

## **HOLY HALF HOUR FOR MAY 2017**

### **OPENING HYMN: ALL THE EARTH**

### **EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

#### **INTRODUCTORY PRAYER:**

As we are in Eastertide, let us reflect on the resurrection of Jesus. The Bible tells us that on the day Jesus was crucified there was darkness over the whole land from noon until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "my God, my God why have you forsaken me." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and he gave up his spirit. Jesus died. But in Jesus there was life and his life was the light of all people. The light of Jesus shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light that enlightens every person has come into the world and has spread throughout the world. And when Jesus appeared to his disciples for the first time after his resurrection, the first gift Jesus gave to them was the gift of peace. Thus the light of Christ that burns in our hearts will help us overcome any problems or difficulties that we might have in our own lives and Jesus will give us peace. **PAUSE A SHORT WHILE FOR SILENCE**

#### **GOSPEL READING: Jn 20:24-29**

#### **TIME FOR SILENCE PRAYER**

#### **REFLECTION:**

In the gospel of John 20:24-29 is acknowledged almost universally as the story of "Doubting Thomas." To focus so narrowly on Thomas's doubt is to miss the point. The centre of this story is Jesus, not Thomas.

At the heart of this story is Jesus' generous offer of himself to Thomas. Thomas had clearly stated his conditions for his faith: He must be allowed to touch Jesus' wounds. Jesus does not show disapproval to the conditions laid down by Thomas. Jesus makes available to Thomas exactly what he needs for his faith.

Jesus presents his post-resurrection body to Thomas and exhorts him to believe. It is Jesus' grace that leads Thomas to a confession of faith

Jesus' love for his own did not end with his death, but determines all future interactions between Jesus and the community of his followers. Jesus' love and care for his own are evident in the blessing that follow. In this blessing, John the Evangelist reminds all later readers of the gospel i.e. in the next generations to follow; no matter how many centuries pass by the knowledge of and relationship with Jesus is not limited to his first disciples.

Let us pause and reflect on how is my relationship been so far with the Risen Lord? What steps this year can I take to improve this relationship? **Silent Prayer**

John wants to give the later generations the hope and promise we have in Christ, not judgment and reprimand. We too will experience the grace of God in Jesus. Jesus' care for the faith of those who come after Thomas, who will not see, is equally without limit and measure. **Silent Prayer**

**OUR RESPONSE:** "Peace I give to you, my own peace I give you," says the Lord.

**LEADER :** Jesus, arise and give us your peace, a peace that the world does not know.

**All:** "Peace I give to you, my own peace I give you," says the Lord.

**LEADER :** Lead all your creation to the river of peace, refresh us, restore us, and give us your spirit.

**All:** "Peace I give to you, my own peace I give you," says the Lord.

**LEADER:** We stand before you as one body in Christ, give to us a spirit of justice.

**All:** "Peace I give to you, my own peace I give you," says the Lord.

**LEADER:** Let mercy and compassion flow from us like a never-ending stream.

**All:** "Peace I give to you, my own peace I give you," says the Lord.

**LEADER:** We lift up our hands to the God of all creation; bless us for all time.

**All:** "Peace I give to you, my own peace I give you," says the Lord.

**PAUSE A SHORT WHILE FOR SILENCE**

**LET US TOGETHER PROFESS THAT: ALL SAY ONE BY ONE.**

- We believe in God, who is love and who has given the earth to all people.
- We believe in Jesus Christ, who came to heal us, and to free us from all forms of oppression.
- We believe in the Spirit of God, who works in and through all who seek the truth.
- We believe in the community of faith, which is called to be at the service of all people.
- We believe in God's promise to destroy the power of sin in us all, and to establish the realm of justice and peace for all humankind.
- We do not believe in the right of the strongest, or the force of arms, or the power of oppression.
- We believe in human rights, in solidarity of all people, in the power of nonviolence.
- We do not believe in racism, in the power that comes from wealth and privilege, or in any established order that enslaves.
- We do not believe that war and hunger are inevitable and peace unattainable.
- We believe in the beauty of simplicity, in love with open hands, in peace on earth.
- We do not believe that suffering need be in vain, that death is the end, that the injustices of our world is what God intended.

**ALL: But we dare to believe, always and in spite of everything, in God's power to bring about a new heaven and a new earth where justice and peace will flourish.**

**HYMN: LIVING WATERS**

**PRAYERS FOR BOMBAY AND INDIA**

**BENEDICTION HYMN**

**DIVINE PRAISES**

**FINAL HYMN: SPREAD THE NEWS**

*Prepared by Fr. Terrie Pinto  
For the  
The Archdiocesan Liturgical Committee*