

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 3:13-15.17-19

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him.



It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life.

God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 4

When I call, answer me, O God of justice;
from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me!
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves;
the Lord hears me whenever I call him.
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

'What can bring us happiness?' many say.
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once,
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF ST JOHN 2:1-5

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just. He is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's. We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

The Word of the Lord

Lord Jesus, Explain the scriptures to us.
Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us. *Lk 24:32*

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 24:35-48

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread. They were still talking about this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!'



In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this, he showed them his hands and feet.

Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION

Fr John Garrahy has passed to us a rich insight: Jesus' ministry (begun at his Baptism) concluded at the Cross; but our ministry (to be inspired and nourished by the Spirit) is founded upon the Resurrection of Jesus. Let's listen and seek wisdom, and respond with confidence!

Just as Christ Risen came to the gathered community including the eleven, we – seeking to be in continuity with that community – will never be alone! May our lives and ministries be empowered by the faith with which the Spirit will continually nourish us. Mary's advice to the waiters at the wedding at Cana is for us as well: *Do whatever he tells you.*

Listening to the Spirit, our privilege, just as we are, is to be an agent for the gift of 'peace' which Christ Risen offered to the disciples, and still today to all. This is the *peace to the nations* which Zechariah longed for (10:9) and the *peace promised by the angels* at Jesus' birth (2:14). The *beginnings of this peace came with Jesus' healing* during his public ministry (7:50; 8:48). His *apostles were commissioned to offer it* to those to whom they brought the good news of the kingdom (10:5-6). **Now in Christ Risen, the new creation has begun! God is offering peace to all!** (Refer Michael Fallon MSC www.mbfallon.com/Luke/html)