

EASTER TO TRINITY SUNDAY



Revised Common Lectionary / Scripture Citations for Year C - All Seasons
<http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/calendar/2024-25/?season=all&download=txt>

Welcome to the last leg of the Liturgy journey for year C: Easter to Trinity Sunday. Our hope is that individuals as well as group/class members will make use of this devotional material as it not only reflects the Sunday sermons but ensures that we take our learnings deeper. We do this with scripture readings, daily devotions, reflections on scripture and questions. May you hear His truths, ensure it is transformative and experience God's love for you personally.

- Week 1: Sunday 20 April - The empty tomb.
- Week 2: Sunday 27 April – Jesus appears to his disciples.
- Week 3: Sunday 4 May – Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish.
- Week 4: Sunday 11 May – Further conflict over Jesus's claims.
- Week 5: Sunday 18 May – Jesus predicts Peter's denial.
- Week 6: Sunday 25 May – The healing at the pool.
29 May – Ascension Day
- Week 7: Sunday 1 June – Jesus prays for all believers.
- Week 8: Sunday 8 June – Jesus the way to the Father.
- Week 9: Sunday 15 June – Trinity Sunday.



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Week 3: Sunday 4 May ***Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish***

Bring God into the meeting with prayer, lighting a candle, listening to a worship song.

Micah Fiechter - (Miraculous Catch Again)
<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=HgvHGUeJ6lk&si=-4QAzoyEwc1VZsLS>

Read the Bible readings provided:

Liturgical Date: Third Sunday of Easter
Calendar Date: May 04, 2025
First reading: *Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)
Psalm: Psalm 30
Second reading: Revelation 5:11-14
Gospel: John 21:1-19

John 21:1-19
New International Version - UK
Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish

21 Afterwards Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³ 'I'm going out to fish,' Simon Peter told them, and they said, 'We'll go with you.' So, they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. ⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. ⁵ He called out to them, 'Friends, haven't you any fish?' 'No,' they answered. ⁶ He said, 'Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.' When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. ⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, 'It is the Lord,' he wrapped his outer garment round him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore,

about a hundred metres. ⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. Jesus reinstates Peter ¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' 'Yes, Lord,' he said, 'you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs.' ¹⁶ Again Jesus said, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Take care of my sheep.' ¹⁷ The third time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' He said, 'Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep.' ¹⁸ Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.' ¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, 'Follow me!'

A reflection on the Bible reading by: **KHANYISO NJWABULE**

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The disciples have finally arrived in Galilee after the resurrection Sunday, and this is the third time the disciples encounter the resurrected Jesus. If we remember on the resurrection Sunday, the women at the empty tomb are given a specific message from God to pass onto the disciples as it says *"The angel tells the women, 'Go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.'"* (Mark 16:7 NIV). Yet the disciples did not immediately go to Galilee upon receiving this message from the women, instead they were filled with fear and hid within Jerusalem. This tells us that to fully embrace the resurrected Christ in our lives, initially involves wrestling with our fears, disappointments of what we thought God would do for us, and persistent unbelief's. During this time of the disciples' fear and hiding, Jesus appeared twice to them as He also does in our lives today. He shows Himself through closed doors, shines His light in our dark times, and speaks words of peace, strength and comfort in our lives so that we can also finally get to Galilee. For Galilee is a place of redemption and restoration.

A lot is said and written on this text about how Peter and the disciples went back to their old lives and regressed on their calling to be disciples of Jesus by going back fishing when they finally got to Galilee. They were simply told to meet the Lord in Galilee with no further instruction or details like the exact time, date and GPS location of the meeting place. For me it's not a matter of disciples regressing their calling of discipleship, but it answers the question on 'what does one do when waiting on the Lord'.

You do what you know or are familiar with while waiting for the Lord and in this case the disciples went back to fishing in the sea of Galilee. For the Lord is omnipresent he will not have a problem finding them, in fact the message from the women said He had already gone ahead of them. I do not completely agree with the view that by going back to fishing the disciples had regressed on their calling because it's not like they had gone back to the life of crime. However, they were at the sea of Galilee unsure of what their future had in store for them. Some among them still doubting the resurrection of Christ and Peter (the one the Lord had named 'The Rock') still felt like a failure because a few weeks ago he had denied he ever knew the Lord three times.

The disciples are restored by Jesus, after fishing all night and catching nothing, they heard and listened to the voice of Jesus to cast their nets to the right although they did not yet recognize Him (in verse 4). From this obedient act they caught a multiple of fish, and also from this miraculous act, Jesus is restored to be the source of all abundance and fulfilment of life.

