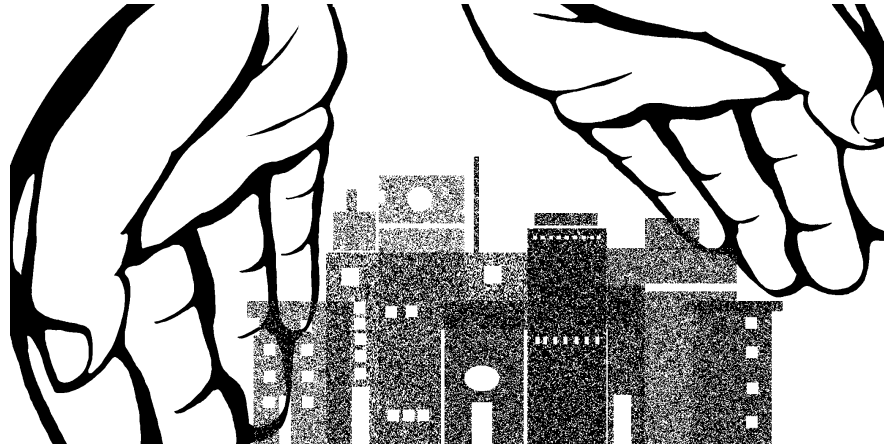
PEACE

- Arabic: سلام (salām)
- Cherokee: ᎠᎿᎿᎿ (dohiyi)
- Danish: Fred
- German: Friede
- Greek: Ειρήνη (iríni)
- Spanish: Paz
- French: Paix
- Irish: Siocháin
- Hebrew: שלום (shalom)
- Japanese: 平和 (heiwa)
- Polish: Pokój
- Russian: Мир (mir)
- Italian: Pace

Pray for peace every night.

Third Sunday of Easter April 18, 2021

You alone, O LORD,
bring security to my dwelling.
— Psalm 4:9



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