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Third Sunday of Easter - 1 May 2022

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1 May 2022

Third Sunday of Easter

Reflection by Anthony Doran

Introduction

We continue to be immersed in Easter joy. Our readings today tell us something of the power behind this joy. A group of frightened apostles who had returned to their boats after the resurrection of Jesus soon have the courage to stand up to the High Priest. What gives them this courage? Their encounter with the Risen Jesus. Does our encounter with the Risen Jesus give us courage to stand up before the world?

Penitential Act

Use one of the *Roman Missal* texts or this optional litany form:

Lord Jesus, you revealed yourself to your disciples.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you are the sacrificial lamb that takes our sins away.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you fill us with your gift of peace.

Lord, have mercy.

Collect

The oration

May your people exult for ever, O God,

in renewed youthfulness of spirit,

so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption,

we may look forward in confident hope

to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.

Commentary

It is now the third week of Easter, and the collect maintains an exuberance and vigor where some waning in enthusiasm might be expected. It also presages a further dimension to resurrection faith. The vitality of the prayer is conveyed in the energy of the vocabulary: exultation, youthfulness of spirit, rejoicing. The cause for this lies in the renewal of spirit and the restoration of the relationship between humanity and the

divine that has been achieved in the resurrection of Christ and is currently being felt by the faithful. The effect on the believer is a confident hope in the future resurrection of the dead.

This turn towards the resurrection of all believers is a little unusual in Easter prayers, though perhaps welcome. It is a modern addition. The collect has been formed by combining two ancient Roman prayers: the opening petition from an Easter mass set and the closing petition from a mass for the deceased. The reference to baptism as 'adoption' is a contemporary insertion used to join the two parts.

First Reading

Acts 5:27-32, 40-41

Our Easter Season reading of Acts of the Apostles continues. This Sunday, we read of the encounter between the apostles and the High Priest, with Peter assuring the High Priest that they will always obey God's law over any human law.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 29:2. 4-6. 11-13. R. v. 2

I will praise you Lord, for you have rescued me.

Today's Responsorial Psalm is a prayer of thanksgiving for deliverance. As always, the thanksgiving for the blessings received from the Lord – in this case deliverance from enemies – leads the psalmist to renew their trust in the Lord who turns mourning into dancing.

Second Reading

Apocalypse 5:11-14

This Sunday's reading from the Book of the Apocalypse is one of the Hymns of the Lamb, with the whole of creation singing in praise of the Lamb and the One sitting on the throne.

Gospel Reading

John 21:1-19

This Sunday's Gospel Reading is from one of the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus as he appears to the disciples who have gone back to their fishing nets. Jesus eats and drinks with them, showing that the One risen from the dead is the One who was crucified.

Reflection

The season of Easter is unique in the Church's calendar. For it is different to the rest of the liturgical seasons. Advent has the two-fold role of preparing us for the coming of Christ at Christmas, and for the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time. Lent is our preparation for the yearly celebration of Easter.

But the season of Easter is different. For the Easter season is not the preparation for a solemn feast. Rather, it is the prolonging, the extension of our celebration of the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. Our joy at the resurrection of Jesus from the dead is so great that it cannot be contained in one day. Rather, it flows out into the next fifty days. And these fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day or better as one great Sunday. That is why we must avoid any temptation to think that Easter is over. That we are getting back to normal.

I wonder if that is what dominates Peter's thought in today's Gospel Reading. It is hard to know. Because at the beginning of the gospel, we read, "Simon Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.'" This sounds strangely like the words of one, who after the events of Easter, wants to return to the things he knew. One who, after the sad and confusing death of Jesus, followed by the exhilarating event of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, wanted to get back to what was familiar. Get back to what he knew. After all, most of us are more comfortable with what we know.

Peter should have known better. Peter should have known that following the resurrection of Jesus nothing could ever be the same again.

Because even though he returns to his fishing boat, Simon Peter has no success: "They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing." But then, Jesus stands on the shore, and calls to them. And he tells them to cast their nets out on the other side. Already, the author of the Fourth Gospel is giving us a heap of clues that nothing is the same again. At Jesus' command, they do throw out their nets to starboard "and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in."

And then John recognises Jesus: "It is the Lord." And Peter jumps into the water and goes to Jesus. Nothing is the same again.

Jesus then meets his disciple-fishermen on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. And they share a meal of barbecued fish and bread. The breakfast scene is a simple, ordinary scene but one which points to a much deeper reality. For we cannot help but see in this simple meal an image of the Eucharist: "Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish." And the author of the Fourth Gospel tells us that "This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead." Nothing is the same again.

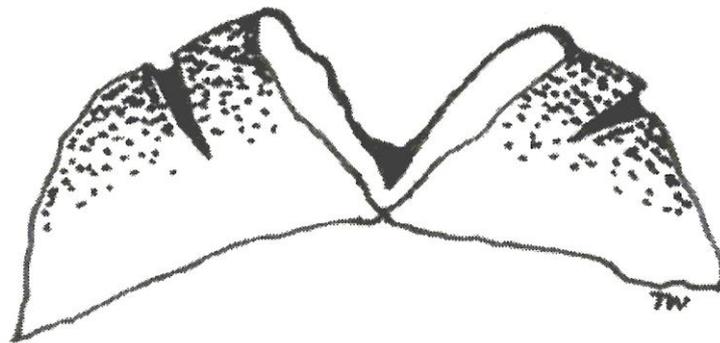
Jesus then questions Peter three times about his readiness to love. Peter gets quite upset by this threefold questioning. We can hear his plaintive cry: "Lord, you know everything; you know I love you." Jesus' threefold command to Peter is clear: "Feed my sheep." We cannot help but see in the three questions which Jesus puts to Peter, a counterpart to the three times Peter denies Jesus during his Passion. Jesus then foreshadows the way in which Peter was to die and so give glory to God.

