

5.1.22 – Third Sunday of Eastertide
“Breakfast with Jesus”

The United Baptist Church, Annandale, VA

Psalm 30 (NIV) ~ Pam

A psalm. A song. For the dedication of the temple. Of David.

- ¹ I will exalt you, Lord,
 for you lifted me out of the depths
 and did not let my enemies gloat over me.
- ² Lord my God, I called to you for help,
 and you healed me.
- ³ You, Lord, brought me up from the realm of the dead;
 you spared me from going down to the pit.
- ⁴ Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people;
 praise his holy name.
- ⁵ For his anger lasts only a moment,
 but his favor lasts a lifetime;
weeping may stay for the night,
 but rejoicing comes in the morning.
- ⁶ When I felt secure,
 I said, “I will never be shaken.”
- ⁷ Lord, when you favored me,
 you made my royal mountain stand firm;
 but when you hid your face,
 I was dismayed.
- ⁸ To you, Lord, I called;
 to the Lord I cried for mercy:
- ⁹ “What is gained if I am silenced,
 if I go down to the pit?
 Will the dust praise you?
 Will it proclaim your faithfulness?”
- ¹⁰ Hear, Lord, and be merciful to me;
 Lord, be my help.”
- ¹¹ You turned my wailing into dancing;
 you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
- ¹² that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.
 Lord my God, I will praise you forever.

L: These are Words of Praise for the People of God! C: Thanks be to God.

John 21:1-14 (HCSB) ~ Pam

Jesus' Third Appearance to the Disciples

- ¹ After this, Jesus revealed Himself again to His disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed Himself in this way:
- ² Simon Peter, Thomas (called “Twin”), Nathanael from Cana of Galilee, Zebedee’s sons, and two others of His disciples were together.
- ³ “I’m going fishing,” Simon Peter said to them.

“We’re coming with you,” they told him. They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ When daybreak came, Jesus stood on the shore. However, the disciples did not know it was Jesus.

⁵ “Men,” Jesus called to them, “you don’t have any fish, do you?”

“No,” they answered.

⁶ “Cast the net on the right side of the boat,” He told them, “and you’ll find some.” So, they did, and they were unable to haul it in because of the large number of fish. ⁷ Therefore the disciple, the one Jesus loved, said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tied his outer garment around him (for he was stripped) and plunged into the sea. ⁸ But since they were not far from land (about 100 yards away), the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish. ⁹ When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread.

¹⁰ “Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught,” Jesus told them. ¹¹ So Simon Peter got up and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish—153 of them. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn.

¹² “Come and have breakfast,” Jesus told them. None of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?” because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread, and gave it to them. He did the same with the fish.

¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to the disciples after He was raised from the dead.

L: These are Words of Wonder from God! C: Thanks be to God.

Please pray with me:

Dear Lord, we thank you for our worship gathering this morning. Your hospitality is evident in today’s Scriptures as well as in the Lord’s Supper. We remember your words before the cross, on the cross, and after the resurrection. Though we are not worthy to receive your mercy, you give it freely. For that compassion we are grateful. Be present now as we reflect on how the disciples must have felt in your presence on the beach. Jesus, in this familiar story, speak new meaning through your messenger. “**Amen.**”

For those of you were here last Sunday, wasn’t it a wonderful service of music with our guests?! Thank you for making my friends and colleagues feel welcomed as they shared their talents with us. They felt God’s presence here through you!

A psalm of Thanksgiving might seem odd at this time of year, but as you heard in the reading, this author (traditionally thought to be David) was thanking God for saving him from death, imploring God to have

mercy on him, and promising God that he will praise him and be in relationship with him forever. In this case the writer's sin was arrogance about his life. He'd been full of pride and over-confident that his life was going so well! Yet, it was a time of unnamed illnesses, and David had just recovered from a life-threatening one. He begged to be spared and was healed by God. He vowed to forever thank the Lord and sing his praises to others for this healing. Because of his sin, God withdrew his presence for a while, but because of their deep and abiding relationship, David called out to God for help, and he answered him with mercy. In the words, you hear contrition and a realization that God had provided all that he was so proud of: “⁷ Lord, when you favored me, you made my royal mountain stand firm.” Doesn't it sometimes take a life crisis or disaster to wake us up from complacency? Sad, but often true about our faith.

