

Today is the third Sunday in this Easter Season. Our readings remind us that in Jesus we have our reason for being: to be a people of peace, hope and forgiveness for our time and place.

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter reminds the Jewish people of his day that it is God who is present and active in their lives, fulfilling the words of the prophets of old. Peter encourages them to turn from their unbelief, and open their minds and hearts to recognize the true identity of Jesus.

In the second reading St. John reminds us that Jesus died not only for us but for everyone, everywhere. Jesus is truly the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. We proclaim this at every Eucharistic celebration and live this in the ways that we reach out to one another in compassion and forgiveness.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus again reveals his resurrected self to the disciples and again offers the gift of Peace to them. Jesus then enlightens their minds and their hearts with a deeper understanding of his life, death and resurrection – that what Jesus did was done for all people. Disciples are called to witness to this to the ends of the earth.

As we gather around the Table of the Risen Christ this day, may our belief in Jesus deepen as we come to recognize more and more the true identity of the Holy One, who is our salvation. May we be true witnesses to this by the way we live our lives.