

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



GLORIA

**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**

### ***The Collect***

*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.*

**FIRST READING** A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the

proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved. The word of the Lord.

**R Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love has no end**

Let the sons of Israel say:  
'His love has no end.'  
Let the sons of Aaron say:  
'His love had no end.' **R/-**

I must thrust, thrust down and falling  
but the Lord is my strength and my song;  
he was my savior.  
There are shouts of joy and victory  
in the tents of the just. **R/-**

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord  
a marvel in our eyes.  
This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad. **R/-**

**SECOND READING** A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which had been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe, and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls. The word of the Lord.

**Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'You believe because  
you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen  
and yet believe.' Alleluia!**

**The Holy Gospel According to John**

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side.

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The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said: *Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.*

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe

that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.  
The Gospel of the Lord.

### The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord**  
*(All Bow until Mary)*  
**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day, he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand  
of God, the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.**

### Prayer over the Gifts

*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.*

### The Preface

*It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord,  
but in this time 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: Holy....*

### Prayer after Communion

*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.*

## Divine Mercy and Our Response

Mercy is given graciously by God and received through loving faith. The surest sign that we are living in God's merciful love is that we become instruments of his mercy. We then become part of the great cycle of God's activity in the world – Blessed are the merciful for they will have mercy shown them...

### Corporal (or Physical) works of mercy

The standard list is given by Jesus in Chapter 25 of the Gospel of Matthew. They are also mentioned in the Book of Isaiah<sup>1</sup>. The seventh work of mercy comes from the Book of Tobit although it was not added to the list until the Middle Ages.

The works include:

- To feed the hungry.
- To give water to the thirsty.
- To clothe the naked.
- To shelter the homeless.
- To visit the sick.
- To visit the imprisoned or ransom the captive.
- To bury the dead.

### Spiritual works of mercy

Just as the corporal works of mercy are directed towards relieving corporeal suffering, the aim of the spiritual works of mercy is to relieve spiritual suffering. The third comes from Ezekiel 33, the fifth comes from the mitzvah of forgiving others before receiving forgiveness from God, and the seventh comes from 2 Maccabees 12.

The works include:

- To instruct the ignorant.
- To counsel the doubtful.
- To admonish the sinners.
- To bear patiently those who wrong us.
- To forgive offenses.
- To comfort the afflicted.
- To pray for the living and the dead.