

## A NOTE TO PARENTS

The Great Fifty Days of Easter are a season of joy, longer than the Lent that preceded them. The Lord returns to his friends—but not as he was before. Sometimes they don't even recognize him, and always they are filled with awe and a kind of shyness. This is especially prominent in today's story: "No one dared ask him who he was ... they knew it was the Lord." It is a moment of intense poignancy: there is a deeply moving tension between the homely, familiar longing and love that Peter and John and the others feel for Jesus, and their sense that they are in the presence of the Life from beyond the world, before whom they can only kneel in awe. Peter, brusque and impetuous as usual, and still needing reassurance after his denial of Jesus, gives in to his need to see and touch the risen Lord. He jumps overboard and swims to shore. The others follow, more shyly. And Jesus feeds them, and he strengthens them, and he points them towards an unknown future, and he says, "Follow me," and they see him no more. But they know he is with them, and as the sun comes up over the lake they don't know whether to run and jump and shout and dance, or to stand staring at the sunrise with their eyes full of tears. Now their experience is like ours: they must learn to know and love Jesus in a new way, because he belongs not to them but to the whole world.

In the Great Fifty Days, we cross the bridge from Gospel to Church, from knowing Jesus as friend, teacher and wonder-worker to knowing him as indwelling Spirit and Lord. Now *we* must be the friends, teachers, and wonder-workers for each other and the world, as in the stories from Acts that show the Church growing, spreading, and learning its work of being the Body of Christ. This year we also read from Revelation. This extravagant vision of God's final purpose is something we rarely share with our children, which is a shame. Its images of the Heavenly City, worshiping the Lamb who is its Shepherd and its Light, give concrete shape to the themes of this season. This Eastertide, try reading each Sunday's Scriptures with your children. Then, after some moments of silent imagining, draw whatever images come to you. Drawing, as much as singing, meditation, or words, can be a form of prayer.

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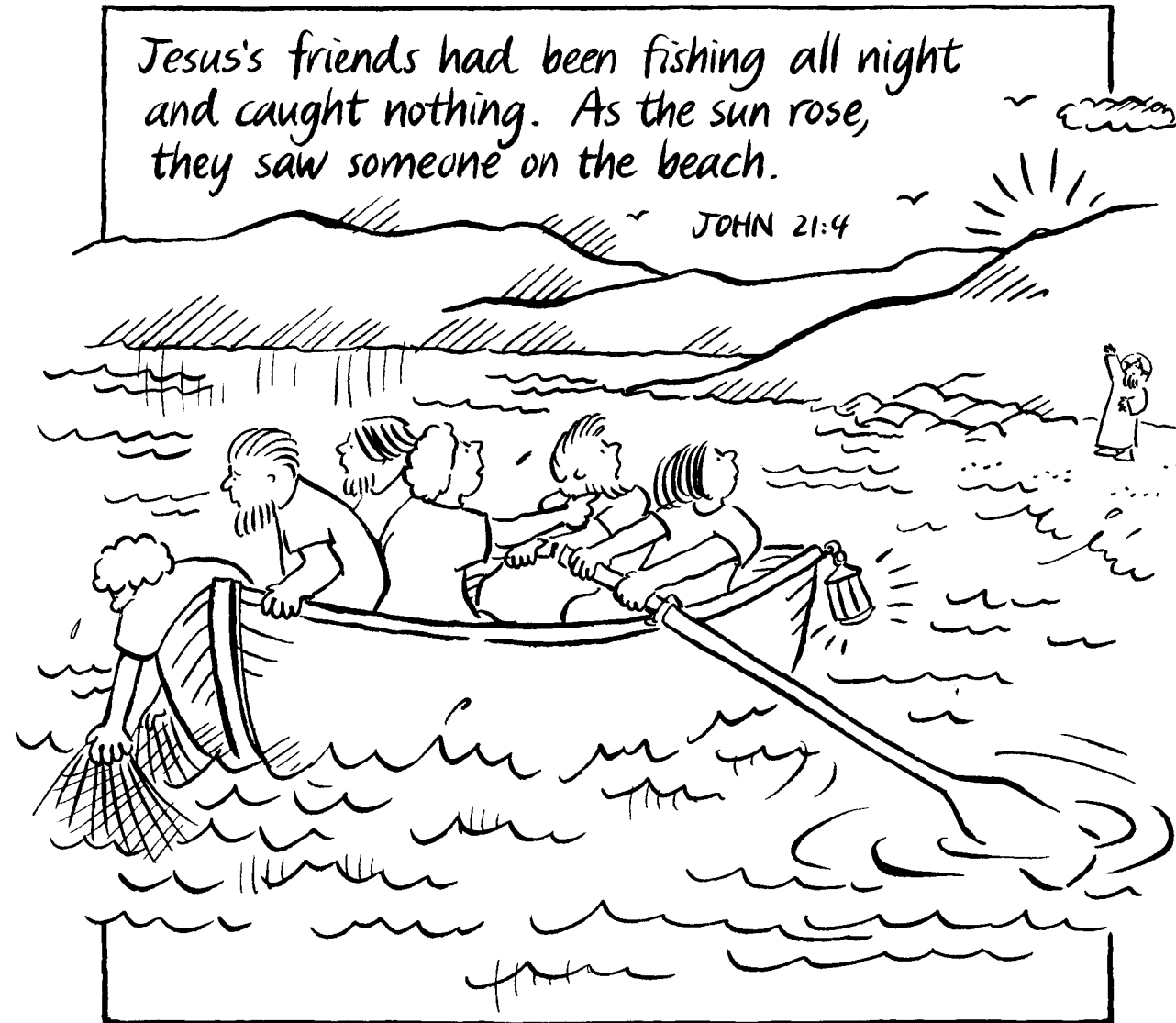
# THE SUNDAY PAPER

