

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



A Reconciling Love

Loving Father,
you sent your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
to reconcile the world to you.
Grant that our hearts may be open
to your revelation

in the Eucharist and in the Word.
May your Spirit enliven us
that we may spread our faith
to all we encounter.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 14, 2024
Without Fear

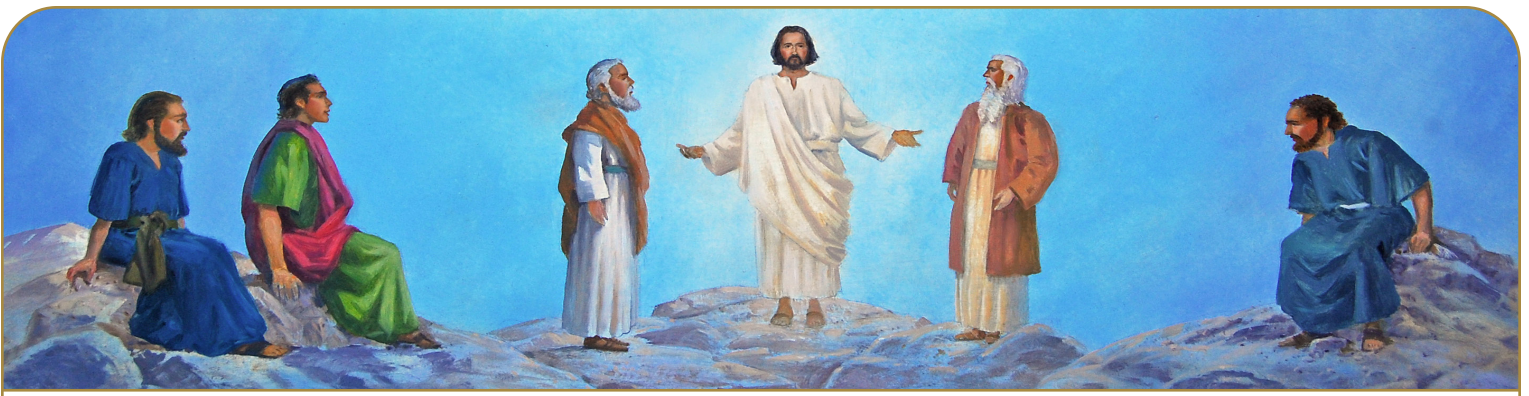


Today's readings: Acts 3:13–15, 17–19; Psalm 4:2, 4, 7–8, 9 (7a); 1 John 2:1–5a; Luke 24:35–48. “Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,” we hear in today’s Gospel. Our lives are sometimes filled with so much noise that our Lord’s voice gets lost amid the cacophony. If time in silence with God is carved into our day, we can discern what God is saying to us in Scripture. But being still in a quiet place can be daunting. Begin the practice by sitting in the quiet one minute a day until that minute passes quickly. On subsequent days, increase the time to two, three, and four minutes until you are able to sit for twenty minutes with God.

In that silence, open yourself to be vulnerable to God. Doing so might seem daunting so begin by reading a verse

from Scripture, saying a short prayer, or speaking to God just as you would speak to a friend. Tell God what makes you doubt in his promise. There is no need to fear such a conversation with God, for he wants a deeper relationship with you. Just as he met the startled and terrified disciples where they were in their faith, so he will meet you.

“Peace be with you,” Jesus says to the disciples in today’s Gospel. He wants peace for you also. In the silence, Christ awaits your invitation to open your mind to the Scriptures. He, too, awaits your response as a witness to the mercy and forgiveness he offers all who believe. In accepting the peace that Christ offers, consider who in your life needs you to offer them mercy.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 15 Bread of Life

Jesus says to his disciples, “You are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled.” Jesus is the Bread of Life; he gave himself to us in the Last Supper and continues to do so at each Eucharist. Some people continue to go spiritually hungry because they do not avail themselves of the nourishment Christ offers. As you begin your week, ask God to work through you to continue building the kingdom. *Today’s readings: Acts 6:8–15; Psalm 119:23–24, 26–27, 29–30; John 6:22–29.*

Tuesday, April 16 Never Hunger

People are always looking for signs. Despite all the times Jesus performed miracles, healed people, and cast out demons, some in today’s Gospel continue to doubt the power of God. People either believe because they have seen or because they have been healed. When asked to be given the bread of life, Jesus responded, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger.” As you receive the Eucharist every week, meditate on what It means for Christ to be the Bread of Life. How is he sustenance for you? *Today’s readings: Acts 7:51–8:1a; Psalm 31:3cd–4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab; John 6:30–35.*

Wednesday, April 17 Visible Signs

“I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me.” With those words in today’s Gospel, Jesus reveals that he has submitted his life to God. The first reading, from Acts, shows how such submission cost St. Stephen his life. But as Philip proclaimed the Messiah to Samaria, “there was great joy in that city.” Do you understand that you have a responsibility to bring the joy of the Gospel to those you meet? *Today’s readings: Acts 8:1b–8; Psalm 66:1–3a, 4–5, 6–7a; John 6:35–40.*

Thursday, April 18 We Believe

Today’s Gospel encourages us to ponder the mystery of the Trinity. The reading tells us that no one has seen the Father “but the one who is from God.” Each Sunday at Mass, the faithful profess in the creed that Jesus is consubstantial with the Father. Pray with either the Apostles’ Creed or the Nicene Creed, taking time to realize what the words and our beliefs about the Trinity mean. *Today’s readings: Acts 8:26–40; Psalm 66:8–9, 16–17, 20; John 6:44–51.*

Friday, April 19 New Lives

Saul’s plans—to bring back in chains anyone who followed the Way—were upended when Jesus asked, “Why are you persecuting me?” Soon, Saul was seeking baptism and proclaiming the Good News. Sudden changes often bring people to reconsider their priorities. A dramatic example of that occurred during the lockdowns of the COVID-19 pandemic. Do you need to reexamine your values and determine whether they are aligned with how God is calling you? *Today’s readings: Acts 9:1–20; Psalm 117:1bc, 2; John 6:52–59.*

Saturday, April 20 Be Salt!

In today’s Gospel from John, we hear that many disciples “returned to their former way of life.” That image of people going back to their old ways is contrasted with Peter’s declaration of allegiance and the growth of the Church recorded in Acts. When we give in to temptation and return to former ways, we may experience momentary happiness but miss out on the peace that Christ offers. The reading from Acts tells of the peace in the Church as it was being built up. Where do you notice peace today? *Today’s readings: Acts 9:31–42; Psalm 116:12–13, 14–15, 16–17; John 6:60–69.*

