

INTRODUCTIONS

For use by lectors, in order of service, parish bulletins and magazines

The First Reading - Acts 9: 1-6, [7-20] or Jeremiah 32: 36-41

Acts 9 : 1-6 : 17-20

Saul, whom we know as Paul, was one of the strongest opponents of the apostles' teaching. In what he came to describe as a sudden and abnormal birth, a life-changing encounter with the risen Christ transformed him into a great apostle and missionary.

The Psalm - Psalm 30

The Second Reading - Revelation 5: 11-14

Week by week we hear John's mystical visions of the glories of heaven. As he perceives it, everything God has ever created comes together to proclaim the glory of the Lord.

The Gospel Reading - John 21: 1-19

Jesus, in his risen body, appeared many times to many people. Here, he joins some of his disciples for breakfast on the shore of the lake where it all began. Peter is challenged about his commitment to a life of love and service.

[Click here to view the readings](#)

[http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Acts%209:%201-6,%20\[7-20\]%0A%20BOR%0AJeremiah%2032:%2036-41%0Acw%20Psalm%2030%0ARevelation%205:%2011-14%0AJohn%2021:%201-19](http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Acts%209:%201-6,%20[7-20]%0A%20BOR%0AJeremiah%2032:%2036-41%0Acw%20Psalm%2030%0ARevelation%205:%2011-14%0AJohn%2021:%201-19)

COLLECTS OF THE DAY

Collect One

Almighty God,
who hast given thine only Son
to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin,
and also an ensample of godly life;
Give us grace that we may always
most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit,
and also daily endeavour ourselves
to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect Two

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:

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Give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened
and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for courageous political figures who maintain their early ideals, and those who have surrendered them in a thousand compromises. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for the quiet, reliable citizens, whose firm integrity steadies the community, and for well meaning but fickle people, who let down those who depend on them. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for patient church members, who work unflustered towards long term goals, and for the impetuous souls who want more instant success than Jesus had. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for experienced believers who have served Christ from childhood to old age, and for recent converts who may be in danger of slipping backwards into indifference. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for handicapped and sick people whose experience deepens their compassion, and for lucky people with perfect health who may tend to be thoughtless and impatient. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for the bereaved who are courageously trying to put their lives together again, and for those who have never known sorrow yet expect the sad to get over it quickly. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Most loving God, to journey with Christ is to warmly live, to fall away is to grow cold and slowly die, help us who have prayed for other people, to recognise our own weaknesses and to trust your Spirit to supply the kind of help which we most aptly need.

For your purpose and praise. **Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

By Bruce Prewer

POST COMMUNION

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread.
Open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

PRAYERS

May the God of Life, who spoke to the heart of Saul on that road to Damascus, speak to us in this place as we gather for worship, bring our prayer requests and listen to his Word. May we see his light, follow where he leads us and be used in service for the building up of his church. Amen

Worthy are you
Lamb of God,
to receive from us
the worship and praise
that's due your name.
Worthy are you
Lamb of God,
slain for us
to pay the price
of our sinfulness.
Now to Him who sits on the throne
and the Lamb who leads us home,
May Praise and Honour
Glory and Power
be shown
for ever and ever
Amen

You speak to us in many ways,
in the spectacular
and through the quietest whisper,
in the bustle of city streets,
the solitude of a desert place,
and in the ebb and flow of daily life.
You speak to us in many ways,
yet our ears are often tuned
to different voices;
louder, more insistent voices,
attractive voices.
Forgive us
when we fail to hear your word.
Forgive us
when we disappoint you.
Open our ears to hear
and our hearts to service.
Through the risen Christ we ask this. Amen

For all answers to prayer
dear Lord, we thank you.
For the touch that brings healing
and a life made whole.
For the sharing of compassion
when the season is cold.
For a door that quickly opens
and one that's firmly closed.

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For the unexpected consequences
of sharing your word.
For all answers to prayer
dear Lord, we thank you.
Amen

God of victory over death,
your Son revealed himself again and again,
and convinced his followers of his glorious resurrection.
Grant that we may know his risen presence,
in love obediently feed his sheep,
and care for the lambs of his flock,
until we join the hosts of heaven in worshiping you and praising him
who is worthy of blessing and honour,
glory and power, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord,
the resurrection of Your Son
has given us new life and renewed hope.
Help us to live as new people
in pursuit of the Christian ideal.
Grant us wisdom to know what we must do,
the will to want to do it,
the courage to undertake it,
the perseverance to continue to do it,
and the strength to complete it. Amen.

LECTIONARY NOTES 1

I Am Jesus'

Psalm 30; Acts 9:1-20; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

Faith bears witness to abrupt, transformative newness that it cannot explain. It can only narrate what it has seen and heard.

The gospel reading turns on Peter's assertion, "It is the Lord!" (John 21:7). Jesus shows up where least expected, and everything is changed. The life-giving power of God has the capacity, always again on exhibit, to work newness where newness seems impossible. Our readings provide three "case studies" of the gift of Easter newness.

In Psalm 30, the psalm tells of the turn from mourning to dancing, from sad clothes into joy clothes (v. 11). Joy comes in the morning ... after long weeping (v. 5)!

