



27 April 2025 2nd Sunday of Easter / Feast of Jesus, King of Divine Mercy Year C

Beneficiaries and Channels of God's Merciful Love

Today, the Second Sunday of Easter, we honor the Risen Christ under the title of "King of Divine Mercy." Each of us has surely experienced the infinite mercy of the Lord in so many ways, including the reception of the gift of faith and the forgiveness of our sins.

We should manifest our gratitude to the Lord Jesus for his mercy toward us by being merciful toward our neighbor, we will be both the recipients and the channels of God's merciful love. And our lives will become living witnesses to Christ's resurrection and heralds of his love.

Like the converted Thomas, let us approach the merciful Christ in this Eucharist and renew our profession of faith by proclaiming aloud: "My Lord and my God!"



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!

(1 Pt 2:2)

Greeting

P – In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

All–Amen!

P –The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit 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 purified through his forgiveness.

(Pause)

P –Lord Jesus, your mercy is boundless. Lord, have mercy!

All–**Lord, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus you have proclaimed "blessed" those who are merciful. Christ, have mercy!

All–**Christ, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you have commanded us to be charitable. 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 high-

est, 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 5:12-16*
The Book of Acts tells us how the Church grew in numbers and esteem, thanks also to the healing power of Peter and the other Apostles.

R —A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon's portico. None of the others dared to join them, but the people esteemed them. Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them.

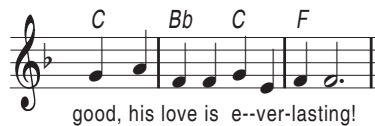
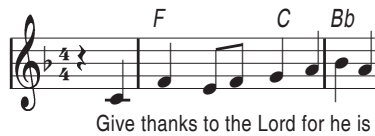
Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them. A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

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 *Rv 1:9-11.*
12-13.17-19

At the very beginning of his prophetic vision, John sees the Risen Christ, resplendent in his glory and full of life and power.

R —A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, your brother, who share with you the distress, the kingdom, and the endurance we have in Jesus, found myself on the island called Patmos because I proclaimed God's word and gave testimony to Jesus. I was caught up in spirit on the Lord's Day and heard behind me a voice as loud as a trumpet, which said, "Write on a scroll what you see."

Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and when I turned, I saw seven gold lampstands and in the

midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, wearing an ankle-length robe, with a gold sash around his chest.

When I caught sight of him, I fell down at his feet as though dead. He touched me with his right hand and said, "Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, the one who lives. Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. I hold the keys to death and the netherworld. Write down, therefore, what you have seen, and what is happening, and what will happen afterwards."

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 they who have not seen me, but still believe!"
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel *Jn 20:19-31*
In today's passage Jesus appears to his disciples, sends them to continue his mission, and bestows on them the power to forgive sins.

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,

GLOSSARY: • **First day of the week:** This phrase indicates Sunday, not Monday. For the Jews, in fact, the week ended with the Sabbath, the day of rest. Jesus rose from death on the day after the "great Sabbath" in which the Jews observed their Passover. The Church has transferred the day of rest and rejoicing to "the day after the Sabbath" and called it "Day of the Lord" (or Sunday) because it was on that day that Jesus rose from death, thereby inaugurating the real "Passover" from a humiliating death to a glorious life.

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-Constantinopolitan 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, *(bow)* 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 —Let us open our hearts to the Triune God, the Source of all mercy and love, and pray with humble faith:

All—Merciful God, hear our prayer!

C —For the Church and her leaders: May they be an inspiration to all the faithful through their dedication, unity, and faithfulness to Christ. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For all those who are afflicted by physical, psychological or moral illness: May they always find healing and relief through the compassion of all believers. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For those who, like Thomas, find it hard to believe in the Resurrection: May they be helped by the witness of the Christian community to overcome their unbelief. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For those who administer the Sacrament of Penance: May they always be worthy instru-

ments of God's healing love. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For the coming national and local elections: May peace prevail throughout the country, and may we exert every effort to thwart acts of violence and cheating. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For all peoples all over the world: that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times. Let us pray! **R.**

P —Lord Jesus, King of Mercy, we thank you for your Easter gifts of peace and forgiveness. May they bring us closer to you and to one another, and make us instruments of your love for all. You, who are King of Mercy for ever and ever!

All—Amen!

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



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 in this time 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!

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 Communion Hymn is sung.)

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

(Cf Jn 20:27)

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)*

–May God, in His saving love, dispel your doubts and lead you to fully believe in Him.

All—Amen!

P –May you experience deeply His merciful love in the sacraments and in the people around you.

