

Service for Week 28th April -4th May

2025 By Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Loving God, you call us to support one another and to offer comfort. Forgive us for so easily doing the opposite, for finding fault and seeing the worst instead of the best. Teach us to help others to recognize their true worth.

Amen

Say to yourself- The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven.....

Amen

Bible Reading John 21:1-19

In 21:1-14 Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you."

So, they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" No," they answered. He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon

as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.

When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast."

None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Holy words, Holy wisdom,

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

This is my most favorite account from the gospels when the disciples had a break from being with Jesus and returned to fishing, their former way of life.

They went out at night, as they used to do in their boat, no doubt excited to be out fishing again and expecting to catch many fish. But as we read, they



were disappointed because by daybreak they had caught nothing. Then as they had hauled in the fishing nets as they were returning to shore a stranger tells them to throw the nets out once again on the other side of the boat. Just imagine how they must have felt, they had caught nothing all night then a stranger tries to tell them-experienced fishermen, to try again. They must have been fed up and probably cross that this stranger has the cheek to suggest that after all their efforts all night they should throw the nets out and try once again.

But they probably thought – let's do what he says, we have nothing to lose and even if we happen to catch one or two fish it will be something. But when they try to haul in their nets, they find they have caught so many fish there is a danger the nets will break if they bring them onboard, so instead they tow the nets into the shore. Then they notice the stranger who they recognised now as being Jesus had built a fire and he tells them to bring some of the fish over to the fire to be cooked. Then Jesus tells them "Come and have breakfast."

This is such a marvelous account of Jesus providing hospitality for the disciples. Their teacher, their leader, Jesus who was so cruelly killed, now restored to life is with them again not in a triumphant way but as their servant preparing and serving them

breakfast. As we read Jesus took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. They knew that it really was Jesus, who had returned from the dead and was with them there sharing the fish and bread with them.

It is a marvelous account because Jesus had brought about the extraordinary in that huge catch of fish, but then he reveals his identity through the simple, every day, ordinary act of cooking breakfast and sharing it with the disciples.

This is how Jesus reveals God's love to us today, through his life and his teachings but also through the simple everyday things that we do in life in the service of others. It is through speaking and being with our family, friends and others that we don't know but meet throughout our lives that we can show our love and care as Jesus did for his disciples.

To show our love through simple words or a simple invitation to be thought about and cared for -words such as Jesus spoke "Come and have breakfast."

Amen

Closing Prayer.

Lord Jesus, as you have reached out to me, so teach me to reach out to others, expressing your love and showing your care. **Amen.**

Prayers inspired by 'Prayfully Yours' by Nick Fawcett