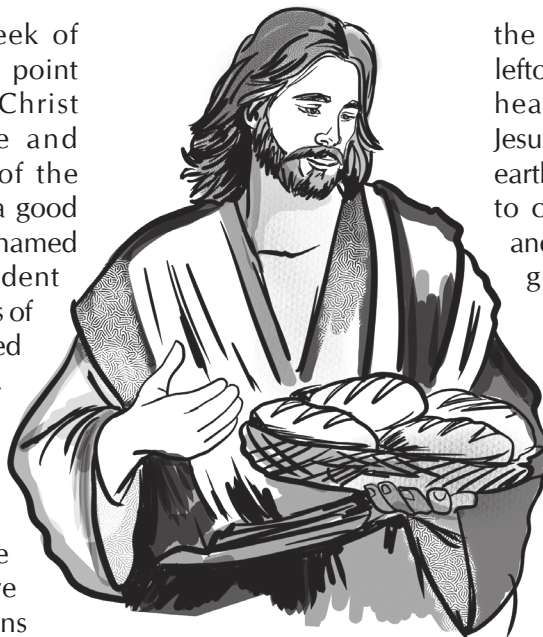


His Glory Lives On!

Into the second week of Easter, our readings point out how the Risen Christ continues to guide and influence the lives of the apostles. Jesus raises a good heart in the Pharisee named Gamaliel whose prudent counsel to the members of the Sanhedrin benefited Christ's followers. Gamaliel says that the Pharisees need not raise a finger because the Christians will naturally fall by the wayside, if they were fake. But if the Christians belonged to God, argued Gamaliel, the Sanhedrin might find themselves in a dangerous and discomfiting position of fighting God himself. With Gamaliel's words of prudent counsel and moderation, the apostles are released by the Sanhedrin.

The apostles' release does not happen on very easy terms. The Sanhedrin orders the apostles to be flogged and afterwards warned them against speaking in the name of Jesus. The apostles, Spirit-driven, ignored the Sanhedrin's command and continued to preach the name of Jesus Christ. Rather than lick their wounds after such a painful and humiliating experience, the apostles did something inexplicably



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strange. The apostles rejoiced! They rejoiced because they are found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name!

The strange attitude of the apostles dovetails with the selfless attitude of Jesus in today's Gospel. The crowd was enamored with Jesus after he had multiplied bread and fish. They are rolling in the hills with full stomachs and gleeful smiles. They wanted to make Jesus their king.

Jesus runs away from the crowd, frustrating the crowd's clamor to crown him king. Before Jesus' successful escape, he did something very important. He asked

the apostles to gather the leftover bread and fish. How heartwarming to imagine Jesus giving respect to mother earth by asking his disciples to clear away every bread and fish that had littered the ground. Then the image of the Twelve, each carrying a basket of the leftover food, points to the duty and privilege bestowed by Jesus to the apostles to assuage every hunger and need in all its forms.

The story of the multiplication of bread and fish is brought back on the early week of Easter to let us see how Jesus will continue to be present among us in the breaking of bread. In the daily celebration of the Eucharist, he will again use five barley loaves and two fish, ordinary people and implements by which his gospel will continue to be proclaimed. The apostles who rejoiced to the Lord after having been flogged for the sake of his name are the best and glorious example how God continues to work big things through small people.

In the bread we break and share in the Eucharist, and in the life we lay down for the sake of others, Jesus the Christ, risen and glorious, reigns supreme.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Sir 15:5)

(Recited when there is no opening song.)

In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth, and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding and clothed him in a robe of glory, alleluia.

Greeting

(The sign of the cross is made here.)

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

Introduction

(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)

P—Today's Gospel reading tells us of Jesus' multiplication of bread on the mountain. For the evangelist, this is also the "sign," the anticipation of the bread that Jesus will give to the people—not the bread that satisfies physical hunger, but the bread that gives eternal life. The miracle prepares us for the Eucharist where Jesus gives us his very self—the bread come down from heaven which gives life to the world.

Penitential Act

P—Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. *(Pause)*

All—**I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,** *(striking your breast)* **through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

P—May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All—Amen.

P—Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

P—Christ, have mercy.

All—Christ, have mercy.

P—Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

Collect

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

Almighty ever-living God, who raised up the Bishop Saint Athanasius as an outstanding champion of your Son's divinity, mercifully grant, that, rejoicing in his teaching and his protection, we may never cease to grow in knowledge and love of you.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All—Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD



First Reading

(Acts 5:34-42) *(Sit)*

Since their faith in Jesus comes from God, no amount of persecution will be able to destroy the apostles and the believers.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

A CERTAIN member of the Sanhedrin stood up and had the apostles ordered out of court for a few minutes, and then said to the assembly, "Fellow Israelites, think twice about what you are going to do with these men. Not long ago a certain Theudas came on the scene and tried to pass himself off as someone of importance. About four hundred men joined him. However he was killed, and those who had been so easily convinced by him were disbanded. In the end it came to nothing. Next came Judas the Galilean at the time of the census. He too built up quite a following, but likewise died, and all his followers were dispersed. The present case is similar. My advice is that you have nothing to do with these men. Let them alone. If their purpose or activity is human in its origin it will destroy itself. If, on the other hand, it comes from God, you will not be able to destroy them without fighting God himself.

This speech persuaded them. In spite of it, however, the Sanhedrin called in the apostles and had them whipped. They ordered them not to speak again about the name of Jesus, and afterward dismissed them. The apostles for their part left the Sanhedrin full of joy that they had been judged worthy of the ill-

treatment for the sake of the Name. Day after day, both in the temple and at home, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news of Jesus the Messiah.

—The word of the Lord.