All—Amen!

P –As you have experienced His mercy, may you become His instruments of love and mercy to the world.

All—Amen!

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

All—Amen!

P –Go in peace.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

All—Thanks be to God.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

MY LORD AND MY GOD! DOUBT ACKNOWLEDGED; FAITH PROFESSED

Kalakbay at Katoto

Hiding, fear, wounds in the hands and side, locked doors, absence, doubt ... these negative sounding words simply seem to stand out of today's readings like a sore thumb. Not much of a good material for good news, you say?

Indeed ... so it seems, for modern people like us always want things clearly laid out on the table for certainty and security. We want things written down all the time in black and white.. We want clear proofs. We want to be sure of what we are getting ourselves into each time. Everything must be spelled out clearly and unequivocally.

Let us face it. There is a whole lot of hiding in the world today. Some hide their real incomes from government to avoid paying taxes.

Many people are left wounded, bruised and battered by so much suffering most of them caused by conditions and situations they have no control over. The doubting disease has worsened dramatically ever since doubting Thomas uttered his famous words: "Unless I see the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

I do not know, nor want to speculate here the reason for Thomas' absence. But we do know that he eventually surfaced. And as a pastoral counselor, I know of one more sure thing. Thomas acknowledged his doubt. Thomas did not hide his unbelief. Thomas was honest enough to tell his fellow disciples that his faith meant



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more than just a facetious and shallow acquiescence or thoughtless agreement to what others tell him. Thomas was an avid and passionate searcher for the truth.

The world that we live in is mired in so much uncertainty and doubt, even as it reels under the ever darkening clouds of fear and insecurity all over. Cynics and critics of the teaching authority of the Church and Her magisterium abound, even among those who are supposed to defend her.

In this second Sunday of Easter we are reminded of a great lesson that comes from one who has been receiving a bad rap for so long – Thomas the doubter. Thomas did the one important and right thing. Acknowledging his doubt, he turned right back to the faith community – the community of disciples. Thomas turned right back to the “Church.” True enough, based on the promise of Christ, his “Lord and God” was there. It was in the context of a believing community that Thomas found the object of his search. Once found, there was no need for superficial proofs. Once seen, there was no need for “peripheral” and non-essential visions. He did not need to touch the hands nor the side of him whom he called “My Lord and my God.”

The Risen Lord revealed and showed Himself to him who searched sincerely and honestly.

Over the past few decades, we have seen the sad reality of people leaving the Church not because they hate the Church per se, but really because they hate what they (mistakenly) think the Church (and their faith) is. A whole lot of ignorance coupled with prejudice, and helped by the teaching of false prophets, lead people away. But we also see people returning to the fold, people wanting to be admitted to the Church once again, because they did the right thing. They investigated their doubt and resolved their doubt, not with anger, not with resentment, but with a whole lot of sincerity and honesty, and I hasten to add, a lot of hard work. And they did that one important thing. They sought for the truth in the context of the guardian and safekeeper and proclaimer par excellence of that truth – the Church of Jesus Christ, one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

Thomas represents all of us who, for one reason or another, have been “absent” in some way, and therefore lagging behind in our knowledge and practice of the faith. Thomas represents all of us who are called to believe, not so much on the basis of what we personally see and experience, as on the basis of the testimony of others.

In the final analysis, faith is not a question of whether we were “absent” or that we “doubted” at some point,

but that we believe on the basis of the Church’s – and others’ word. For indeed, the Lord did many other signs that are not written. But on the basis of her preaching and teaching and witnessing, people believed.

St. Thomas, help us in our unbelief.

