

**John 21: 1-19** (Third Sunday of Easter, Year C)

**Storyteller:**

Our reading this morning is from the Gospel according to John, chapter 21, beginning with verse 1. The writer relates an account of Jesus, now risen, appearing to seven of the disciples at the seaside. It is written:

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. He showed himself in this way.

Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them:

**Peter:** I am going fishing.

**Storyteller:**

They said to him, ‘We will go with you.’ They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them,

**Jesus:** Children, you have no fish, have you?’

**Storyteller:** They answered him, ‘No.’

**Jesus:** Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.

**Storyteller:**

So, they cast the net, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.

That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred meters off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them:

**Jesus:** Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.

**Storyteller:**

So, Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them. And though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them:

**Jesus:** Come and have breakfast.

**Storyteller:**

Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter:

**Jesus:** Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?

**Peter:** Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.

**Jesus:** Feed my lambs. [*Pause.*]

**Jesus:** Simon son of John, do you love me?

**Peter:** Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.

**Jesus:** Tend my sheep. [*Pause.*]

**Jesus:** Simon son of John, do you love me?

**Storyteller:**

Peter felt hurt because Jesus said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And Peter said to Jesus:

**Peter:** Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.

**Jesus:**

Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.”

**Storyteller:**

Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. After this Jesus said to Peter:

**Jesus:** Follow me.

**Storyteller:**

Here ends today’s reading from the Gospel according to John. May God bless us with understanding.