The Gospel concludes with the simple words: “After this he said, ‘Follow me.’” In many ways, today’s Gospel reading is the story of the Church in miniature. It is the story of our discipleship of Jesus. In the midst of the ordinary, we catch nothing. But then, we recognise Jesus. And in recognising Jesus risen from the dead, we find that nothing is the same again.

We find a huge haul not of fish, but of all who believe in Christ. And no matter what size the haul of believers, the net of the Church is never broken. No matter what sort of believers, there is room for all of us in the Church’s net.

It does not matter who they are, who they love, with what they struggle, with what we’ve got wrong, there is room for all of us in the Church’s net. And being caught up in the net of God’s love, we are fed and we are nourished with the bread of the Eucharist, given to us by the Risen Lord. We are invited to break our fast, and feast on the food of eternal life which Jesus gives us. And finally, Jesus entrusts us to the care and protection of Peter. Jesus is not concerned with whether Peter acknowledges his doctrine, or says the right prayers, makes the right novenas, or whether he desires to become a fisherman again. Rather, Jesus is only concerned with whether Peter loves him. And whether, with that same love, he will tend the flock of Christ. And then Jesus says to us, “Follow me.”

Nothing is the same again.



**They recognised Jesus
in the breaking of the
bread.**

Prayer of the Faithful

Introduction

As we gather here today, we know that even after the blackest of nights, joy comes to us through the Spirit offering replenishment and renewal; and so, in faith we now present our needs to God.

Petitions

We pray for all leaders of the Church and the members of the Plenary Council, that their discussions assist the future of the Church in Australia to be missionary and Christ-centred.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they can resolve their differences guided by God's wisdom and compassion, for the benefit of all peoples of the world.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for those with disabilities, whether physical or intellectual, that they feel welcome in our community, and that Christ's love fills those who care for them with tenderness and compassion.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for those who seek employment or a change of career, that they may feel the Lord's strength and guidance, as they embark on new beginnings.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray that our community can be inspired by God's grace and encouragement, particularly during this Easter season, to develop new relationships with our neighbours from other faiths.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for those who are suffering from the effects of the pandemic or from climate change. May their their cries for help be heard by others and may they be given the help and solace they need, graced with compassion.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

Conclusion

Loving Father, as we are replenished and renewed with your grace today, we are confident that our prayers will be blessed through the guidance of the Spirit, in the name of Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Music selections by Alessio Loiacono and Chris deSilva

GA

All you nations. L Deiss. 353
Alleluia No. 1. D Fishel. 360
Alleluia, sing to Jesus. W Dix/ R Prichard. 371
Bread of life, hope of the world. 199
Centre of my life. P. Inwood. 444
Easter glory fills the sky. J Quinn SJ/ J Jones 366
Easter Alleluia. M Haugen. 358 (Verse 3)
Forth in the peace of Christ we go. J Quinn SJ. 495
Gift of finest wheat. O Westendorf/ R E Kreutz 191
God with hidden majesty/ Adoro Te. St Thomas Aquinas/ Gregorian Chant. 388
Keep in mind. L Deiss. 391
Lift up your hearts. R O'Connor SJ. 416
Psalm 66: Let all the earth. M Haugen. 45
The summons. J Bell. 502
We walk by faith. M. Haugen. 447

AOV1

Alleluia No. 1. D Fishel. 15
Alleluia, sing to Jesus. W Dix/R H Pritchard. 191
Bread of life, hope of the world. 164
In the breaking of the bread. B Hurd. 58
Keep in mind. L Deiss. 180
Praise, my soul, the king of Heaven. H Lyte/ J Goss. 78
When we eat this bread. M Joncas. 99
Sing to the Lord. O. Alstott. 46
We walk by faith. M. Haugen. 63

AOV2

Bread broken, wine shared. R Horner. 155
Centre of my life. P. Inwood. 170
Easter people. D Light. 147
May we come to know the Lord. D Gagnon. 19
Table of plenty. D. Schutte. 20

AOVNG

Will you come and follow me/The summons. Graham Maule and John I. Bell. 149

CWB

All you nations, sing out your joy. Lucien Deiss. 616
Christ is the King! O friends rejoice. George K. A. Bell. 641
Easter glory fills the sky. James Quinn SJ. 671

CWBII

Sunday by Sunday hymn suggestions
At the Lamb's high feast we sing. Tr. Robert Campbell. 341
All you nations, sing out your joy to the Lord. Lucien Deiss CSSp. 347
Easter glory fills the sky. James Quinn SJ. 358

This is the feast of victory. Richard Hillert. 371
Be not afraid. Bob Dufford SJ. 652
Additional selections by Chris deSilva
God has chosen me. Bernadette Farrell. 495
Unless a grain of wheat. Bernadette Farrell. 635
The summons. John L. Bell and Graham Maule. 645

S&S1

The summons. John L. Bell. 137

Psalms Selected by Chris deSilva and Angela McCarthy

Psalm 29: *I will praise you. Lord, for you have rescued me./Alleluia.*
Psalm 29: Douglas Mews. CWB 271
Psalm 30: I will praise you, Lord. Jenny O'Brien. GA 29
Psalm 30 (29): Jenny O'Brien. JOBC pg. 42
I will praise you, Lord: Marty Haugen. LPC pg. 58

Music selections by Michael Mangan

Sing out with joy (FWS) *Based on Ps 65/66* [Gathering] Easter Alleluia (TT/SYJ)
[Gathering, Recessional]
This is the day (FWS) *Based on Ps 117/118* [Gathering, Recessional]
Easter alleluia (TT/SYJ) [Gathering, Recessional]



*The risen Christ
ate with them.*