

FAITH FOR SUNDAY

April 7, 2024 Year B

Second Sunday of Easter or Sunday of Divine Mercy



OPENING PRAYER

+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Father God, thank you for this time with you. May the Holy Spirit be upon me, that I may receive wisdom from your Word, be open to Your holy Will and give glory to You always. Through Christ our Lord, Amen

Our Father + Hail Mary + Glory Be

LECTIO DIVINA

Invite the Holy Spirit - Read - Reflect - Respond in Prayer - Rest in Silence

Gospel: John 20:19-31

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.

There are many situations where we are more comfortable to hide and keep ourselves locked up. With Christ giving us His peace and essentially assuring us to not fear, do we find ourselves more courageous to be His witness? How do we relieve ourselves of self-confinement? How can we believe more without seeing?

Reading I: Acts 4:32-35

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.

This description in Acts is of the early community, and how people were cared for. What do you think being of one heart and mind means? Do you believe this flows out of secular altruism or the power of divine grace poured upon the apostolic witnesses? How could a community maintain this ideal of oneness?

Notes

RESPONSORIAL PSALM RESPONSE: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting

Reading II: 1 John 5:1-6

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.

In many early Christian communities, there was a struggle with disunity among its members. Only when one is connected with belief in Christ can one live out God's love. Those who love God keep his commandments. When others look at you, would they be able to know that you love God? In our faith life, do we act as though we have victory?

Feast days this week

SUNDAY 7 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

MONDAY 8 THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD, SOLEMNITY

TUESDAY 9 EASTER WEEKDAY

WEDNESDAY 10 EASTER WEEKDAY

THURSDAY 11 ST. STANISLAUS, MEMORIAL

FRIDAY 12 EASTER WEEKDAY

SATURDAY 13 EASTER WEEKDAY

reflect

What do my actions say about my faith in Jesus!

pray

Father God, may I step out of my unbelief and see You always.
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen

live

As a Catholic Christian, live as though you have victory that conquers the world!