

ctkAlive! Scripture Study
3rd Sunday of the Easter Season
2021—B Cycle



"Resurrection of Jesus"
by [Luca Giordano](#) (after 1665)

Gender usage in writing: We are conscious of gender references to God in the Scripture texts. Often, attempts to rewrite these passages result in awkward sentence structures. We have left the biblical translations as they are but do our best to be inclusive in all other parts of the reflection.

Opening Prayer

(edited for use here)

Fill Us to Bursting

Loving and gracious God,
when the obedient widow had given her family's last bit of flour to Elijah,
you fed them.

When you called Israel's sons and daughters out of bondage,
you fed them with manna.

When faced with the hunger of the 5,000,
with nothing but a few gracious handfuls offered up by a child,
you fed them.

Time and again, you have foreshadowed the bread of salvation
by nourishing us with the bread of this world.

Lord, you filled the fishermen's nets to bursting.

Fill *me* to bursting.

Fill me with compassion for my sisters and brothers.

Fill me with the grace that pours forth from your loving heart.

Fill me with obedience to your last commandments:

to go forth into the world,

to do for others as you have done for me,

to feed your sheep.

So many are hungry, and I am hungry too.

In my weariness, my complacency, my cynicism,

I have grown hungry for your compassionate spirit.

Fill me to bursting.

Amen.

—Source: [Catholic Relief Services](#)

Third Sunday of Easter Season Readings

Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15, 17-19 Peter said to the people, "I know you acted out of ignorance, but God has brought to fulfillment what he announced beforehand."

Psalm 4: 2, 4, 7-9 "O Lord, let the light of your countenance shine upon us!"

I John 2: 1-5 "Whoever keep his word, the love of God is truly perfected in them."

Luke 24: 35-48 "He stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'"

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (3: 13-15, 17-19)

"The God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over to death and denied before Pilate. Even Pilate had decided to release him. You rejected the Holy and Just One; and you insisted that a murderer be released to you. You killed the Master of life, but God raised him from the dead; and we are witnesses to this.

"Yet, I know that you acted out of ignorance, as did your leaders. God has fulfilled, in this way, what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent, then, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

Personal Reflection

"I know that you acted out of ignorance (v. 17)." Yet, Peter demands repentance as a precondition of forgiveness and acceptance into the new Jesus Movement within Judaism. Each of us must confess a similar complicity in the injustices and crimes of our times.

— *In my opinion, where does the soul of a person spend eternity, who did terrible things in life "out of ignorance" (but deliberately) and died in that state (take your pick of "villains")? In heaven? Eternal Purgatory? Hell? On what basis am I making that decision? [If you'd like to know what I think, ask me.—AJG]*

"You killed the Master of life, but God raised him from the dead; and we are witnesses to this."

— *How do I witness for Christ? In my family? In my parish? In the organizations I belong to? When I meet strangers (store employees, gardeners, laborers, etc.)?*

Responsorial Psalm 4 (2, 4, 7-9)

A night prayer

*Lord, let your face shine on us.
Answer when I call, O God, my justice!*



“King Herod Playing Harp” by Gerard van Honthorst (1592-1656)

When I was in distress, you gave me solace.
Have compassion on me and hear my plea.
But you must know that Yahweh has shown his kindness to me.
When I call to him, he hears me.
Lord, let your face shine on us.

Many ask, “Who will give us a happy time?
Would, that his favor shine upon us!”
You, O Yahweh, have put joy in my heart;
more than by giving me wine and food.
Lord, let your face shine on us.

I lie down and sleep in peace,
for you, alone, O Yahweh,
make me feel safe and secure.
Lord, let your face shine on us.

Personal Reflection

Forgetting to thank God may not be good but refusing to ask for God’s assistance may be worse. Psalmist David will not make that mistake. He has learned from his own life experience and finally found his comfort zone in the Lord. No matter what trials and tribulations he faces, he is finally at peace with himself and the Lord.

“When I was in distress, you gave me solace.”

— *When was the last time I consciously recognized that God answered my particular need or prayer?*

“Many ask, ‘Who will give us a happy time?’”

— *How closely does David’s statement about his own people coincide with what I feel as we’ve moved into yet another month of Covid restrictions? If I restated David’s question in my own words, it would come out like this:*

A Reading from First Letter of St. John (2: 1-5)



John the Evangelist
by Caravaggio
(late 16th c.)

“My little children, I write to you, that you may not sin. But if anyone sins, we have an intercessor with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Just One. He is the sacrificial victim, for our sins, and the sins of the whole world. How can we know that we know him? If we fulfill his commands. If you say, ‘I know him,’ but do not fulfill his commands, you are a liar and the truth is not in you. But if you keep his word, God’s love is made complete in you. This is how we know we are in him.”

Personal Reflection

John relates a simple (yet unfathomable) truth of our faith: God, Eternal Life, has come to live among and within us. Life Itself became visible. So, why look for “miracles” or “miraculous powers”? Don’t expect fantastic revelations about the beyond. We will not find the “secret” of life in books, no matter how enlightening, except through connection with generations of Christians who discovered and experienced that “secret” before us and became his Church.

