

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



Responding to the Lord

God our Helper,
you appear to us
in average moments,
in our daily routines.
Grant us the courage
to open our eyes,
for the wisdom to see you.
Guide us to show our love for you
by singing your praises
and caring for your people.
You have rescued us!
We give thanks to your holy name.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 4, 2025
Do You Love Him?



Today's readings: Acts 5:27–32, 40b–41; Psalm 30:2, 4, 5–6, 11–12, 13; Revelation 5:11–14; John 21:1–19 or John 21:1–14. Today, we hear about Jesus revealing himself to his disciples for a third time after the resurrection. He shows up on an average day, as the disciples do their work. They are struggling to catch fish, and he directs them to cast their net on the right side of the boat. After they do so, they are unable to pull the net because of the number of fish they have caught. So Jesus is recognized: “It is the Lord.” He invites them to break bread with him.

When they finish their breakfast, Jesus asks Peter: “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?”

Peter replies with a resounding “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus asks the same question twice more, perhaps because Peter denied him three times during the passion. Each time Peter replies yes, Jesus instructs the disciple to feed or tend the Lord’s sheep.

It is a blessing to reflect on the many ways Jesus appears to us. We know he is present in the Word and in the Eucharist, but today we are reminded that he also appears to us in ordinary ways. When he appears to you in your day-to-day routines and asks you if you love him, what do you say to him? Is your response timid or resounding? How do you feed his lambs or tend his sheep?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 5

Food for Eternal Life

Jesus tells the crowd searching for him in Capernaum that they should “not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life.” Consider what you dedicate yourself to throughout the day. Do you spend your time focusing on earthly desires? What inspires you to say yes to the Lord? Why do you choose to follow him? This evening, spend time praying about your relationship with God. Ask for the strength to set your focus on “the food that endures for eternal life.” *Today’s readings: Acts 6:8–15; Psalm 119:23–24, 26–27, 29–30; John 6:22–29.*

Tuesday, May 6

When Preaching Is Challenging

Stephen concludes his discourse angrily, calling out those around him as “stiff-necked” and opposing the Spirit. The people Stephen addresses are infuriated and begin to stone him. Stephen, “filled with the Holy Spirit,” is given the strength he needs to face his martyrdom. Reflect on times you have struggled to preach the Gospel. What has been challenging for you? Ask for the strength to wholeheartedly follow the Lord. *Today’s readings: Acts 7:51–8:1a; Psalm 31:3cd–4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab; John 6:30–35.*

Wednesday, May 7

There Was Great Joy

After Stephen is martyred, “a severe persecution of the Church in Jerusalem” broke out. Those who followed Jesus were “scattered throughout the countryside” and “went about preaching the word.” We are told that Philip goes to Samaria to preach the Word. Despite being persecuted, the crowds experience great joy because of Philip’s ministry. When you are persecuted or put down by life’s struggles, to whom or to what do you turn for “great joy”? *Today’s readings: Acts 8:1b–8; Psalm 66:1–3a, 4–5, 6–7a; John 6:35–40.*

Thursday, May 8

Called to Serve

In today’s first reading, from Acts, an angel of the Lord and the Spirit guide Philip to minister to an Ethiopian court official. Philip proclaims Jesus to him by explaining Scripture and baptizing him. When have you felt called to serve someone else? Ask God for the wisdom to hear and the courage to respond when you are being called to serve another. *Today’s readings: Acts 8:26–40; Psalm 66:8–9, 16–17, 20; John 6:44–51.*

Friday, May 9

Instruments

Today’s first reading begins with Saul “still breathing murderous threats” against the disciples. Despite the atrocities Saul has committed, the Lord describes him to Ananias as “a chosen instrument.” Saul is eventually baptized and proclaims that Jesus is the Son of God in the synagogues. We believe in a God who can do all things! Today, say a prayer for someone who is working against God. Kindly lift them up and ask God to be with them. *Today’s readings: Acts 9:1–20; Psalm 117:1bc, 2; John 6:52–59.*

Saturday, May 10

St. John of Avila

St. John of Avila was born in the Castile region of Spain. He studied law, philosophy, and theology before he was ordained a diocesan priest. He inherited his parents’ fortune and chose to distribute the inheritance to the poor. John came to be known as a great preacher and spiritual director, unafraid of denouncing evil. To celebrate his feast day, say a prayer in gratitude for the gifts (spiritual, financial, professional, and practical) that you have inherited from previous generations. How can you share your inheritance? *Today’s readings: Acts 9:31–42; Psalm 116:12–13, 14–15, 16–17; John 6:60–69.*