



April 15, 2018

Third Sunday of Easter (B)

Acts 3:13–15, 17–19

1 Jn 2:1–5a

Lk 24:35–48

Sharing Our Wounds

The glorified Jesus is not easy for the apostles to recognize. There is a deep truth here. The Twelve are startled and terrified to see Jesus again. In fact, they even think they are seeing a ghost. Their fear and lack of faith makes it impossible to see him for who he is—their resurrected Savior. Before they can truly see, they need to first accept him and believe.

And how does Jesus prove his identity to them? He shows them his wounds, the signs of his suffering and crucifixion. We often want to hide our wounds. We are ashamed of them and afraid of how others will react if they really knew. But Jesus, unashamed, shows his wounds and uses them as signs of who he is.

There is a message for us here. We need to allow our brokenness to find fullness and resurrection in Christ. It is at that point that the love of God is perfected in us. First we need to acknowledge our wounds and not bury or hide them. Then we need to admit our need for healing. Finally, through prayer, confession, and help from those who love us, we allow Jesus' redemptive love to wash over our wounds and give us renewal, rebirth, and healing.

As a result, like Jesus, we will no longer be ashamed



Piece: *The Scenes From the Life of Christ*, 1517-1519
Artist: Raphael and collaborators
Location: Thirteenth vault of the Raphael Loggia, Sistine Chapel

of our wounds, but rather we will share them as evidence of the power of Jesus Christ.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection Is there an area of my heart and life where I need Jesus' healing?

Am I confident in God's power to raise me up out of my weakness?

*The author of life you put to death,
but God raised him from death; of this we are witnesses.*

Acts 3:15

Calendar

Monday

April 16

Easter Weekday

Acts 6:8–15

Jn 6:22–29

Tuesday

April 17

Easter Weekday

Acts 7:51–8:1a

Jn 6:30–35

Wednesday

April 18

Easter Weekday

Acts 8:1b–8

Jn 6:35–40

Thursday

April 19

Easter Weekday

Acts 8:26–40

Jn 6:44–51

Friday

April 20

Easter Weekday

Acts 9:1–20

Jn 6:52–59

Saturday

April 21

Easter Weekday

Acts 9:31–42

Jn 6:60–69

Sunday

April 22

Fourth Sunday
of Easter

Acts 4:8–12

1 Jn 3:1–2

Jn 10:11–18

Dear Padre,

I read my horoscope in the daily newspaper faithfully. Is there anything wrong with this? I don't take what it says seriously, but sometimes the predictions do come true.

Many people enjoy reading their daily horoscopes as a form of entertainment. Like you, they don't take it seriously. When it's approached in this lighthearted way, there is no sin. Others, however, take their horoscopes seriously. Perhaps they don't realize what might underlie their fascination with it. Could it be a desire to escape responsibility? It's a cop-out to believe horoscope advice like, "If the position of the stars makes

you act a certain way, then you're not responsible for your actions." This thinking doesn't acknowledge that God, as Lord of the universe, is the creator of these stars and their movements. It's absurd to ascribe mystical powers to the stars themselves as if they could influence us independently of God's providence.

What about predictions that come true? Reread that horoscope and you'll usually find it was worded in such a general way that it would fit almost any situation. There's also the aspect of the self-fulfilling prophecy. If you *think* you're going to have a certain type of day, you are more likely to *have* that type of day. Your approach affects your day, not an outside force.

The future will always contain unknowns. For Christians, however, the unknown is cushioned by the belief that all things are in the providential hands of a loving God.

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From *Understanding Scrupulosity: Questions and Encouragement*, © 2017 Liguori Publications



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A Word From Pope Francis

Jesus tells us that the path to encountering him is to find his wounds. We find Jesus' wounds in carrying out works of mercy, giving to...the body of your wounded brother, because he is hungry...because he's in jail, because he is in the hospital.

Those are the wounds of Jesus today.

—Homily, feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, July 3, 2013