

Reading for Weekday in the Seventh Week of Eastertide

May 22nd 2026

First reading

Acts 25:13b-21

‘Jesus, who was dead, but whom Paul asserted to be alive.’

In those days: Agrippa the king and Bernice arrived at Caesarea and greeted Festus. And as they stayed there many days, Festus laid Paul’s case before the king, saying, ‘There is a man left prisoner by Felix, and when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews laid out their case against him, asking for a sentence of condemnation against him. I answered them that it was not the custom of the Romans to give up anyone before the accused met the accusers face to face and had opportunity to make his defence concerning the charge laid against him. So when they came together here, I made no delay, but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought. When the accusers stood up, they brought no charge in his case of such evils as I supposed. Rather they had certain points of dispute with him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus, who was dead, but whom Paul asserted to be alive. Being at a loss how to investigate these questions, I asked whether he wanted to go to Jerusalem and be tried there regarding them. But when Paul had appealed to be kept in custody for the decision of the emperor, I ordered him to be held until I could send him to Caesar.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103(102):1-2. 11-12. 19-20b. R19a

The Lord has fixed his throne in heaven.

or: Alleluia.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and all within me, his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and never forget all his benefits.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,

so strong his mercy for those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west,

so far from us does he remove our transgressions.

The Lord has fixed his throne in heaven,

and his kingdom is ruling over all.

Bless the Lord, all you his angels,

mighty in power, fulfilling his word.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:26

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Holy Spirit will teach you all things

and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Alleluia.

Gospel

John 21:15-19

'Feed my lambs, feed my sheep.'

When Jesus had revealed himself to his disciples and they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' He said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' He said to him a second time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' He said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' and he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.' (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

Short reflection on the reading for today

Before Jesus was crucified Peter denied Jesus three times. After Jesus rose from the dead he appeared to Peter and asked him three times, "Do you love me?" as we heard in today's gospel. The question on the lips of Jesus is not, "Why did you deny me?" but "Do you love me?" The question Jesus asked is not one that focuses on the past but, rather, one that focuses on the present. The past is past; it is the present that matters.

The risen Lord gives all of us the same opportunity, and gives it over and over again. The question, "Do you love me?" is asked by the one who has loved us with a divine love. It is not an accusing question; it is an inviting question calling us back into communion if, for whatever reason, we have fallen out of contact with him. The Eucharist is our Holy Communion, a moment when that question is addressed to us in a special way. It is a privileged opportunity for us to respond to that question as Peter does in today's gospel, and to renew our communion with the Lord if we have broken it.