



Liturgy Cycle C

Third Sunday Of Easter

Stranger On The Shore

Introduction

We know how badly Peter acted on the night of the Lord's passion; how he denied his Master, not once, but three times. Yet in today's Gospel we will see how Christ restored him to where he was before and confirmed him as chief shepherd of his flock.

First Reading (Acts 5:27-32, 40-41)

The apostles have been imprisoned and put on trial because of their preaching of the Gospel. But they are undeterred. In fact they are glad to suffer for Christ.

Second Reading (Rev. 5:11-14)

This gives us part of the heavenly liturgies that are a feature of the book of the Apocalypse. It is a hymn in praise of the crucified and risen Christ.

Gospel (John 21:1-19)

This relates an appearance of the risen Jesus to seven of his apostles on the shore of the lake of Gennesareth. The incident is built around Peter.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray to God our Father that he may help us to understand something of the height and depth of the love and forgiveness he has shown us in Christ his Son.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For Church leaders: that they may rule the Church with love in a spirit of courage and right judgement. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For our political leaders: that they may fulfill their responsibilities worthily and well, by striving to please the Lord in all they do. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For all those who have been rejected or written off because of their mistakes, failures or sins: that the love of true Christians may breathe new life and hope into them. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.



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That, remembering how kind the Lord has been to us, we may in our turn be kind, understanding and forgiving towards all those who disappoint or fail us. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

Communion Reflection

Nobody likes to fail.

The apostles had failed.

But the Stranger on the shore got them to say:

'We caught nothing — we failed.'

If we can say these words in the presence of someone we trust, then suddenly failure loses its power over us.

It is sometimes easier to say them to a sympathetic stranger than to a friend.

Then the Stranger told them to let down the net once more.

They did so and made a large catch of fish.

This shows that even when Christ is only a shadowy figure on the margins of our lives, we are still okay if we do what he says.

But once Peter recognised the Stranger he wanted to encounter him, he wanted to be near him.

There is a world of difference between those who have encountered the risen Lord, and those who obey a stranger.

The risen Lord nourishes those who encounter him, and he gives them a task to do.

He says to them:

'Feed my lambs, feed my sheep'.