

Sunday, April 18, 2010
Third Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion

Worship Assistants

FIRST READING: Acts 9:1–6 [7–20]

A reading from _____.

Each of us has a story of meeting God's grace. Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation, beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.

Meanwhile 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 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."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 30

Refrain: You have turned my wailing into dancing. (Ps. 30:11)

¹I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lift- | ed me up
and have not let my enemies triumph | over me.

²**O LORD my God, I cried | out to you,
and you restored | me to health.**

³You brought me up, O LORD, | from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down | to the grave.

⁴**Sing praise to the LORD, | all you faithful;
give thanks in ho- | ly remembrance. R**

⁵God's wrath is short; God's favor | lasts a lifetime.
Weeping spends the night, but joy comes | in the morning.

⁶**While I felt se- | cure, I said,
"I shall never | be disturbed.**

⁷You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong | as the mountains."
Then you hid your face, and I was | filled with fear.

⁸**I cried to | you, O LORD;
I pleaded with | my Lord, saying,**

⁹"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down | to the pit?
Will the dust praise you or de- | clare your faithfulness?

¹⁰**Hear, O LORD, and have mer- | cy upon me;
O LORD, | be my helper." R**

¹¹You have turned my wailing | into dancing;
you have put off my sackcloth and clothed | me with joy.

¹²**Therefore my heart sings to you | without ceasing;
O LORD my God, I will give you | thanks forever. R**

SECOND READING: Revelation 5:11–14

A reading from _____.

*The vision of John recorded in Revelation offers a glimpse of cosmic worship on the Lord's Day.
At its center is "the Lamb who was slain."*

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 21:1–19

The holy gospel according to _____.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

After these things 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.

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.
Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the glory of the resurrection dawn, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

You feed us with your word and holy meal. Bind together all who eat at Jesus' table, that we may be a visible sign of your presence in the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You open our eyes, and we marvel at the beauty of your creation. Teach us to be good stewards of the waters and lands, of the plants and animals. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You widen our hearts to care for peoples and nations around the globe. Look with kindness on all our neighbors, especially those with beliefs and customs different from our own. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You tend your lambs that are weak and needy. Heal the wounded, comfort the afflicted, bless the dying, soothe the suffering (*especially*), and teach us the way of compassion. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You call us to follow you, like the fishermen of Galilee. Strengthen our congregation in our work and in our play, in our weeping and in our rejoicing. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You inspire us with prophets and saints who recognized you as Lord. Encourage us with their witness from beyond the grave. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

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