



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST READING: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

A reading from Acts.

Saul, 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.”

[⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless
because they heard the voice but saw no one.

⁸Saul got up from the ground,
and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing;
so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias.

The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.”

He answered, “Here I am, Lord.”

¹¹The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight,
and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul.

At this moment he is praying,

¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in
and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.”

¹³But Ananias answered,

“Lord, I have heard from many about this man,
how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem;

¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke
your name.”

¹⁵But the Lord said to him,

“Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen

FIRST READING *Ananias = an-un-EYE-us*

This dramatic account calls for all the energy the reader can muster. Remember to slow down in the delivery. It is a long reading but the listener will need time to allow the dialog to sink in. Build subtly but surely to the climax that occurs in verse 20.

to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel;
¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house.
He laid his hands on Saul and said,
“Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here,
has sent me so that you may regain your sight
and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes,
and his sight was restored.

Then he got up and was baptized,

¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,

²⁰and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues,
saying, “He is the Son of God.”]

The word of the Lord. *or* Word of God, word of life.

PSALMODY: Psalm 30

SECOND READING: Revelation 5:11-14

A reading from Revelation.

¹¹Then I 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 honor 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 honor and glory and might
forever and ever!”

¹⁴And the four living creatures said, “Amen!”
And the elders fell down and worshiped.

The word of the Lord. *or* Word of God, word of life.

SECOND READING

Let this one sing! This is a vision of angels and creatures—thousands and thousands of them! The song they are singing the reader may recognize from the canticle of praise, “Worthy is Christ.” It is a song about Jesus’ praiseworthy sacrifice on Calvary. Help the hearer sense the joy!

GOSPEL: John 21:1-19

The holy gospel according to John.

¹After he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,
Jesus 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 sea.

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 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.

GOSPEL *Tiberias = ty-BIH-ree-us Zebedee = ZEB-eh-dee*

This is another longer gospel. While all of these texts are familiar, effective oral interpretation demands prayerful reconsideration throughout the preceding week. There is a playful tone to the first three paragraphs (verses 1-14), one which contrasts to the more complex dialog with Peter in verses 15-19.

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 to 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.”

¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.)
After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

The gospel of the Lord.