



7 April 2024

2nd Sunday of Easter

Year B

FEAST OF CHRIST, KING OF DIVINE MERCY

Recipients and Signs of Christ's Merciful Love

In his first appearance to them, Jesus filled his disciples 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 strengthen their faith, but also increased their joy and empowered them in their struggle against discouragement and sin.

These gifts were meant not only for the disciples in the Upper Room, but 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 – In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

All–Amen!

P –Glory 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 –Brethren, in the presence of Jesus, King of Divine Mercy, let us renew the awareness of our many shortcomings and our need to be purified through his forgiveness. *(Pause)*

P –Lord of Divine Mercy, you call us to be of one heart and one mind in our communities and families, Lord, have mercy!

All– Lord, have mercy!

P –King of mercy, you expect us all to bear witness to your resurrection in our daily life, Christ, have mercy!

All– Christ, have mercy!

P –Merciful and loving Lord,

you continually invite us 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, God, for ever and ever. **All—Amen!**



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 reading 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

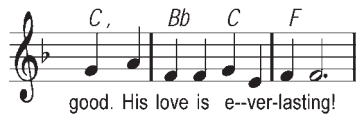
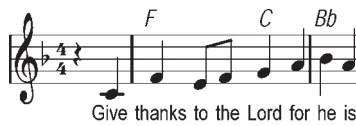
they were distributed to each according to need.

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 reading 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 reading 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

*(Apostles' Creed)**

All—I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, 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 of the Faithful

P —We are among those who believe in the resurrection of Jesus even though we never put our fingers in the nail marks 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:

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 ecclesial organizations and institutions 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 families and society, 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 praise 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!

* Instead of the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, especially during Lent and Easter time, the baptismal Symbol of the Roman Church, known as the **Apostles' Creed**, may be used.

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



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 Com-
munion Hymn is sung.)*

**Bring your hand and feel
the place of the nails, and do
not be unbelieving but believ-
ing, 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!



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 chil-
dren. 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!



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LITTLE NUGGETS OF LIGHT

Kalakbay at Katoto

There is no denying the obvious – We live in a world filled with light of all types. We know a whole lot more than just a short generation ago. Information is readily available anytime, anywhere. Gone are the days of voluminous encyclopedias of just 50 years ago or so. Nowadays, Mr Google, more than SM, has got everything for us! But the other side of the picture that may not be immediately obvious is also true. The very same vast knowledge and access to information has caused the world a lot of darkness. In our times, anybody who is somebody is an object of boundless and boundary-less curiosity of the digital generation. Where you live, your expensive condo, how you got it, and who is the real owner of the unit you are living in, is fair game to digital sleuths and gossip-mongers. All it takes is a trigger and the whole country is, as digital natives put it now, “affected much.” Just ask Dominic and Bea. And go back a few months back and ask KathNiel. The four have been, and still are, fodder for the gossip mills of the “per minute” variety and so many others.

We are surrounded by so many and newfangled types of darkness. Let us name a few: The darkness of fake news, for one, and the darkness grows even bleaker and blacker once you realize that upwards of 80% of people would rather believe fake news and false narratives rather than good, old fashioned truth and incontrovertible facts.

False narratives have, of late, made the world a lot more darkness-filled. Call it that, or historical revisionism, woke-ism or what-have-you, they all are the same banana. In the name of self-defense, more than 39,000 innocent non-combatants have been mercilessly killed in Gaza since October 7 of 2023. Similarly, in the name of “traditional

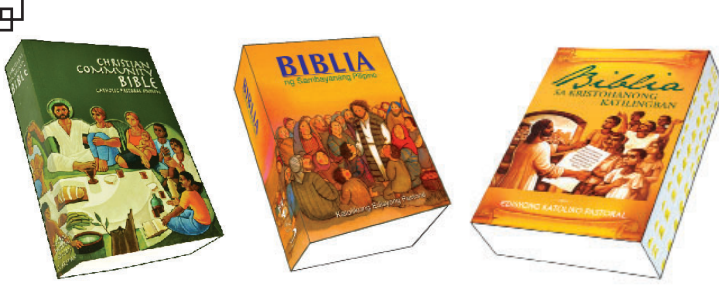
values” and a distorted rebranding of history, or in the name of “De-Nazification,” or “Demilitarization,” powerful purveyors of false narratives attack civilians and civilian targets without blinking an eye, or – in plain language – without mercy.

Mercy and compassion are now easily sacrificed on the altar of re-branded “colonialism” made to appear like it is not colonialism but the establishment of a “new world order.”




The world might appear all lit up and bathed in the glow of big data and “woke-ist” grand awareness of ideologically tainted “reality,” but darkness is all over the place. The grand victim is more than just objective truth. Compassion and mercy are nothing but collateral damage to this hypocritical dedication to self-serving ideological truth.

But today, the Christian world is getting a big reminder. That truth, no matter how the world seems to ignore it, are like a shower of little nuggets of light that matters more than big data and manipulated truth. That truth revolves around a God of mercy and compassion – a God who is, who was, and always will be source and standard and measure of saving truth. Jesus Christ, the King of Divine Mercy, came and bodily showed us the breadth, height, and depth of this saving truth.

The wounds on his side, shown and offered to Thomas for him to touch, taste and see for himself were deep. But the truth behind them was even deeper. It is so deep that one remains speechless, slain by a so powerful and undeniable truth, that all Thomas – and us – could utter was and is: “My Lord and my God!”



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