If I were a disciple who had just seen my teacher and Lord go through a trial, scourging, and a humiliating death by crucifixion (*what we call Holy Week*), I would beg for God's mercy and protection too. The fear we heard last week was palpable. Once they realized the man on the shore was Jesus, I imagine that the disciples' reactions, were like David's praises in Psalm 30 – they knew of God's love and provision but needed a bit of reassurance; and like David, once they had it, they would go and tell others that he was still alive!

The disciples are fishing with Simon Peter on Lake Tiberias, also called the Sea of Galilee. We think there were Thomas, Nathanael, sons of Zebedee (John and James), Andrew, and Philip. They had had a terrible night of fishing. In that geography, night fishing was usually better because of more abundant catches and the ability to sell the freshly

caught fish the next morning. There was a man on the shore who made them face their failed effort, “⁵ ‘Men,’ [some translations say ‘lads’] Jesus called to them, “you don’t have any fish, do you?”” Don’t we hate to face our failures? He told them to drop their nets on the right side of the boat (the other side), and sure enough, they caught so many fish they could not get the net to shore! At that moment, John recognized Jesus, and told Peter, an over-achiever and now people-pleaser, who suddenly covered himself and jumped into the sea to help bring the fish to shore.

It took the other disciples to haul in all 153 fish. Now that doesn’t sound like many, but in a tiny fishing boat, it was, and we must assume they were large fish because of other citations and the Lord provided them. For years, the number was thought to be significant – some thought it was one of each species of fish identified at that time; St. Augustine thought it represented 17, the 10 commandments plus the holy number 7; the total of all numbers from 1-17 added together is 153, and that symbolized the elect are to be saved by the gift of grace (7) and by following the commandments (10) (St Augustine, *Commentary on John*, 72.8). However, today’s scholarship asserts that John was merely recording a historic and factual detail. Whenever a group of men fished, they had to count the catch so they could divide the fish equally among them. Remember, they needed fish for their families.

Once on the land, they saw the charcoal fire, and Jesus invited them to come and have breakfast with him and said, “bring your fish!” We cannot imagine their conversations as they fellowshiped over the meal, but we can understand their gratitude and wonder, seeing their master so personally. Remember there had been two appearances up to this point: to

Mary when she did not recognize him until he called her by name; and the instance we studied last week in the upper room when it took a little time for the disciples to realize they were in Jesus' resurrected presence. This time seemed to be a bit quicker. Jesus had often spoken of fishing in teaching, and four of the men he called to be disciples were fishermen by profession! In Matthew 4:19, Jesus even "said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." The metaphor was one they might understand.

Another similarity in this meal was that Jesus served them bread. The week before, they had feasted together and he broke bread, saying this is my body, broken for you; when you eat of it, remember me. When twelve of us this last Good Friday ate our "Maundy Thursday" meal together, we finished with the Lord's Supper, remembering his words. That symbolism both today and on the beach with Jesus is important because of the way our minds work. For the disciples, I am certain they did not miss this familiar imagery as they had breakfast together. Can you imagine having breakfast with Jesus? Those of you who read their Scriptures in the morning have breakfast with Jesus every day! Others of us feel like we have breakfast with Jesus as we do morning prayers.

How about you? Can we use these appearance stories for our own reassurance? We do not see Jesus in the flesh, but we have resources that help to bring him to life – Scripture, prayer tools, hymns, sacred music, nature, and today's Communion, in the bread and juice. As we take communion together, let us imagine ourselves in his presence on that shore having breakfast together and breaking bread. What would you say? What questions would you ask him? Can you see yourself there? Can you see him serving you breakfast? Could your next "server" be Jesus? This is

another powerful witness that affirms and emboldens the disciples to go out as they were sent and to build the church. Go and do likewise! **He is alive and lives within us!** “Peace Be with You!” **Amen.** //

Will you pray with me? Father God, we are grateful for your incarnate Son, Jesus, his life, death, and resurrection. We thank you for these Scriptures to show us how we are normal in our doubt, grief, and fear. As you remove our sackcloth and hopeless demeanor, please turn our wailing into dancing! Help others to see you reflected in our lives and actions, and for us to see you in others who serve. Abide in us. **Amen.**