# JUNIOR

Year C  
3rd SUNDAY  
of EASTER

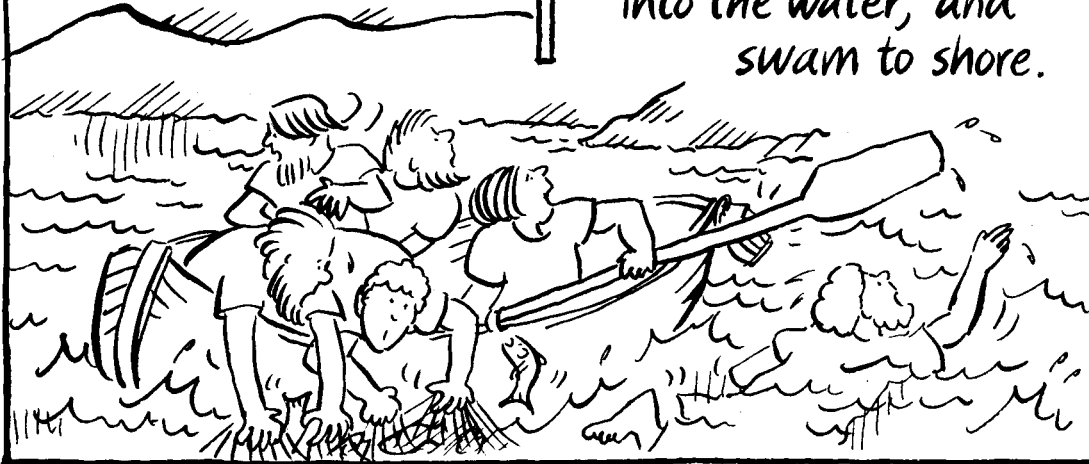
*Jesus's friends had been fishing all night and caught nothing. As the sun rose, they saw someone on the beach.*

JOHN 21:4



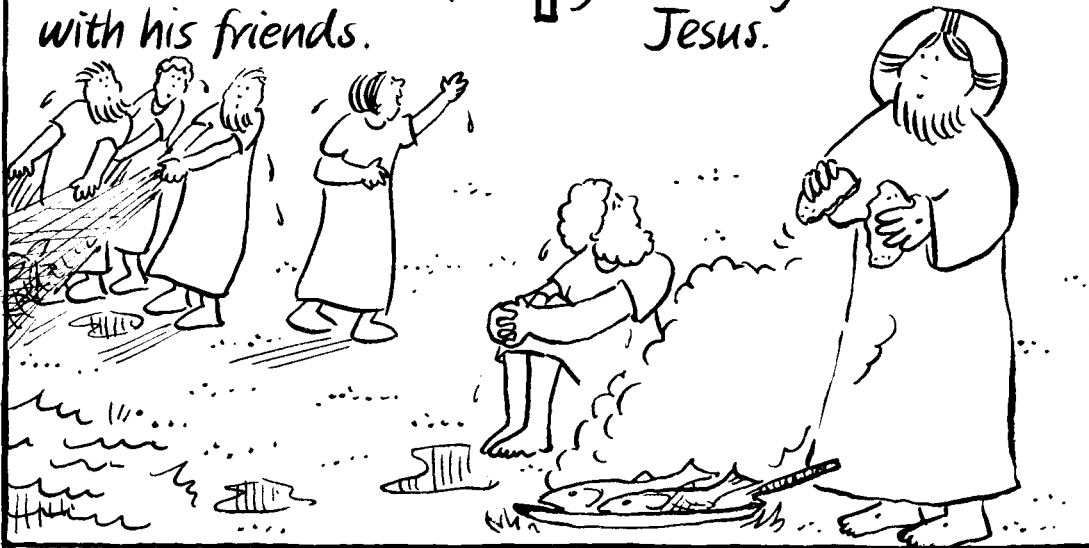
The stranger said, "Put out the net now, and you'll catch something."

They did, and caught a lot of fish! John said, "It's Jesus." Peter jumped into the water, and swam to shore.



On the beach, Jesus shared bread and fish with his friends.

No one said, "Who are you?" They knew it was Jesus.



When Jesus rose from the dead, he had a new kind of life, that can never die again. It was so new and wonderful that his friends felt shy. But when he gave them food, they knew he was still himself, and still loved them.

Jesus loves us. He is the Lamb who gave his life for us, and he gives us food, too.



Draw lots of people coming to communion. What are they thinking? What expressions are on their faces?