Walking in faith frees me from certain obstacles:

1. The *partial vision* of one who has enthusiasm for a cause but ignores other equally important issues;

2. The *restlessness* of not having a goal yet silencing my doubts through frantic activity;

3. *Sectarianism* that prevents me from being a “universal brother/sister” to others of all religious persuasions (and none).

Faith opens for me a *global vision* of human reality and connectedness.

“If anyone sins, we have an intercessor with the Father, Jesus Christ.”

— *How comforting is it to me knowing that the Risen Christ is my personal advocate (spokesperson) before the Father, when I stray into sin?*

To Christians who wonder if they’re on the right track spiritually, John says,

“How can we know that we know him? If we fulfill his commands.”

— *How clear am I about the commandments (the original “10” and the moral roadmap laid out by Jesus) serving as the ballast to keep me afloat in my Catholic/Christian life? To what extent do I find commandments an obstacle rather than a help when it comes to enjoying life to its fullest?*

Proclamation from the Gospel according to Luke (24: 35-48)



Jesus breaks bread at Emmaus
by Caravaggio (ca. 1601)

“The two disciples told what had happened on the road to Emmaus, and how Jesus had made himself known, when he broke bread with them. While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood in their midst. He said to them, ‘Peace to you.’

“In their panic and fright they thought they were seeing a ghost, but he said to them, ‘Why are you upset, and how does such an idea cross your minds? Look at my hands and feet and see that it is I myself! Touch me, and see for yourselves, for a ghost has no flesh and bones as I have!’

“As he said this, he showed his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they still could not believe it, as they were astonished. He said to them, ‘Have you anything to eat?’ And they gave him a piece of broiled fish. He took it and ate it before them.”

Personal Reflection

Watch the YouTube [dramatization](#) of this gospel by [Jesus Film Project](#) (2 min.).

Though Jesus already lived in the Father's glory, on various post-resurrection occasions he wanted to spend additional time with his disciples. He needed to convince them that his new condition was not a lesser life but rather a "super-life." Jesus used these encounters to clarify the meaning of his few years of mission with his apostles and followers. Christian conversion [we are all "converts"] recasts us. We belong to a society, a world, a history. Jesus knew this "recasting" would take longer than ten or even a hundred years or even a millennium.

"In their panic and fright they thought they were seeing a ghost. . . ."

— *When I put myself in that locked room where Jesus' friends hid out of fear, how might I have reacted to his sudden presence in our midst?*

"Touch me, and see for yourselves, for a ghost has no flesh and bones as I have! Jesus' risen self is unlike our common ideas about how our deceased loved ones might look if they appeared to us.

— *If I have ever had a vision (for lack of a better word) of a dead parent or other person, what was that experience like?*



[Personal experience: When I was child of 3 or 4, I became terribly ill. In the room where I slept, a photo of [St. Frances Cabrini](#) (first American immigrant canonized) hung on the wall over my bed. During the night, the picture came to life, and Mother Cabrini (as she was called) approached my bedside, then disappeared. When I awoke in the morning, I had no fever, no pain. I told my mother—pointing to the picture—“That lady came.” Needless to say, Mother Cabrini and I have had a close relationship to this day. Her [first-class relic](#) sits alongside my keyboard as I write this.—AJG]

The Week Ahead

Journaling Prompts

— *Based on this weekend's Scripture readings, what does the Risen Christ ask me to do this week regarding . . .*

(1) the quality of the love I bring to my personal relationships . . . and

(2) my life as an emissary of the Risen Christ, charged with bringing his values and grace to the people with whom I interact in person and on social media?

— *Who this week needs to hear from me some expression of love?*

Who needs to receive from me a moment of laughter and personal concern? Why do I hesitate?

Take some time to write about your experience and feelings about events occurring in your life today and what you see happening in the world.

For Inspirational Viewing/Listening

Music:

[Songs of Easter](#): Music for the Easter Season

“[Pie Jesu](#),” a hymn written by Sir [Andrew Lloyd Webber](#), sung by [Sarah Brightman](#) and [Paul Miles-Kingston](#).

Website:

Read Sr. [Joan Chittister](#), OSB’s, enlightening 2021 [Easter Homily](#).

Preview of Next Week’s Scriptures

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts of the Apostles 4: 8-12 “Jesus is the stone rejected by you, the builders, who has become the cornerstone.”

Psalms 118: 1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29 “Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.”

First letter of St. John 3: 1-2 “See what love the Father has bestowed on us.”

John 10: 11-18 “I am the good shepherd.”

Closing Prayer

(edited and abridged for use here)

Post-Resurrection Blues

O God our God, like the disciples after that glorious morning of rebirth I have... the post-resurrection blues:

The shouting is over, so what now?

I’m clueless, locked in my routines,

without energy or direction,

keeping my head down,

settling for apathy,

witness, wonder dimmed, to appalling hatred and injustice.

If only I would reach out and touch an-*other*,

universes would fall away and reveal heaven

here among us in the God-like faces

of everyone I see . . . and the spirit-filled presence

of the spaces I occupy.

Excerpted from “[A Prayer After Resurrection](#),” found on “[Talk with the Preacher: The Blog of Rev. Dr. Amy Butler](#).”

Questions?

Send any questions or comments you might have to algarrotto@comcast.net

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(follow this link to my spiritual novel, [*Bishop Myriel: In His Own Words*](#))