Peter is restored by Jesus, after asking Peter three times if he loved him and Peter responded each time, 'Yes, Lord'. This exchange between Peter and Jesus was to restore Peter back to his true-self and remove the guilt & shame of denying Jesus. We too are restored by the Lord to our true authentic selves by removing the masks that we present to other people and on social media in the places of our disappointments, doubts and fear. We are restored to know that Jesus is the source of life and things within it, and when we draw near to Jesus and listen to his voice – we lack nothing on this earth.

The last instruction from Jesus is for us to follow Him, we therefore follow him by showing love and kindness to those we may deem unlovable even those who do not look or sound like us. In this way, Jesus empowers us to draw multiple abundance of fish. The number 153 of fish mentioned in the text given indicates drawing of believers from different denominations, diversities, ethnicities and cultures, For Galilee is a place of redemption and restoration.

Questions for group discussion:

1. What is your understanding of the term a Resurrected Christ?
2. How does a Resurrected Christ impact your life today?
3. What failures, disappointments and mistakes in your life are you willing to surrender to Jesus today?
4. What areas in your life (like a vision, dream or plan) is dead because you have given up. Are you are willing to surrender that to Jesus today?
5. Do you believe in your heart that Jesus can resurrect all the dead areas in your life that you have surrendered?

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Daily lectionary readings:

Monday, May 05, 2025: [Psalm 121](#); [Ezekiel 1:1-25](#); [Acts 9:19b-31](#);
Tuesday, May 06, 2025: [Psalm 121](#); [Ezekiel 1:26-2:1](#); [Acts 26:1-18](#);
Wednesday, May 07, 2025: [Psalm 121](#); [Isaiah 6:1-8](#); [Luke 5:1-11](#);
Thursday, May 08, 2025: [Psalm 23](#); [Ezekiel 11:1-25](#); [Revelation 5:1-10](#);
Friday, May 09, 2025: [Psalm 23](#); [Ezekiel 20:39-44](#); [Revelation 6:1-7:4](#);
Saturday, May 10, 2025: [Psalm 23](#); [Ezekiel 28:25-26](#); [Luke 12:29-32](#);

FAMILY TIME:



Written by Jenny Blake – CHILDREN'S PASTOR

Week 3 Title: *Breakfast and a New Beginning*

Scripture: John 21:1–19

Theme: Jesus forgives us and calls us to follow Him.

Opening Thought

Have you ever messed up and felt really bad about it? Maybe you broke something, told a lie, or hurt someone's feelings. That's how Peter must have felt after denying Jesus three times. But in today's story, Jesus doesn't stay angry—He makes breakfast!

Bible Reading: [John 21:1–19](#)

Take turns reading or act it out—imagine how surprised the disciples were when the net filled with fish and Jesus had breakfast ready!

Devotion

Peter had denied knowing Jesus three times before Jesus was crucified. That must have made him feel ashamed and unworthy. But now, after the resurrection, Jesus meets the disciples again—this time by the sea.

They've gone fishing but catch nothing. Then a man (they don't recognize yet) tells them to try the other side of the boat—and suddenly the net is full! Peter realizes it's Jesus and jumps into the water to get to Him faster.

After breakfast, Jesus talks with Peter. Not to scold him, but to forgive him. Three times Jesus asks, "Do you love me?"—one time for each time Peter had denied Him. And each time Peter says yes, Jesus gives him a job: "Feed my sheep."

Jesus doesn't just forgive us. He invites us to start again—to follow Him and care for others.

Big Idea

Jesus meets us in our mistakes, forgives us, and gives us a new purpose.

Discussion Time

For Younger Children:

1. What did Jesus do for the disciples after they caught the fish?
2. How many times did Jesus ask Peter, "Do you love me?"
3. What does it mean to follow Jesus?

 For Older Children/Teens:

1. Why do you think Peter jumped into the water to get to Jesus?
2. How do you think Peter felt when Jesus asked him "Do you love me?" three times?
3. What does this story teach us about forgiveness and second chances?
4. Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." What do you think that means for your life today?

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for never giving up on us. When we make mistakes, You still love us and invite us to start again. Help us to follow You and take care of others the way You do. Amen.

Family Activity

"Breakfast with Jesus" Picnic:

Have a simple breakfast picnic (even indoors!) with bread and fish-shaped crackers. Talk about how Jesus shared meals with His friends and invites us to be part of His story—mistakes and all.