

4th May 2025 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

Headings	Gospel (John 21: 1 – 19)	First Reading (Acts 5: 24 – 32, 40 -41)	Second Reading (Revelation 5: 11 – 14)
Context	This passage occurs after the Resurrection. Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene, and now this was the third time he was to appear to his Apostles. It mirrors the call of the first disciples, who witnessed the large catch of fish. Here all would witness this.	During the Sundays of Easter the first reading is taken from Acts. Many are examples of the earliest apostolic preaching. In this reading God's law supersedes that of the Sanhedrin.	In this reading, John, whom tradition has identified as the same author of this Sunday's Gospel, sees the entire creation in worship of the Lamb. Countless angels and others gather to praise the Lord, and the Lamb (Jesus)
Key verse	"Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these others do?" He answered, 'yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him. 'Feed my lambs'"	"Obedience to God comes before obedience to men."	"To the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb, be all praise, honour, glory and power forever and ever"
Key themes/ messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter denied Jesus three times as he was delivered to crucifixion and death at the hands of Roman authorities. • In spite of his previous denial Peter was given the opportunity by Jesus to proclaim his faith three times. • Peter would be the rock on which Jesus would build the Church. • Jesus told Peter that he and the others would have to endure suffering, even to the point of death. • This incident is reminiscent of the first call of the disciples at the Sea of Galilee. Jesus commissions them once again to go and preach the Gospel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Apostles were arrested and taken before the Sanhedrin, just as Jesus was. • The Apostles were powerfully inspired by the Holy Spirit. • The authorities were very disturbed and unsettled by the boldness of the apostolic teaching. • What upset the authorities was the accusation being made against them that they crucified Jesus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The songs of the heavenly Liturgy are a recurring motif in the book of Revelation. • The prophets and saints are described as a vast throng, who having come through the great tribulation and have gone before us into the Kingdom • United they sing the praise and glory of the Lamb (Jesus) who sits on the throne. • In communion with them, the Church on earth also sings these songs with faith in the midst of trial.
Questions/ application to our lives	<p>"Jesus stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them". What does this remind you of? Do his words link to our worship today?</p> <p>In this passage we notice how Jesus affirmed the faith of Peter and the apostles. How willing are we to accept and move at the Lord's promptings? What is the best means to help us discern?</p>	<p>Do Christians today struggle to be obedient to God's word? Are you more influenced by the pressures of the world than to the teachings of Jesus?</p> <p>Do you feel pressure to be obedient to worldly values? What might help you to resist this pressure?</p>	<p>How do the words of today's second reading impact you?</p> <p>How can Christians today reach the unity we see among the blessed throng in heaven?</p> <p>How importance is it to praise God and to recognize and worship him for who he is?</p> <p>What values are highly regarded in society today? How can Christian values be promoted more strongly?</p>
Further reading	<i>Catechism 553, 641, 881, 1429</i>	<i>Catechism 642 – 644, 857, 995 - 996</i>	<i>Catechism 1137 – 1139, 1346, 2642</i>