Friday, April 17, 2020
Friday within the Octave of Easter

Those gathered begin with the Sign of the Cross, saying:

† This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it.

Psalm 148:1–2, 3–10 11–12, 13, 14

Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD from the heavens, give praise in the heights.
Praise him, all you angels; give praise, all you hosts.
Praise him, sun and moon; give praise, all shining stars.
Praise him, highest heavens, you waters above the heavens.
Let them all praise the LORD’s name; for the LORD commanded and they were created,
Assigned them duties forever, gave them tasks that will never change.
Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deep waters;
You lightening and hail, snow and clouds, storm winds that fulfills his command;
You mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
You animals wild and tame, you creatures that crawl and fly;
You kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all who govern on earth;
Young men and women too, old and young alike.

Let them all praise the LORD’s name, for his name alone is exalted, majestic above earth and heaven.

The LORD has lifted high the horn of his people, to the glory of all the faithful, of Israel, the people near to their God.

Hallelujah!

Reading John 21:1–7a

Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself in this way. Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee’s sons, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We also will come with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, have you caught anything to eat?” They answered him, “No.” So he said to them, “Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something.” So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord.”

Reflection

After following Jesus for three years in his public ministry, some of the Twelve return to their fishing. John reports that they didn’t catch anything! The appearance of Jesus on the shore changes everything. At his direction they try again and are very successful. This post-Resurrection account reminds us that on our own we don’t do so well as disciples. Jesus then invites the fishermen to bring some of their catch and add it to what he has on the fire. This gives us an important lesson: when we add our gifts to the Lord’s grace, amazing things happen.

Prayers others may be added

With Easter joy, we pray:

◆ Risen Lord, hear our prayer.

For an increase of vocations to ministry in the Church, we pray to the Lord: ◆ For the men and women who are preparing for the profession of vows in their religious communities, we pray to the Lord: ◆ For all the students who are preparing for graduation this spring, we pray to the Lord: ◆ For those who struggle with diminishing abilities, may they not be discouraged, we pray to the Lord: ◆

Our Father . . .

Almighty and gentle God, you have called us to be disciples of Jesus Christ, and to place our gifts at the service of your commands. As we share in the mission of your Son, Jesus Christ, let our zeal not waver and our hope be fulfilled when we come at last to the kingdom of heaven and live with you and with the Risen Lord, for ever and ever. Amen.

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