

MAY 4, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Caring for others with God's abundant joy.

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	2 Corinthians 8:1-15	Encouragement to be generous
Friday	James 1:2-8	Faith and wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 30	God turns mourning into dancing
Sunday	John 10:22-30	Jesus promises life to his sheep

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

When 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."

John 21:15 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, like the disciples by the Sea of Galilee, give us courage, faith, and joy to be sent out to follow you and care for others as you care for us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you gave disciples fish and bread, we thank you for this food that we are fed. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's care for you bring you joy.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Let Us Talents and
Tongues Employ*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When have you done something that disappointed you or someone else? Explain.
- What is it like to be accepted and loved by God when you have disappointed yourself or someone else?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 21:1-19.

At Jesus' trial, Peter denied his Lord and his life as a disciple three times. Jesus announces that he is the good shepherd (John 10) and, in this reading, Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, leads Peter in the direction of reclaiming his discipleship. Jesus did not give up on Peter; nor had God given up on the world that God loves. Even though Jesus was betrayed, tortured, and killed for speaking and living faithfully, he shows up at the seaside. He blesses his disciples with a catch of fish, feeds them, and gives Peter—and all of us—the marching orders of a disciple of Jesus: to feed and care for God's sheep. Now, after his death and resurrection, that identity, that calling, is given to Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, the sons of Zebedee, and to all. It is a calling filled with God's abundant joy seen in Jesus' first sign of turning water into wine at a wedding in Cana. Now it is seen in the large number of fish caught and turned into a simple, yet joyous feast.

Discuss: In what ways can you feed and care for God's sheep?

Pray: **Shepherding God, you care for us even when we fail; we thank you for Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who now calls us to care for others with your love that knows no end. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, who do you know that would appreciate having a meal delivered to them?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Early Christians were persecuted, even put to death, for practicing their faith. They worshipped secretly in homes. A fish painted on the outside door of a house let other Christians know that they would be safe and welcome inside. The fish has been used as a Christian symbol from the earliest times of the church. The Greek word for fish is *ichthus*. The Greek letters form an acrostic for Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior. Draw this symbol on a sheet of paper and display it near the entrance of your home as a sign of your faith in Jesus.



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