



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 2025

Beloved Pilgrims of Hope,

Greetings of peace, love, joy and hope!

“The Shore of Grace: Encountering the Risen Lord”

The narrative of Peter and the disciples fishing on the Sea of Tiberias unveils profound truths about our walk of faith. Guided by Peter, they sought a catch but returned empty-handed. Yet, in a transformative moment, Jesus, unrecognized at first, appeared on the shore and gently instructed them to cast their nets on the other side. Their obedience, even without recognizing Him, brought forth abundance beyond imagination. Then came the beautiful exclamation of the beloved disciple: *“It is the Lord!”*

How powerful it is to witness Peter’s eager response, leaping from the boat to meet Jesus on the shore. This joyous reunion culminates in a shared meal, a sacred act reminding us that Christ, indeed risen, invites us into communion with Him. This encounter is not just a testimony from ancient times; it is an invitation for each of us, today, to recognize His presence and respond with faith and love.

As we journey through the Easter season, the accounts of the Resurrection are not merely stories—they are revelations meant to nourish our faith. We may ponder, as did Thomas, how much easier it would be to believe if we could see Him face to face. Yet, Jesus lovingly assures us with His words: *“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”*

Faith is the lens through which we behold the Risen Lord. It anchors our hope in His promises, moves our hearts to love Him wholly and deeply, fortifies us in trials, and assures us of His abiding presence. Through faith, we come to understand what it means to follow Him, not with hesitation but with unwavering trust.

Consider the tender exchange between Jesus and Peter after the Resurrection. Asked three times, “Do you love me?” Peter’s initial distress gave way to steadfastness, a love that would endure through martyrdom. It reminds us that to love the Lord is to love without reserve, to persevere in our devotion even amid life’s storms.

When asked by our Lord, “Do you love me?” how would we respond? Let us not answer casually or out of fleeting emotion. Instead, may our response arise from a faith that is deep, genuine, and wholehearted, that sees beyond momentary pleasures and holds firm in trials. To love the Lord is to love until the end, with hope that rests in Him alone.

In the Word of God, we hear His voice calling us. In the life of the Church, we see His invitation to take part in His divine life. In acts of love—even toward those who wrong us reflect His presence within us. These are moments of grace, glimpses of eternity, made possible through faith. Let us proclaim, with the beloved disciple: *“It is the Lord!”* He is risen, indeed, and He lives among us.

May this Easter season renew your faith, fill your heart with hope, and inspire you to live each day in the love and joy of the Risen Christ.

Your fellow pilgrim in hope,

Fr. Pascual