All—Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 27)

R—**One thing I seek: to dwell in the house of the Lord.**

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The Lord is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid? **(R)**

2. One thing I ask of the Lord, this I seek: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life. That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord and contemplate his temple. **(R)**

3. I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord with courage; be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord. **(R)**

Alleluia

All—**Alleluia! Alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep and mine know me. Alleluia!**

Gospel (Jn 6:1-15)

P—A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

All—Glory to you, O Lord.

JESUS crossed the Sea of Galilee to the shore of Tiberias; a vast crowd kept following him because they saw the signs he was performing for the sick. Jesus then went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near; when Jesus looked up and caught sight of a vast crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" (He knew well what he intended to do but he asked this to test Philip's response.) Philip replied, "Not even with two hundred day's wages could we buy loaves enough to give each of them a mouthful."

One of Jesus' disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, remarked to him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and a couple of dried fish, but what good is that for so many?" Jesus said, "Get

the people to recline." Even though the men numbered about five thousand, there was plenty of grass for them to find a place on the ground. Jesus then took the loaves of bread, gave thanks, and passed them around to those reclining there; he did the same with the dried fish, as much as they wanted. When they had had enough, he told his disciples, "Gather up the crusts that are left over so that nothing will go to waste." At this, they gathered twelve baskets full of pieces left over by those who had been fed with the five barley loaves.

When the people saw the sign he had performed they began to say, "This is undoubtedly the Prophet who is to come into the world." At that, Jesus realized that they would come and carry him off to make him king, so he fled back to the mountain alone."

—The Gospel of the Lord.

All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily (Sit)

Prayer of the Faithful

P—Jesus multiplied loaves and fish on the mountain to feed the hungry multitude. Let us pray for the needs of the hungry and the poor, and for the strength to come to their assistance. we pray:

R—Lord, give us our daily bread.

C—That the ministers of the Church may feed without fail the people of God in the table of the Word and in the table of the Lord's Body. We pray. **(R)**

C—That government and civil agencies may attend to the people's need for food, shelter, and security. We pray. **(R)**

C—Like the boy who offers five barley loaves and two fish, may we be generous with our little resources which the Lord will multiply to answer the needs of many. We pray. **(R)**

C—As we pray for those who are hungry, may the Lord touch our hearts and open our hands to feed them. We pray. **(R)**

C—May we thank the Lord for the gift of food that restores our strength, for those who work to produce what we eat, and for those who prepare it at table. We pray. **(R)**

P—Father, open our eyes that we may see the deepest needs of men, women, and children. Teach us the generosity that welcomes the hungry, the thirsty, the strangers, and those who suffer in any way. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Presentation of the Gifts

(Stand)

P—Pray, brethren...

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P—Look, O Lord, upon the offerings we present to you in commemoration of Saint Athanasius, and may witnessing to your truth bring salvation to those who profess, as he did, an unblemished faith.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

Preface of Holy Pastors

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

P—Lift up your hearts.

All—We lift them up to the Lord.

P—Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All—It is right and just.

P—It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For, as on festival of Saint Athanasius you bid your Church rejoice, so, too, you strengthen her by the example of his holy life, teach her by his words of preaching, and keep her safe in answer to his prayers.

And so, with the company of Angels and Saints, we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim:

All—Holy, Holy, Holy... (Kneel)

Acclamation (Stand)

All—We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

All—Our Father...

P—Deliver us, Lord...

All—For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion

(Kneel)

P—Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(1 Cor 3:11)

No one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

(Stand)

P—Let us pray. (Pause)

Grant us, we pray, almighty God, that the true divinity of your Only Begotten Son, which we firmly profess with Saint Athanasius, may, through this Sacrament, ever give us life and protection.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

Prayer over the People

P—Bow down for the blessing. (Pause)

Turn the hearts of your people always to you, O Lord, we pray, and as you give them the help of such great patrons as these, grant also the unfailing help of your protection.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

P—And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (+) and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All—Amen.

Dismissal

P—The Mass is ended. Go in the peace of the Lord.

All—Thanks be to God.



PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART *of Jesus*

Divine Jesus, you have said, "Ask, and you shall receive; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you," behold me kneeling at your feet, filled with a lively faith and confidence in the promises dictated by your Sacred Heart and pronounced by Your adorable lips. I come to ask this favor: *(Here silently mention your petitions).*

To whom can I turn if not to you whose Heart is the source of all graces and merits? Where should I seek if not in the treasure which contains all the riches of your kindness and mercy? Where should I knock if not at the door through which God gives himself to us and through which we go to God? I have recourse to You, Heart of Jesus. In you I find consolation when afflicted,

protection when persecuted, strength when burdened with trials, and light in doubt and darkness.

Dear Jesus, I firmly believe that you can grant me the grace I implore, even though it should require a miracle. You have only to will it, and my prayer will be granted. I admit that I am most unworthy of your favors, but this is not a reason for me to be discouraged. You are the God of Mercy and you will not refuse a contrite heart. Cast upon me a look of mercy, I beg of you, and your kind Heart will find in my miseries and weaknesses a reason for granting my prayers.

O Sacred Heart, whatever may be your decision with regard to my request, I will never stop adoring, loving, praising and serving you. My Lord Jesus, be pleased to accept this my act of perfect resignation to the decrees of your adorable Heart which I sincerely desire may be fulfilled by me and all your creatures forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I know that there is but one thing impossible to you: to be without pity to those who are suffering or in distress. Look upon me, I beg of you, dear Jesus, and grant me the grace for which I humbly implore you through the Immaculate Heart of your most sorrowful Mother. You have entrusted me to her as her child, and her prayers are all-powerful with you. Amen.

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