

The Third Sunday of Easter
Year of the Lord 2019
John 21

**“Holy Spirit, Light Divine, shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day!”
“Let me see my Savior’s face; let me all HIS beauties trace!
Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to
Thee!”**

John 21:1–14 After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. ²Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. **³Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.”** They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, “Children, do you have any fish?” They answered him, “No.” ⁶He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. ⁸The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

In the Name of Jesus:

So ‘no fish’ is still ‘fishing,’ according to the Bible. Whew! Let’s be clear, though. ‘Fishing’ for those seven apostles was ‘work.’ It

was the livelihood of most those we hear of in the list. Yet, what THEY accomplish is still swept up into what He had declared on the cross, “It is finished!”

‘Lads! Any fish, or no?’ One word response: ‘No!’ But HE still has more to say, to direct, to give. ‘Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!’

Breakfast; breakfast INVITATION!; fire to cook it all, and the right place to cast their nets: ALL swept up so that the disciple whom Jesus loved confessed, ‘It is the Lord!’

Ahhh... And so, let’s not be too quick to pass by the tiny words that make up most of our language! ‘Their’ nets; ‘I’ am going fishing; ‘we’ are coming with you. But then, ‘They did NOT DARE TO ASK HIM, ‘Who are you?’ They knew that all these little details where heaven and earth are made one is typical of Jesus, our Lord.

Doctor Luther taught the Church that WE will never be able to TAKE IN Christ for ourselves—MORE than He actually is FOR US! So, as the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, WE flesh and blood Creation of God are THE WHOLE of God’s agenda now, and His Son; His Spirit too, Whom He sent, Who is tickled to make His forever dwelling in the likes of you and me, flesh and blood.

So if y’all, my dear ones, missed a good bunch of the words from the lessons today, the details, the names, the people—open your ears to your poor flesh and blood pastor: take these words and read them and read them and delight in the details; RELISH them!

Saul, Damascus, the Way, Ananias, Straight Street, house of Judas, scales on eyes...and THAT’S just ONE of the lessons!

The Revelation has a scroll, creatures, 24 elders, harps, bowls, incense, angels, a kingdom...

And our Gospel: Simon tucking up, diving in, hauling the net to shore; all the way to the number of the fish, 153. And a charcoal fire. And: ‘This was the **THIRD** time that Jesus was revealed to them after he was raised from the dead!’

Dear children of God! ‘I ascend to My Father—Your Father; to My God-so-YOUR God!’ Your God and Father—His too!—He is God of details! E...V...E...R...Y detail and part of you, and me, the world! Moments, seconds, days, slices of you and your life! The **WORK** the Lord accomplished up through the cross has now made God and His Attachment, His Love, sure all the way through what is flesh and blood: us!

Don’t know if it’s the therapy or the medication; probably y’all praying your dear Father to reveal the Gospel even to ME! But I USE-TA like that old saying, ‘If you want to make God smile, tell Him YOUR plans!’ ‘I’m going fishing; we will go with you.’ Aha! But, no FISH!

Our Lord went through all the trouble of the cross and breaking death, eviscerating our scary, dark graves—to OUTSMART us? Or INCREASE our anxiety about each daily action, plan, work?

No, no, no, no, no.... (That’s 5 no’s there!) ‘God your Father IS smiling upon you—His Son and the Lord’s gifts pledge it! The Holy Spirit is smiling on you, and your plans; tell Him, or not.’

‘Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man and drink of His Blood, you shall not have Life within you!’

‘No one has seen God!’ But NOW....WE canNOT...TAKE God MORE ‘FOR-US’ than HE...IS...FOR...US!

The God we CANNOT see, He...sees...us! Sees and smiles on and makes each moment yield, new blessings on our way. And WEEEEEE...my dearies!...We ARE...NOT...REQUIRED by heaven to wrap any part of us around any of them; certainly NOT ALL of them!

He washes us and calls us holy. Holy Washing. So we CANNOT begin the day more geared up for LIFE than the Holy Spirit is—BE-CAUSE of HIS washing!

And when the day is done, WE cannot be satisfied with us and our day, our work and our plans—NOT MORE satisfied and at PEACE than He is, ‘Peace be with you!’

Often, Jesus keeps me awake. Even when I’m really tired! So, the other night I told Him, ‘Look! I don’t know what else you want from me today! I sinned A LOT, all day long! And YOU are the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world! I DID my part! G’night!’ And I fell asleep at once and in good cheer!

You think your poor pastor says some strange things. You have no idea. My father and my mother, then my pastors, taught me the Gospel. Then I had the most miserable, old sinner you can imagine as a seminary professor. I cannot begin to tell you how wicked he was! Because every time you poked a hole in him, OUT poured the Gospel!

And he had the goofiest sayings. The Latin word for ‘Lord’ is ‘dominus!’ So, the things the Lord does, the dominus does, are ‘dominical!’ And my hard-boiled, no-pretense sinner of a professor reveled in talking about the word and work of Jesus Christ as things defined by ‘dominical-done-didnesss!’

What dominus does, the Lord—it’s done in a way that you can’t begin to undo, make undone.

And so, we even surprised HIM one day by rejoining in class, ‘Well, that means that HE HAS more forgiveness than what WE NEED forgiveness FOR!!!’

Again, the Lord must have suffered a lot for that old wretch. For then he cried out, ‘Glorious!’

Whenever he heard the Gospel from his students, he would relate it to the Lord, Who forbade His little ones to cast pearls before swine. The Spirit would have mercy and put the Gospel in one of us, and old professor-evil would report it as, ‘Oh! One of the students dropped a pearl!’

HE, your Lord, is the dominus, the MAN in charge of all things, to the last detail: meaning, YOU! As HE smiles on you, blesses you, keeps you: all of Heaven takes its cue from HIM. Even His Father! (Who smiled FIRST; and the Son of Love loved it! Glorious!)

As HE is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world—all y’all gotta worry about today, tomorrow, until THEN—just worry about sinning. My dear ones! Planning; working; success and disappointment.

You be the One Who NEEDS God, lacks God, cannot SEE God! He remains God more than you need, more Father than you lack a Heavenly Father.

And in His Church among His sinners, among His children, you see Him even now! Where else would God be in the Name of Jesus?