

Reading for Friday in the Octave of Easter

April 10th 2026

First reading

Acts 4:1-12

‘There is salvation in no one else.’

In those days: After the lame man was cured, Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the Temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas, and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they enquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead — by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men and women by which we must be saved.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118(117):1-2, 4. 22-24. 25-27a. R22

The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone.

or: Alleluia.

Give praise to the Lord for he is good, his mercy endures for ever.

Let the house of Israel say, ‘His mercy endures for ever.’

Let those who fear the Lord say, ‘His mercy endures for ever.’

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

By the Lord has this been done, a marvel in our eyes.

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.

We beseech you, O Lord, grant salvation; we beseech you, O Lord, grant success.

Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

We bless you from the house of the Lord; the Lord is God, and has given us light.

Sequence

Victimae Paschali Laudes

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled,

hath sinners to his Father reconciled.

Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!

Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.

Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.

The tomb the Living did enclose; I saw Christ's glory as he rose!

The angels there attesting; shroud with grave-clothes resting.

Christ, my hope, has risen, he goes before you into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.

Victorious king, thy mercy show!

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 118(117):24

Alleluia, alleluia.

This is the day the Lord has made;

let us rejoice in it and be glad.

Alleluia.

Gospel

John 21:1-14

Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish.

At that time: Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, do you have any fish?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred metres off.

When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Short reflection on the reading for today

The apostles went back to where they started, to Galilee, where they continued their work as fishermen. But their lives had been changed by their contact with Jesus, and when they met him by the lake-shore and recognised him, they hauled in the net at his advice, and took his guidance for their future. Many traits of a person's earlier life contribute now to whatever may be their apostolate. These apostles must now go out as fishers of men.

Peter's special trait as an impulsive, generous leader, leads Jesus to make him shepherd of the whole church. He may have three times denied Christ in the panic of the Passion, but his heart is loyal, and his personal experience of weakness makes him all the more suited to lead a church of sinners, on the way towards sainthood. Aspects of our own past too which we may tend to dismiss as trivial, can be turned by God into pillars of our future career.

In the same way, just as the disciples returned to their native place (Galilee) and to their old trade (fishing), we ourselves should not forget our own ancestry and heritage. We need not be ashamed of our past, nor feel crippled by any part of it. If we discover the grace of God in our own lives, we can pass on the reassuring message to others, that "the stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone." Some years earlier Jesus had called them away from being fishermen, inviting them to share in his work of drawing people into God's kingdom. After he had been crucified, there was nothing to do but go back to what they knew best. Seeing no way forward they returned to their past. But like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus they were re-directed. The risen Lord now stood on the shore of the Lake of Galilee to renew the call they had heard some years earlier.

By his smiling invitation to have breakfast with him, he showed his unbroken friendship towards them, that they had abandoned at the time of his passion. The Lord is always inviting us like that. Even if we have failed in our friendship to him, he invites us to start afresh and cast our nets in a different direction. Our relationship with him is full of hope. Easter is when we recognize him again on the shore of our lives, calling us to follow where he is leading us.