

May 5, 2019

3rd Sunday of Easter

Countless angels praise the Lord!

Acts 5:27b-32, 40b-41

Psalm 30:2+45-6,11-12a+13b

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

The apostles were brought before the Sanhedrin because they continued to teach about Jesus. Their response to the questions was simply that they must obey God before men. "God raised Jesus," they said, and "we are witnesses, as is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The Psalmist will always extol the Lord God because he was saved from his enemies and preserved from falling into the pit. He encourages all the faithful to sing praise to the Lord and give thanks to his holy name. There may be weeping at nightfall but rejoicing comes with the dawn. Forever he will give thanks to the Lord, his helper.

John heard the voices of countless many angels who said, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing forever and ever. The four living creatures responded, Amen!

Peter and several disciples spent the night fishing without success. Jesus, standing on the shore told them to cast their nets and the yield could barely be handled. This was the third time that Jesus revealed himself to the disciples. Jesus asked Simon three times, "Do you love me?" Simon responded positively and was told to feed Jesus' sheep."



The Father guided the Disciples
To acknowledge the resurrected Son, and
The Holy Spirit empowers their witness.

Cast Your Nets

When the disciples returned to the shoreline they saw someone there but did not recognize it was Jesus who, on the other hand, noticed they had not yet caught anything so he instructed them to cast their nets again and they caught so many fish they could hardly drag in their nets. It was then that John recognized Jesus: "It is the Lord!" and Peter quickly scrambled to shore where Jesus had started a fire for cooking and the disciples ate with him.

And so it is when we encounter the counsel of our Lord in contrast to the advice of a noisy world. The wisest thing we can do is God's bidding even when worldly indications are to the contrary. Obedience to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit brings light that penetrates the wall of darkness.

Jesus' approach toward the disciples did not involve preaching at them or giving directions from a point of personal superiority; in fact he often warned them about lording it over others. He simply came to them on a level where he shared concepts of great value. In a similar way we too need to share every value that enhances our Christianity with others. There are unique times when each of us finds ourselves possessed of a "power" to do or say something that will truly affect others and bring them into greater activity within the Christian community even though we may not be aware of the significance of the impact at that time. But we are continuously called to remain in tune with the demands of this kind of spirit of sharing values in our own unique and creative ways.

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