

3rd Sunday of Easter
Year C

Citation: Acts, Chap. 5, Verses 27-32; 40b-41
Acts 5: 27-32; 40b-41

The story of the Apostles' court appearance and Peter's defense of their behavior. Peter is very strong, here. He calls a spade a spade. Be Peter as well as a reporter determined to tell a story favorable to the Apostles.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When the captain and the court officers had brought the apostles in
and made them stand before the Sanhedrin,
the high priest questioned them,

(parenthetical expression)
(very short pause)

"We gave you strict orders, did we not,
to stop teaching in that name?
Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching
and want to bring this man's blood upon us."

(questioning tone)

(he's getting angry)
("righteously" angry!) (short pause)

But Peter and the apostles said in reply,
"We must obey God rather than men.
The God of our ancestors raised Jesus,
though you had him killed by hanging him on a tree.

(very short pause)
(calm, almost quiet)

(no disdain; almost parenthetical)

God exalted him at his right hand
as leader and savior
to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins.

(voice goes down) (very short pause)

We are witnesses of these things,
as is the Holy Spirit
whom God has given to those who obey him."

(insistent)

(finality) (short pause)

The Sanhedrin ordered the apostles to stop speaking in the name of Jesus,
and dismissed them.

(very short pause)

So they left the presence of the Sanhedrin,
rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor
for the sake of the name.

(pace slows down)

The word of the Lord.

3rd Sunday of Easter
Year C

Citation: Revelation, Chap. 5, Verses 11-14
Revelation 5: 11-14

John relates his vision of Jesus in His Kingdom. It is an awesome sight. There is reverence, here, also.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I,
John,
looked
and heard the voices of many angels who surrounded the throne
and the living creatures and the elders. (start off quiet & calm)

They were countless in number,
and they cried out in a loud voice:
"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain
to receive power and riches,
wisdom and strength,
honor and glory and blessing." (amazement throughout)
(raise volume)

Then
I heard every creature in heaven
and on earth and under the earth
and in the sea,
everything in the universe, cry out:
"To the one who sits on the throne
and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor, glory and might,
forever and ever." (a bit sing-song-like?)
(" (short pause)
(normal volume)
(excited; amazed)

The four living creatures answered, "Amen,"
and the elders fell down and worshiped. (excited; amazed)
(raise volume) (very short pause)
(slower pace) (reverence)

The word of the Lord.

3rd Sunday of Easter
Year C

Gospel
LONG VERSION

Citation: John, Chap. 21, Verses 1-19
John 21: 1-19

Jesus appears to the disciples and feeds them. It is a story. Then, a shift occurs as Jesus and Peter have their dialogue. Peter's primary task from this point on, Jesus makes plain, is to lead the fledgling community of believers. Peter is aware of the attitude of the Jewish authorities and Jesus point out that Peter's task and life will be difficult (but necessary). Help your listeners develop a better picture of Peter than what they may have had because of Good Friday, etc.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time,
Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples
at the Sea of Tiberias. (parenthetical)
He revealed himself in this way. (very short pause)

Together
were Simon Peter,
Thomas called Didymus, (a bit parenthetical)
Nathanael from Cana in Galilee,
Zebedee's sons,
and two others of his disciples. (very short pause)

Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing."
They said to him, "We also will come with you."
So they went out and got into the boat, (commanding?)
(friendly)
(very short pause)

but that night they caught nothing. (disappointment)

When it was already dawn,
Jesus was standing on the shore;
but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to them,
"Children, (raise volume; get attention)
have you caught anything to eat?"
They answered him,
"No." (almost discouraged)

So he said to them,
"Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something." (still loud)

So they cast it,
and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. (WOW!)

So the disciple

Proclamation Format

whom Jesus loved (parenthetical)
said to Peter,
"It is the Lord." (excitedly insistent)

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord,
he tucked in his garment,
for he was lightly clad, (parenthetical)
and jumped into the sea.
The other disciples came in the boat,
for they were not far from shore, (parenthetical)
only about a hundred yards,
dragging the net with the fish. (very short pause)

When they climbed out on shore,
they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread. (very short pause)

Jesus said to them,
"Bring some of the fish you just caught." (inviting)
So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore
full of one hundred fifty-three large fish.
Even though there were so many, (amazed?)
the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them,
"Come, have breakfast." (inviting)

And none of the disciples dared to ask him, (why, of course!)
"Who are you?" "
because they realized it was the Lord. "

Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, (matter-of-factly)
and in like manner the fish.

This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples
after being raised from the dead. (short pause)

When they had finished breakfast,
Jesus said to Simon Peter,
"Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" (curious)
Simon Peter answered him,
"Yes, Lord, (affirmative)
you know that I love you." (very short pause)

Jesus said to him,
"Feed my lambs." (gently)

He then said to Simon Peter a second time,
"Simon, son of John, do you love me?" (firmer than curious)

Proclamation Format

Simon Peter answered him,
"Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

(why, of course!)

Jesus said to him,
"Tend my sheep."

(gentle firmness)

Jesus said to him the third time,
"Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

(insistent)

Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time,
"Do you love me?"

(a bit upset)

and he said to him,

"Lord,
you know everything;
you know that I love you."

(getting exasperated?)

"

"

Jesus said to him,
"Feed my sheep."

(a command)

Amen, amen, I say to you,
when you were younger,
you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted;
but when you grow old,
you will stretch out your hands,
and someone else will dress you
and lead you where you do not want to go."

(shift tone – counseling Peter)

(almost ominous)

He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God.

(parenthetical)

And when he had said this,
he said to him, "Follow me."

(two stresses; insistent, firm but gentle)

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Gospel
SHORTER VERSION

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John 21: 1-19

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at the Sea of Tiberias. (parenthetical)
He revealed himself in this way. (very short pause)

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So the disciple
whom Jesus loved (parenthetical)
said to Peter,
"It is the Lord." (excitedly insistent)

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord,

Proclamation Format

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for he was lightly clad,
and jumped into the sea.

(parenthetical)

The other disciples came in the boat,
for they were not far from shore,
only about a hundred yards,
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(parenthetical)

(very short pause)

When they climbed out on shore,
they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread.

(very short pause)

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"Bring some of the fish you just caught."
So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore
full of one hundred fifty-three large fish.
Even though there were so many,
the net was not torn.

(inviting)

(amazed?)

Jesus said to them,
"Come, have breakfast."

(inviting)

And none of the disciples dared to ask him,
"Who are you?"
because they realized it was the Lord.

(why, of course!)

"

"

Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them,
and in like manner the fish.

(matter-of-factly)

This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples
after being raised from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.