

Third Sunday of Easter

FIRST READING. Acts 3:12-19

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, 'You Israelites,* why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?'¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant* Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him.¹⁴ But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you,¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.¹⁶ And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus* has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

17 'And now, friends,* I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.¹⁸ In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah* would suffer.¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

SECOND READING. 1 John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.² Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he* is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

4 Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.⁵ You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.⁶ No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

GOSPEL. Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'^{*37} They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost.³⁸ He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?'³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.'⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.^{*41} While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?'⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish,⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

44 Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.'⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah^{*} is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses^{*} of these things.