

3rd Sunday of Easter B

*Look at my hands and my feet; yes, it is I indeed.
Touch me and see for yourselves. (Lk 24:39)*



First Reading

Acts 3:13-15.17-19

Peter said to the people: "You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses. Now I know, brothers and sisters, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out."

Second Reading

1 John 2:1-5

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's. We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, "I know him", and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you!" In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, "Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have." And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, "This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled." He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this."

Meditation

Luke reports one of the appearances of the Risen One to the apostles. In order to convince them, the Lord allows them to touch him and he eats before their eyes. It is really he, the Crucified, alive once more. It is he, altogether different and yet the same. He casts the light of his passover upon the sacred scriptures in order to illumine the past and announce the future: "In his name, penance for the remission of sins is to be preached to all the nations beginning at Jerusalem."

"They were all incredulous for sheer joy..." Still today, divided as we often are between doubt and belief, we find it difficult to recognize in faith the person of the One who lives in our midst. Yet we encounter him at eucharist. We see him in the assembly gathered in his name. We hear him in the words of those who have borne witness to him in the scriptures. We know him once again in the breaking of the bread. We experience the power of his Spirit as we are sent out into the world to spread the good news from person to person. As we live our daily lives, then, nourished by the word and the bread we have shared, we recognize indeed that he is risen and living among us.