



12 April 2015

2nd Sunday of Easter

Year B

FEAST OF CHRIST, KING OF DIVINE MERCY

Recipients and Signs of Christ's Merciful Love

In his first appearances to his disciples Jesus filled them with the gifts of his presence and peace, the call to participate in his mission, and the Holy Spirit. With these gifts he not only strengthened their faith, but also increased their joy and empowered them in their struggle against sin.

These gifts were not meant only for the disciples in the Upper Room, but are for all believers. They are for all of us today if we open our hearts in faith to the Risen One and greet him in the words of the converted Thomas, "My Lord and my God!"

Today we celebrate the feast of Jesus, King of Divine Mercy. This consoling devotion is centered on Christ's merciful love for sinners. We all need this devotion because we all need to experience Christ's forgiveness and compassion. Likewise, we all have the duty to become instruments of his mercy to our neighbor. In this Eucharist, let us ask for the grace to be merciful.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

Greeting

P –Praise and honor to Jesus, King of Divine Mercy! May his grace and peace be with you all.
All–**And with your spirit!**

Penitential Act

P – My brothers and sisters, in the presence of Jesus, our King of Divine Mercy, let us renew the awareness of our many shortcomings and the need to be pu-

rified through his forgiveness.
(Pause)

P –For the times we have failed to be of one heart and one mind in our communities and families, Lord, have mercy!

All–**Lord, have mercy!**

P –For the times we have failed to bear witness to your resurrection in our daily life, Christ, have mercy!

All–**Christ, have mercy!**

P –For the times we have failed to be signs and instruments of your love, Lord, have mercy!

All–**Lord, have mercy!**

P –May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All–**Amen!**

Gloria

All– Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen!

Collect (Opening Prayer)

P – God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
All – Amen!

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading Acts 4:32-35
In describing the early Christian community, St. Luke emphasizes the unity and generosity of its members. These are two virtues that should characterize our community, too.

R – A proclamation from the Acts of the Apostles

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common.

With great power, the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all.

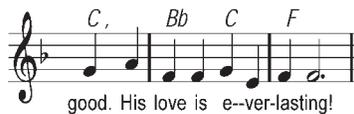
There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

The Word of the Lord!
All – Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 118

R – Give thanks to the Lord for he is good. His love is everlasting!

R. M. Velez



* Let the house of Israel say, “His mercy endures forever.”
Let the house of Aaron say, “His mercy endures forever.”
Let those who fear the Lord say, “His mercy endures forever.” **R.**

* I was hard pressed and was falling, but the Lord helped me. My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my savior. The joyful shout of victory in the tents of the just. **R.**

* The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it. **R.**

2nd Reading 1 Jn 5:1-6
St. John reminds us that there is an intrinsic, vital link between love of God and obedience to his commandments. It is from this link that we derive the strength which enables us to conquer evil.

R – A proclamation from the First Letter of John

Beloved: Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him.

In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this: that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came through water and blood: Jesus Christ. Not by water alone, but by water and blood. The Spirit is the one that testifies, and the Spirit is truth.

The Word of the Lord!
All – Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation Jn 20:29

All – Alleluia! Alleluia!
You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; blessed are those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 20:19-31

The apparitions of the Risen Christ were meant to strengthen the faith of the disciples in the reality of his resurrection and to empower them to carry out their mission. This applies also to the reluctant Thomas and all of us.

P – The Lord be with you!
All – And with your spirit!
P – A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to John
All – Glory to you, O Lord!

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe!”

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with

you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.” Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord!
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith *(Nicene Creed)*

All—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P –We are among those who believe in the resurrection of Jesus even though we never put our fingers in the nailmarks in his hands, nor touched his wounded side. Let us renew our profession of faith in the Risen Christ, as we address our petitions to him, saying:

All—Our Lord and our God, hear us!

