

Third Sunday of Easter  
Sunday, April 15, 2018

Just a couple of weeks ago, on Good Friday, we put Jesus to death. Our forgiving Father raised Him from the dead. In the first reading, Peter preaches that Jesus has been raised from the dead and calls upon all to repent. God brought to fulfillment what He had announced beforehand through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He said Jesus would be handed over; He said Jesus would suffer; He said Jesus would die. And He said Jesus would rise from the dead for us. God gives us the opportunity to repent and have our sins wiped away. Our God is so generous!

The second reading tells us if we do sin, we have an Advocate with the Father. We are asked to keep His commandments. Thankfully, we have that Advocate who says, "But whoever keeps His word, the love of God is truly perfected in Him." Those who know God keep His commandments. God asks so little of us. He is so good to us!

In the Gospel, Jesus appears again to His disciples. "Peace be with you," He says. The disciples were startled and terrified. They thought it was a ghost! Jesus asks them to touch Him, to look at His hands and feet. He asks for something to eat. He shares a meal with them. Peace begins to flow through the disciples. We are invited to the Eucharist and to share a meal with Jesus, just as His disciples did. We, too, will find peace. Our God is so giving!

The Responsorial Psalm beautifully describes what God does for us, especially when we ask.

**Lord, let Your face shine on us**  
*You relieve me when I am in distress*  
*You hear me when I call upon You*  
*You put gladness into my heart*  
*You bring security to my dwelling*

It's so simple! God asks us to follow the Ten Commandments. God asks us to believe in Him. God asks us to come to His table. God forgives us. The Lord's face will always shine on us. It's really that simple!

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