

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

BREAKFAST

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Introducing the Gospel

The Lakeside breakfast (John 21:1-19)

John's Gospel portrays the risen Jesus meeting with his disciples at the lakeside. The key to the narrative concerns the way in which the disciples eventually recognised Jesus for who he is. Jesus was recognised in one of the very ordinary events of life, having breakfast. Yet this ordinary event takes on a new significance when Jesus takes the bread and gives it to them. Here after the resurrection is clear continuity with the way things were before the crucifixion.

The image to stimulate reflection on the risen Jesus' appearance at the lakeside is *breakfast*.

Core extract from the Gospel (John 21: 12-14); for reflection throughout the week)

Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.'
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.

Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)

Risen Lord,
you made yourself known to the disciples
by the Sea of Tiberias.
Come among us now
and make yourself known to us,
as we share with you in the breaking of bread;
for you are our God,
now and for ever.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

John 21: 1-19

Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and 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, 'I am going fishing.' 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, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, 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 yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' 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, 'Come and have breakfast.' 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.

Jesus and Peter

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, '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.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

Dwelling with the text (John 21: 1-19)

Begin to explore John's account of the risen Jesus' appearance at the lakeside by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

Thinking and talking

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- What do you see as the significance of Peter and other disciples 'going fishing'?
- What do you make of the large catch of fish?
- What is the significance of Jesus inviting them to 'Come and have breakfast'?
- How do you understand Jesus' action of taking the bread and giving it to them?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

This passage presents John's account of Jesus' third appearance after the resurrection. Explore the other two.

- John 20: 1-18
- John 20: 19-29

Explore another account of the great catch of fish in Luke.

- Luke 5: 1-11

Explore common themes in the resurrection narrative.

- John 20: 14
- Luke 24: 41
- Luke 24: 30

Explore other occasions when Jesus took bread and shared it.

- Mark 6: 30-44

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR C) Sunday 4 May 2025

Exploring online

Widen your exploration of John's account of the risen Jesus' appearance at the lakeside by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- John 21: 1-14
- Jesus cooking breakfast on the beach (images)
- Breakfast barbecue

Drawing on experience

The image to stimulate reflection on John's account of the risen Jesus' appearance at the lakeside is *breakfast*. Draw on your own experience of memorable breakfasts. For example:

- Have you memories of breakfast on the beach or at the seaside?
- Have you experience of large groups at breakfast together?
- What is your idea of a special breakfast?

What have you learned about breakfast?

Creating and making

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by John's account of the risen Jesus' appearance at the lakeside or by the image of breakfast.

- Make a collage of pictures of breakfast foods.
- Make a poster of Jesus cooking breakfast for the disciples.
- Set up a barbecue and make craft fish to cook on it.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of the risen Jesus' appearance at the lakeside or on the image of breakfast.



**Liverpool
Cathedral**

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales.



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