C –That both the universal Church and each local community may always offer the edifying example of unity, sincere devotion, and care for the poor, let us pray! **R.**

C –That our Basic Christian Communities and other ecclesial organizations may become factors of renewal in the Church and agents of evangelization in society, let us pray! **R.**

C –That those who, like Thomas, find it difficult to believe in the Resurrection, may see its proof in the life of authentic Christians, let us pray! **R.**

C –That all Catholics may avail themselves of the sacrament of confession as the ordinary means to experience the “power of the Resurrection” in their spiritual life, let us pray! **R.**

C –That all of us may become active promoters of the peace of the Risen Christ in our society, let us pray! **R.**

C –Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. *(Pause)*
 Let us pray! **R.**

P –Lord Jesus, we thank you for the gifts of your resurrection, your presence and the Holy Spirit. May they bring us ever closer to you, and make us signs and instruments of the new life you gave us. You who live and reign for ever and ever.

All—Amen!



Preparation of the Gifts

P –Pray, brethren . . .

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P –Accept, O Lord, we pray, the oblations of your people (and of those you have brought to new birth), that, renewed by confession of your name and by Baptism, they may attain unending happiness.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

Preface of Easter I

P –The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P –Lift up your hearts!

All—We lift them up to the Lord!

P –Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All—It is right and just!

P –It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but on this day above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

For he is the true Lamb who has taken away the sins of the world; by dying he has destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

All—Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation

P –The mystery of faith!

All—We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again!

COMMUNION RITE



All—Our Father . . .

P —Deliver us, Lord . . .

All—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All—Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2x)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Communion

P —Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb.

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia!

Prayer after Communion

P —Grant, we pray, almighty God, that our reception of this paschal Sacrament may have a continuing effect in our minds and hearts.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

CONCLUDING RITES



P —The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit!

P —Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing. *(Pause)*

Through the resurrection of His Son, God has redeemed you and made you His children. May He fill you with His joy.

All—Amen!

P —By faith you rose with Jesus in baptism. May your lives be holy, so that you will be united with him for ever.

All—Amen!

P —You have been the recipients of Christ's merciful love.

May you be effective signs of his love for all.

All—Amen!

P —May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All—Amen!

P —The Mass is ended. Go in the peace of the Risen Christ.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

All—Thanks be to God!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hail, King of Mercy!

Hail, King of Mercy Divine,
King of Glory, King of Love!

Shafts of multicolored light radiate from your heart
to be a source of hope and comfort
to all those who feel broken and doomed.

I come to you, sinful and in pain,
not daring to raise my eyes to you,
the source of all holiness and consolation.
I know I am not worthy even to stand in front of you,
for I have turned my back on you, time and again
in my quest for pleasure and proud assertiveness.

But I also know, deep in my heart,
that your love unto death for me
is stronger than my sinfulness;
your mercy is greater than my unworthiness.
And so I dare to plead that you will treat me
as you treated your stubborn disciples
and the unbelieving Thomas.

Do lay your healing hand on me and blot away my sins,
overcome my unbelief with the light of your presence,
the gift of your life-giving Spirit,
and proofs of your healing power, full of care and mercy.
Make me doubt no more but believe.

Make me fear no more, but only trust in you,
the source of my hope and my salvation.

And do make of me what you want me to be:
a clear sign and an effective instrument of your love for all,
especially the weak, the downtrodden and the forsaken,
the unlovable and the unloved.

May I be for them what you have been and are for me:
a source of hope, a source of strength,
a source of meaning, a source of joy.

Such is my mission, my treasured destiny.
This is what will make my life precious to me—
precious to many, as you alone can count.

This will be my lasting glory
when all other glories will fade and vanish.
In this will I find my boundless happiness
and my enduring peace.

AMEN!



WORD & LIFE
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• Editorial Team: Fr. S. Putzu, G. Ramos, R. Molomog, D. Daguio, V. David

• Illustrations: A. Sarmiento, B. Cleofe • Circulation: F. Edjan