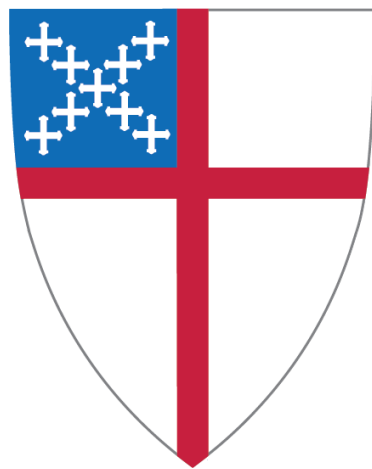


The Lessons Appointed for Use on the
Third Sunday of Easter

Year C, RCL

May 4, 2025



(Old Testament Reading)

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply

came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen



More

in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his

eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

(People: Thanks be to God.)



(Psalm)

Psalm 30

Let's say it responsively by half verse.

**I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me
up ***

and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

O LORD my God, I cried out to you, *

and you restored me to health.

You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; *

you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

Sing to the LORD, you servants of his; *

give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.

For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, *

his favor for a lifetime.

Weeping may spend the night, *

but joy comes in the morning.

While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed. *

You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."

Then you hid your face, *

and I was filled with fear.

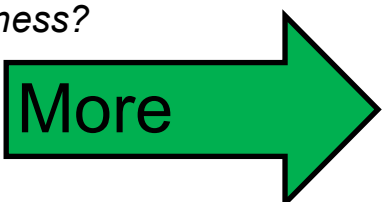
I cried to you, O LORD; *

I pleaded with the LORD, saying,

"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the

Pit? *

will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?



Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me; *

O LORD, be my helper."

You have turned my wailing into dancing; *

you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.

Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; *

O LORD my God, I will give you thanks for ever.



(The Epistle Reading)

A Reading from the Revelation to John

**I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels
surrounding the throne and the living creatures and
the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and
thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,**

**"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!"**

**Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth
and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in
them, singing,**

**"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever
and ever!"**

**And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the
elders fell down and worshiped.**

***Leader:* The Word of the Lord.**

(People: Thanks be to God.)



Prayers of the People

Please stand, sit, or kneel as able for the prayers.

Intercessor: **Lord, we pray to you for all those who
bear witness to you in their life and ministry,
and let us say:**

All: Risen Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: **Lord, your apostles worked all night
without result. Sustain the courage of all your
apostles today who toil without apparent
success. And so we pray:**

All: Risen Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: **Lord, the apostles did not recognize you.**

**Often, we too do not see that you are there.
Make us aware that you are with us. And so
we pray:**

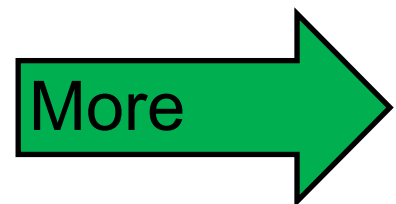
All: Risen Lord, hear our prayer.

**Intercessor: Lord, today the net of the Church is
filling again with peoples from all over the
world. Let that net not tear but let it
accommodate all, we pray to you, Lord:**

All: Risen Lord, hear our prayer.

**Intercessor: Lord, also today in many places your
messengers are warned not to speak in your
name. May your witnesses obey you rather
than people and preach your word without
fear, we pray:**

All: Risen Lord, hear our prayer.



Intercessor: Lord, your disciples are persecuted also today, they are put into prison and tortured. Give them the courage to be faithful and to bear their sufferings with joy, we pray:

All: Risen Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Lord, may our Christian communities together with the whole of creation give you glory, honor, and praise, we pray:

All: Risen Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Jesus asks us, God's people today: "Do you love me?" What shall we answer him? We say:

All: Lord, let your love grow in us.

Intercessor: Lord, you ask your Church today: Do you love me? Let all God's people answer you:

**"Yes, Lord, we love you, for we nourish you
in the hungry and the thirsty; we visit you in
the sick and in prisoners." We say:**

All: Lord, let your love grow in us.

**Intercessor: Lord, you ask all Christians today: "Do
you love me?" Let them answer you: "Yes,
Lord, we love you, for we try to seek unity in
you to become your one flock with you as
our one shepherd." And so we pray:**

All: Lord, let your love grow in us.

**Intercessor: Lord, you ask parents today: "Do you
love me." Let them answer, "Yes, Lord, we
love you, for we let our children recognize
you in our care and loving concern."**

And so we say:

All: Lord, let your love grow in us.



More

Intercessor: Lord, you ask those who suffer: "Do you love me?" Let them answer: "Yes, Lord, we love you, for we recognize you in good people who help us in your name." And so we say:

All: Lord, let your love grow in us.

Intercessor: Lord, you ask our communities today: "Do you love me?" Make us answer wholeheartedly: "Yes, Lord, we love you, for we are open and welcoming you in the least among us, we try our best to become one heart and soul." And so we pray:

All: Lord, let your love grow in us.

Intercessor: At this time, I invite your prayers of thanksgiving or intercession either silently or aloud.

The People may add their own petitions

The Celebrant concludes the prayers.

