

3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:13-15,17-19
Psalm 4:2,4,7-9
1 John 2:1-5a
Luke 24:35-48

Monday April 16

Acts 6:8-15
Ps 119:23-24,26-27,29-30
John 6:22-29

Tuesday April 17

Acts 7:51 -- 8:1a
Ps 31:3cd-4,6,7b,
8a,17,21ab
John 6:30-35

Wednesday April 18

Acts 8:1b-8
Ps 66:1-7a
John 6:35-40

Thursday April 19

Acts 8:26-40
Ps 66:8-9,16-17,20
John 6:44-51

Friday April 20

Acts 9:1-20
Ps 117:1bc,2
John 6:52-59

Saturday April 21

Acts 9:31-42
Ps 116:12-17
John 6:60-69

Now that we're a renewed people – an Easter people – the scriptures at Mass remind us of the stark difference between living a redeemed life and living in sin. The first reading says: "Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away." The second reading says: "Those who say, 'I know him', but do not keep his commandments are liars, and the truth is not in them."

And the Gospel reading says: "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name...."

We are all liars in some way every day, professing our faith with our lips but not al-

ways in our behaviors. Our actions often say that we don't truly believe what we say about Christ's love. Our worries might be saying that we don't truly believe that God cares about each and every situation.

Our decisions say that we don't truly believe that Jesus knew what he was talking about when he commanded us to love our enemies and do good to those who hurt us. Our moral relativism says that we don't truly believe he was smarter than us when he gave us his commandments.



How loudly do your actions preach the truth about Jesus?

Many of us undervalue what Jesus has done for us, thinking that his death and resurrection is enough to get us into heaven; we neglect the need to humble ourselves under the reality of the need for daily redemption.

God's not expecting perfection from us on this side of heaven's gate. What he does want, however, is our desire to become more and more like Christ every day. As long as we're continually examining our lives and

educating ourselves about how we can improve, and as long as we follow through by doing what is necessary to produce changes, God is very pleased with us.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What sinful tendencies still enslave you?
2. What will you do this week to turn these over to Christ and his redemptive power?
3. What do you do to stay in touch with your need for Christ and his redemptive power?
4. How do you rely on the resurrected life of Christ to overcome sinful tendencies and enter into victorious Christian living?