

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41

Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6,
11-12a, 13b

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19 or 21:1-14



REFLECTION

In this week's reading, we have what might be the most inspirational quote in the Bible . . . "Jesus said to them, 'Come, have breakfast'" (John 20:12)! While it might be an exaggeration to call that verse the "most inspirational," there is an underlying importance to these ordinary words. You've probably heard some people say that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and we know that there are some delicious breakfast food options out there. Even if you aren't someone who enjoys breakfast, the importance of Jesus' invitation remains; it shows us the way that the Lord cares for his friends. He is not just concerned with their spiritual lives, though that is very important. Jesus is also concerned with their physical lives. Indeed, God cares about their whole life and everything in it.

The resurrected Jesus models the care he has for his disciples as the care we need for ourselves and our community. When the disciples went back to their old jobs (fishing), Jesus reminded them of their true calling (being fishers of people) by way of a recognizable miracle. When he saw their frustration, he showed them a new way to do things. Finally, he noticed their hunger and addressed it.

As we continue in this time of Easter joy, let us entrust ourselves to Jesus' care, spiritually, emotionally, and physically. He takes care of the whole human person.

QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ Imagine sharing a meal with Jesus. What would it be like for you?
- ❖ How can you share your joy with others this week?

Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 2025

ACTION

Reflect on how you are taking care of yourself spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Are you doing your best to uphold your God-given dignity in these areas? How can you treat yourself with kindness and mercy in these areas? Make a plan to attend to each area this week—do something good for your spiritual health, your emotional health, and your physical health. Bring each one to God in prayer as well.



Learn about the priest who has a cooking ministry, Fr. Leo Patalinghug!
<https://youtu.be/gktPGiYfnFo>



May 4, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

LECTIONARY #48C

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41

Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12a, 13b

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

Prepare for the Word

The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.

Leader's Context

In our lectionary cycle for this year (Year C), our Sunday Gospel readings are usually taken from Luke. However, during Easter Time, most of the Gospel readings are from John. Today we read about the third post-resurrection appearance mentioned in the Gospel of John. Last week, we read that Jesus filled the disciples with the Holy Spirit and sent them out to share his mercy and forgiveness. This week, we hear of the disciples returning to their job as fishermen. It appears that they didn't know what to do after Jesus' resurrection, so they returned to what they knew. Jesus patiently reveals himself to them again, meeting them where they are. We are invited to notice Jesus in the ordinary moments in our lives.

Q FOCUS: *Jesus comes to us in ways we can understand.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

We celebrate the life of St. Damien de Veuster (1840-1889) on May 10. Damien was born in Belgium, but after he joined a religious order, he was sent to Hawaii to serve as a missionary to care for the poor. There were many diseases being spread throughout the native Hawaiian population, brought by the influx of trading to Hawaii. The Hawaiian government decided to quarantine those with leprosy (which is now referred to as Hansen's disease) on the island on Molokai. Damien volunteered to care for those on the island and went to live on the island.

He started churches and organized the construction of many needed public services, like hospitals and schools. He cared for those with the disease and treated them with dignity as human beings, not as something dangerous. Eventually, Damien contracted the disease and died. By his witness and teaching, he shared the love of Christ with them.

Church Teaching Connection

"I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unflinchingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since 'no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord.' The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms" (Pope Francis, *Evangelii gaudium*, 3).

Hear the Word

Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

John 21:1-14

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

All make the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.

At that time, Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself in this way. Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called

Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We also will come with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" They answered him, "No." So he said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something." So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards, dragging the net with the fish. When they climbed out on shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you just caught." So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of one hundred fifty-three large fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast." And none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they realized it was the Lord. Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish. This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples after being raised from the dead.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone may be seated.

Reflect on the Word

When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:

Today's Gospel story may sound familiar. There are several elements in it that are similar to the reading we had from Luke's Gospel on the Fifth Sunday in

Ordinary Time a few months ago. The story in Luke's Gospel is set at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, while today's Gospel from John is set after the resurrection. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus calls his disciples for the first time as they are working as fishermen on the Sea of Galilee. As in today's reading, when Jesus instructed them to cast out their net after a long night of not catching anything, they were overwhelmed by the number of fish they caught.

