

**FIRST READING**

We are witnesses of these words and so is the Holy Spirit.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

5:27b-32, 40b-41

**T**he high priest said to the apostles,  
 “We told you plainly not to teach in the name of Jesus.  
 But look what you have done!  
 You have been teaching all over Jerusalem,  
 and you are trying to blame us for his death.”

Peter and the apostles replied:  
 “We don’t obey people. We obey God.  
 You killed Jesus by nailing him to a cross.  
 But the God our ancestors worshiped raised him to life  
 and made him our Leader and Savior.  
 Then God gave him a place at his right side,  
 so that the people of Israel would turn back to him  
 and be forgiven.  
 We are here to tell you about all this,  
 and so is the Holy Spirit,  
 who is God’s gift to everyone who obeys God.”

They had the apostles beaten with a whip  
 and warned them not to speak in the name of Jesus.  
 Then they let them go.  
 The apostles left the council and were happy,  
 because God had considered them worthy  
 to suffer for the sake of Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

30:1ab and 2 and 4, 10-11ab and 12bcd

*R. (2a) I will praise you, Lord,  
 for you have rescued me.*

*or:*

*R. Alleluia.*

I will praise you, Lord!  
 You saved me from the grave.  
 I prayed to you, Lord God,  
 and you healed me.

Your faithful people, Lord,  
will praise you with songs  
and honor your holy name.

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

*or:*

*R. Alleluia.*

Have pity, Lord! Help!  
You have turned my sorrow  
into joyful dancing.  
I will never stop  
singing your praises,  
my Lord and my God.

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

*or:*

*R. Alleluia.*

## **ALLELUIA**

See Luke 24:32

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us;  
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

## **GOSPEL**

Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them,  
and did the same with the fish.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to John

21:1-14

**J**esus later appeared to his disciples along the shore of Lake Tiberias.

Simon Peter, Thomas the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee,  
and the two sons of Zebedee, were there,  
together with two other disciples.

Simon Peter said, "I'm going fishing!"

The others said, "We'll go with you."

They went out in their boat.

But they didn't catch a thing that night.

Early the next morning Jesus stood on the shore,  
but the disciples did not realize who he was.  
Jesus shouted, "Friends, have you caught anything?"

"No!" they answered.

So he told them,  
"Let your net down on the right side of your boat,  
and you will catch some fish."  
They did,  
and the net was so full of fish  
that they could not drag it up into the boat.

Jesus' favorite disciple told Peter, "It's the Lord!"  
When Simon heard that it was the Lord,  
he put on the clothes that he had taken off while he was working.  
Then he jumped into the water.  
The boat was only about a hundred yards from shore.  
So the other disciples stayed in the boat  
and dragged in the net full of fish.

When the disciples got out of the boat,  
they saw some bread and a charcoal fire with fish on it.  
Jesus told his disciples,  
"Bring some of the fish you just caught."  
Simon Peter got back into the boat  
and dragged the net to shore.  
In it were one hundred fifty-three large fish,  
but still the net did not rip.

Jesus said, "Come and eat!"  
But none of the disciples dared ask who he was.  
They knew he was the Lord.  
Jesus took the bread in his hands  
and gave some of it to his disciples.  
he did the same with the fish.

This was the third time that Jesus appeared to his disciples  
after he was raised from the dead.

The gospel of the Lord.

## Third Sunday of Easter Cycle C

### Prayer:

Dear Jesus,  
Please help us to show our love for you by our words and our actions.  
In Your Name We Pray,  
AMEN.

### Readings:

|                      |                                       |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Acts of the Apostles | 5:27b-32, 40b-41                      |
| Psalm                | 30:1ab and 2 and 4, 10-11ab and 12bcd |
| John                 | 21:1-14                               |

### Reflection:

Have you ever heard the phrase “actions speak louder than words”? Today we learn that what we do and how we live tells others about who we are and what we believe. A couple of weeks ago we celebrated Easter and Holy Week where Jesus’ act of dying on the cross and then rising showed us how much God loves us. Today’s first reading tells about the apostles getting into big trouble and being punished for teaching about Jesus. They showed their love and respect for Jesus by continuing to teach even though they were told by the government to stop. In the Gospel, we hear about the Disciples fishing but not catching anything. (Does this story sound familiar? Remember the same thing happened when Jesus first called some of the Disciples to come with him. It makes me wonder if the Disciples were really bad fishermen and Jesus picked them because he knew they really needed his help!). A guy that they don’t recognize tells them to try again. They do and catch tons of fish. The Disciples suddenly remember this has happened before, “It must be Jesus!” They cooked some of the fish. Jesus then shared the fish and bread with them as he did at the Last Supper. It was through Jesus’ actions that they knew who he was. Our actions show who we are, too. We may say that we love and follow Jesus but do our actions say that too? Are we kind to everyone, even the people that others don’t like or that don’t like us? Do we go to Church every week? Do we respect our teachers and our parents? Do we volunteer to help others? Do we stand up for others? Do we speak out against things that we believe are wrong like the war?

### Discussion:

Is it easier to say that you are a follower of Jesus or to show that you are a follower of Jesus? Why?

Can you think of examples of someone whose words say one thing but whose actions say something else? (For example: Sue says she’s Mindy’s friend but when Mindy is not around, Sue tells Clare all of Mindy’s secrets.)

### Activity: Charades

Separate the kids into groups of 3. In their groups they are to create a scene showing someone being a follower of Christ. The only rule: NO TALKING. Each group can then take a turn acting out their scene for the class. When they have finished, the class can guess what is going on in the scene and briefly discuss it.