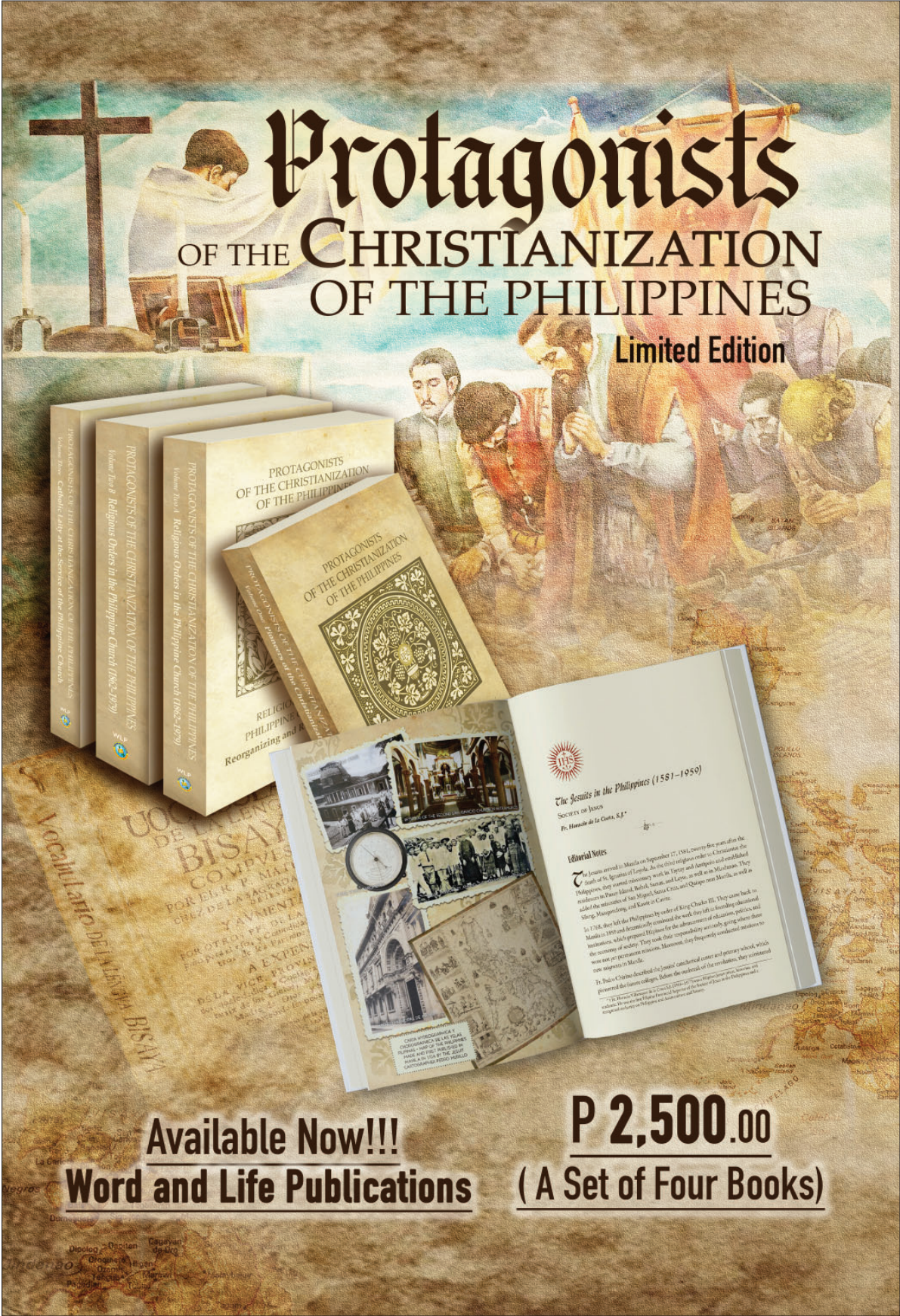
Prayer for the Grace to Be Merciful to Others

(St. Faustina Kowalska)

O Most Holy Trinity!
As many times as I breathe,
as many times as my heart beats,
As many times as my blood pulsates through my body,
so many thousand times do I want to glorify Your mercy.
I want to be completely transformed into Your mercy
and to be your living reflection, O Lord.
May the greatest of all Divine attributes,
that of Your unfathomable Mercy,
pass to my neighbor through my heart and soul.
Help me, O Lord, that my eyes may be merciful,
so that I may never suspect or judge from appearances,
but always look for what is beautiful
in my neighbor’s souls
and come to their rescue.
Help me, that my ears may be merciful,
so that I may give heed to my neighbor’s needs,
and not be indifferent to their pains and moanings.
Help me, O Lord, that my tongue may be merciful,
so that I should never speak negatively of others,
but have a word of comfort and forgiveness for all.
Help me, O Lord, that my hands may be merciful
and filled with good deeds,
so that I may do only good to my neighbor
and always try to take upon myself
the more difficult and toilsome tasks.
Help me, O Lord, that my feet may be merciful,
so that I may hurry to assist my neighbor,
overcoming my own fatigue and weariness.
My true rest is in the service of my neighbor.
Help me, O Lord, that my heart may be merciful,
so that I myself may feel all the sufferings of my neighbor.
I will refuse my heart to no one.
I will be sincere even with those who, I know,
will abuse my kindness.
I will lock myself up in the most merciful Heart of Jesus,
and I will bear my own suffering in silence.
May your mercy, O Lord, rest upon me!
(Diary, 163)



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