► **Read aloud the Gospel for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (see pages 136–137). Ask the young people what similarities they notice. What are the differences?**

In today's reading, Peter and the disciples are back in Galilee doing what they did before Jesus came into their lives—fishing. Even though Jesus had shared the Holy Spirit with them and had given them the mission to share God's peace and forgiveness with the world (see last week's Gospel reading), they had not yet put these things into action. Following Jesus' death, they found comfort in doing what they were familiar with.

Jesus appears on the shore while the disciples are fishing. They follow his instructions and bring up a large haul of fish. It seems that the miraculous nature of the catch and its abundance indicates to the Beloved Disciple that this person is Jesus, and he shares that news with Peter. Peter's response is one of exuberance. He jumps into the sea and swims toward Jesus. Peter's unbridled joy and enthusiasm at seeing Jesus again invite us to reflect on how we can meet Jesus with such happiness and rejoicing.

► **What causes you to rush toward Jesus with joy?**

By the time the other disciples had reached the shore, they too realized it is Jesus. Jesus invites them to share breakfast with him and offers them bread and fish. In this act, we again see parallels with other Gospel passages. For example, we notice similarities between Jesus feeding the disciples here and Jesus' miracle of the loaves and fishes earlier in John's Gospel (John 6:1–15). Also, this act of Jesus sharing a meal with his disciples points us toward our Eucharistic meal. This Gospel reading is not the Last Supper, but it reminds us that Jesus shared many meals with his followers and invites us to do the same at the banquet of his Body and Blood,

which we receive in the Eucharist. We are fed and nourished by our Lord.

By appearing to the disciples over and over, Jesus gives them many opportunities to know him better and recognize his presence in their lives. They have a chance to process the events of his passion and resurrection so that they are better prepared for their life and mission after Jesus' ascension and the events of Pentecost. The liturgical season of Easter also gives us time to understand the gifts that Jesus has given us and invites us to recognize him in every moment of our lives.

Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the "Church Teaching Connection" on page 188.

Jesus wants to spend time with his disciples after his resurrection.

We are called to greet Jesus with great joy.

Jesus shares a meal with us today, the Eucharist.

Act on the Word

Catching Fish and Sharing Meals

For this activity, you will need a large sheet or blanket, some small, lightweight balls, and Bibles.

The activity today begins with a fun game and then ends with a time of reflection.

Like the disciples catching fish in the Gospel today, the game will be which team can catch the most fish. Place a large sheet on the floor with anywhere from five to ten balls in the center. Divide the young people into two teams. Have two to four people from each team stand along the long sides of the sheet, with the teams facing one another. Instruct the young people to pick up the sheet and stand carefully. The goal is for each team to try to get the balls to fall off the sheet on their side of it. When

you say go, they should begin shaking the sheet until the balls, or "fish," fall off on their side. When a ball falls out of the sheet, the "sea," the team on whose side it is on gets a point. Track the points for each round. When the balls are all "caught," play another round, letting a new set of young people try to get points for their team. Keep a tally. When everyone has had a chance to play, the side with the most points have caught the most "fish" and win.

When you are done, gather the teens into a large group and discuss the importance of meals in their lives. Some questions can include topics like when they share meals with family, what kind of meals they have for special occasions, and so on. Then have them break into small groups and look through the New Testament to find descriptions of meals. Have the groups discuss the context of these meals, if there are similarities with their own experience of sharing meals, and how they relate to the meals shared in the parish community (both at Mass—the Eucharist, or outside of Mass at various parish activities).

Closing Prayer

O God,
your holy name is worthy
of all praise and honor.
Grant that we may rejoice
at your presence in our lives
and be true witnesses to you
in our words and deeds.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday's Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at www.ltp.org/lwgr. Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.