In the Acts narrative, the living Lord confronts Saul the persecutor: "I am Jesus" (v. 9). Nobody, surely not Ananias, expected that Saul could be transformed into a daring follower of "the Way." But he is! He is given back his sight for his new vocation.

The lyric of Revelation 5 offers a scene of all creatures gathered around the throne of God. What a song they sing! It is about the "slaughtered Lamb" (crucified Jesus) become the

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enthroned Lamb (risen Lord), endowed with power, wealth, wisdom, might, honor, glory, and blessing (v. 12-13).

The readings provide a remarkable inventory concerning God's transformative power: Saul to Paul, slain Lamb to enthroned Lamb. These texts invite us to ponder God's gifts of newness among us: new selves, new church, new world. Gifts beyond our despairing.

By Walter Brueggemann

LECTIONARY NOTES 2

REFLECTIONS ON THEME:

This week the lectionary takes us from last week's simple, but profound, proclamation of worship, as reflected in Thomas's encounter with the Risen Christ, to the challenge of Easter, as reflected in Peter's restoration and calling. Calling is, perhaps, the word that most clearly reflects what the Scriptures seek to tell us this week – Saul's conversion and call to be a follower (ultimately apostle) of Jesus, the psalmist's rescue and commitment (calling) to live as a worshipper, the worship of the heavenly beings offered to the Lamb who faithfully fulfilled his calling to be slain and to conquer death and evil, and of course, Peter, forgiven for his denial, restored to leadership of the apostles and called to follow Christ even to his prophesied death.

CONNECTING WITH LIFE:

GLOBAL APPLICATION: A sense of calling can be a double-edged sword on the level of global politics. From the ancient "divine right of kings" to the current sense among some nations and leaders that they are appointed by God as God's special agents, much injustice and harm is done in the name of a divine calling. However, when the calling of Christ – to sacrificial, other-centred living – is recognised, the result is a powerful contribution to the world, and the increase of justice. Often this calling leads us into conflict with the powers-that-be and their own sense of entitlement – think of Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela – and this is where the sacrifice comes in. But, as more and more followers of Christ take up their place in challenging the wrong use of power, so the world is slowly transformed. Where can you identify abuse of power in your world, nation or community? What can you do to stand for the values of Christ and challenge this abuse?

LOCAL APPLICATION: Two struggles that plague our world, and contribute to the pain and cruelty that we inflict on each other, are a sense of meaninglessness and a focus on self-interest. The first leaves us in despair and apathy, without motivation to reach for our best – God-created – selves. The second drives us into the endless tyranny of our own appetites and addictions, and leaves us unable to connect effectively with others and with our world. The results of both are anger, aggression, and a lack of compassion. The Gospel's clear call to a different, higher, God- and other-loving life is an antidote to these plagues, and offers us both a personal sense of purpose, and a commitment to the well being of others and to the world in general. When we hear and answer God's call, we find ourselves connected with the universal activity of God's reign, but we live and work it out locally in our own neighbourhood. What specific calling has God given you and your church community? How can you re-affirm that calling today?

SERMON OUTLINE

Jn 21:1-19 Jesus appeared again....

The Risen Jesus had directed that the disciples go to Galilee to await him - at the Sea of Tiberias (named after the Emperor Tiberius 14-37AD).. We think of:-

1. the Rocky Shore - as the call of the sea gets to Peter - *I'm going fishing* - sounded like a good idea to the other 6 disciples - *we'll go with you*. However, *that night (3) they caught nothing*. Imagine how they felt as they headed back to shore next morning... As they gazed towards the rocky shore they saw someone standing there - but they *did not realise it was Jesus* - cf Mary Magdalene, Emmaus Rd....

2. the Right Side : After learning of their fruitless venture he sends them out again with the instruction - *Throw your net on the right side of the ship (6) & you will catch some..* Amazingly they landed a bumper catch - *full of large fish - 153*. Immediately recognition dawned on *the disciple whom Jesus loved (John) (7) - It is the Lord!* On hearing this Peter *jumped into the water* to go him...

3. the Risen Saviour: knew their needs - hungry after their efforts - was already cooking breakfast on a *fire of burning coals (9)*. He not only knew their needs, but he provided for their needs - *Come & have breakfast*. There was now no doubt in their minds as to the identity of the **Stranger on the Shore** - *they knew (12) it was the Lord*.

ONLINE SERMON SOURCES

["The Grace of Another Day,"](http://day1.org/1039-the_grace_of_another_day) the Rev. Dr. Wiley Stephens, *Day 1*,
http://day1.org/1039-the_grace_of_another_day

Two sermons by Bruce Prewer - scroll down
<http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocC/C30east3.htm>

CHILDREN

["Sermon of the Week,"](http://www.sermons4kids.com/) / ["Mensajes para ninos,"](http://www.sermons4kids.com/) Sermons 4 Kids, Charles Kirkpatrick, Object Lessons & Children's Sermons, Colouring Pages, Puzzles. Sermons4Kids.com.
<http://www.sermons4kids.com/>

[Story for Children's Worship and Family Activity](http://www.word-sunday.com/index.html), Easter 3, at word-sunday.com: A Catholic Resource for the Lectionary by Larry Broding.
<http://www.word-sunday.com/index.html>