

MAY 5, 2019
THIRD SUNDAY
OF EASTER



God speaks to us through others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 21:1-19	Jesus appears to the disciples
Monday	Acts 9:1-20	Conversion of Saul
Tuesday	Revelation 5:11-14	Heavenly vision
Wednesday	Genesis 18:1-15	Abraham and Sarah promised a son
Thursday	James 3:13-18	Two kinds of wisdom
Friday	Revelation 4:1-11	Heavenly worship
Saturday	Psalms 30	God turns mourning into dancing
Sunday	John 10:22-30	Jesus promises life to his sheep

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

So 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." **Acts 9:17 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of power and glory, help us to hear your message of life from brothers and sisters in Christ. Help us to be that voice of faith and love to others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, just as you gave the disciples the fish and the bread, we ask for your blessing on the food that we are fed. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God turn your mourning into dancing and your sadness into shouts of joy. (Psalm 30:11)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Let Us Talents and
Tongues Employ*



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about an extraordinary moment you have experienced or have seen happen.
- Talk or think about a time you had a special sense of God's presence in your life.
- The Bible emphasizes faith lived out in a community. How is life in a community important to your Christian faith?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Acts 9:1-20.

Few of us have the experience of Saul who would become the Apostle Paul. On the road to Damascus a flash of light blinds him and he hears Jesus speaking. But even for Saul, his dramatic experience does not stand alone. Ananias soon greets Saul as "Brother" in the home of Judas (not Iscariot) and speaks Jesus' message to Saul. Saul's experience is confirmed by the voice and message of others. He receives the Holy Spirit and is baptized in the same faith as all other Christians. Saul is guided on his way and soon is proclaiming Jesus as the Son of God. In the Gospel of John, Jesus speaks of himself as the "Good Shepherd" (10:11). In John 21, Jesus now extends that shepherding ministry to Peter. Peter had denied his discipleship in John 18:15-27. Now his discipleship is reclaimed as he follows Jesus' lead to serve as another good and loving shepherd. The Christian faith is like that: cared for and shepherded by people like Judas, Ananias, Peter, Paul, and countless other followers of Jesus. How have you shepherded others? How have others shepherded you?

Pray: **Nurturing God, thank you for caring for us through others. In Jesus' name, amen.**

SERVICE



Easter has a rich heritage of giving and sharing good will. God gave us his only Son, Jesus, who gave up his life for us. God's love for us in Christ is truly an unconditional gift. Giving money to the homeless in the streets, taking time to visit someone in a nursing home or one who is homebound, and giving clothes to those in need are some examples of how we can give to others. What act of unconditional love will you do this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



During Jesus' time, fish were part of daily meals. Fish and fishermen are mentioned many times in the four gospels, including fishermen who became disciples. The fish became a symbol and secret password for the early Christians. This symbol is still regarded as a traditional Christian sign and can be seen on window decals, bumper stickers, t-shirts, and elsewhere. This week draw a fish shape, cut it out, and place it in a visible place in your home as a reminder that you are a follower of Jesus. ☹



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org