

The Living Word

Third Sunday of Easter, Year B

14 April 2024

First Reading Acts 3:13-15. 17-19

You have killed the prince of life; God, however, raised him from the dead.

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.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v.7

(R.) Lord, let your face shine on us.

or:

(R.) Alleluia.

1. When I call, answer me, O God of justice;
from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me! (R.)
2. It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves;
the Lord hears me whenever I call him. (R.)
3. 'What can bring us happiness?' many say.
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. (R.)
4. I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once,
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Jn 2:1-5

Jesus Christ is the sacrifice that takes away our sins and those of the whole world.

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.

Gospel Acclamation See Lk 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:

make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

Alleluia!

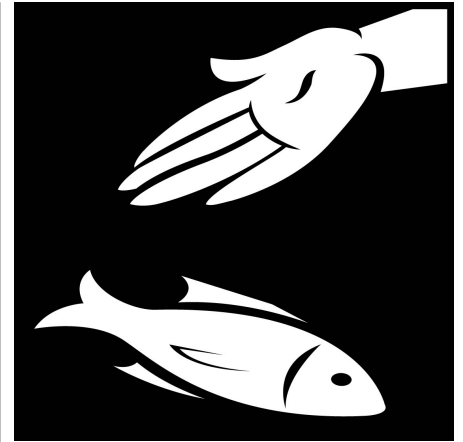
Gospel Lk 24:35-48

It was written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.

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 all 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.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

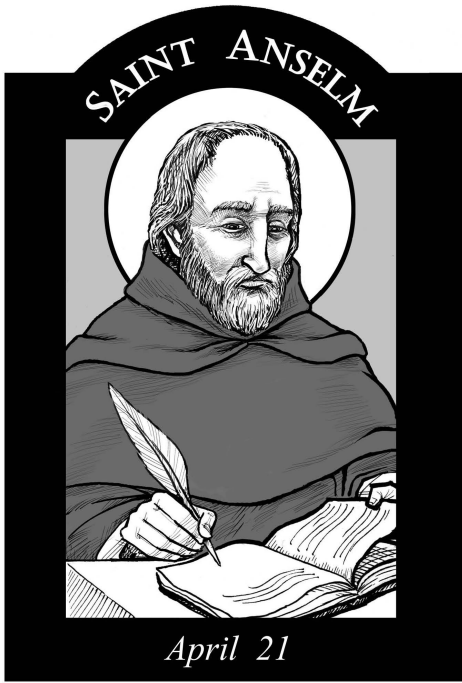
The first sentence of the gospel reading sets the context for the themes of today: 'Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.' Who is the Jesus that they recognised? And what does this recognition require?

Jesus is the servant of the God of the early ancestors, the long awaited messiah, and the innocent sufferer portrayed in the prophetic tradition. He is the fulfilment of our deepest aspirations. When we gather around the table for the sacramental meal, we encounter the Risen Lord. There the sacred traditions of our religious heritage are opened for us and we are enabled to recognise him in the traditions and in the breaking of the bread.

In order to encounter the Risen Lord in the breaking of the bread and in the breaking open of the word, we need docile hearts ready to embrace the deepest meaning of our religious heritage. We need hearts that have been purified in the love of God; hearts that have been totally transformed. The commandment of love requires nothing less.

Having recognised the Risen Lord, we, like the people described in the first reading, must live reformed lives. Having recognised the Risen Lord, we, like the people addressed in the second reading, must be obedient to God's commandment of love. Having recognised the Risen Lord, we, like the disciples portrayed in the gospel, must preach the good news of God's forgiveness to all nations. Easter faith assures us that all of this is possible.

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Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

- | | | |
|--------|------------|--------|
| bread | frightened | Moses |
| eat | ghost | nation |
| Emmaus | hands | road |
| fish | Jerusalem | three |

T F Y G R F H M C J I F O J Z V
 S A X N M P A J I K R A B J Q Q
 R K E Q Q K J Y Z I W X K E V X
 J H U P M M H P G G H G J R X E
 Q K N M T B G H G W O R O U M L
 C W C Z P H T K T H A N S S N Q
 J Y L O I E R R H E O Y Q A T I
 H S W K N M O E X H Y S P L S F
 S D X E P A O Z E S Y M T E N I
 S N D Y D C C S L H O D Q M A S
 U A E X K D Q M E F J P P H T H
 A H C S B C F K B S V H U Y I T
 M F B L H H J U G V S W E Q O S
 M G Y N Y K G A U F B U G U N G
 E Q Q X W U Y O N D A E R B S X

St. Anselm was born in Italy in 1033 and studied in Normandy with Lanfranc, a highly regarded teacher of that time. In his late twenties Anselm became a monk in Lanfranc's monastery and spent his time in prayer, meditation and study. Many years later he reluctantly succeeded Lanfranc as the Archbishop of Canterbury. This appointment brought him into many conflicts with the English king over the rights of the church and eventually resulted in Anselm's exile in 1097. He was regarded highly as a philosopher and theologian, and was considered the most important Christian writer in the time between Augustine and Thomas Aquinas. Anselm was named a doctor of the church in 1734.

There is something that Jesus asks us to do for him.
 To find out what that is, colour all the shapes that contain a dot • the same colour.
 Colour the remaining shapes using different colours.

