

19 APRIL 2020
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER or DIVINE MERCY

OPENING HYMN

I am the bread of life;
Those who come to me shall not hunger,
Those who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me unless the Father draw him.

And I will raise him up – 3
On the last day!

I am the resurrection, I am the life;
If you believe in me, even if you die,
You shall live forever.

(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)

OPENING PRAYER

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: Acts 2:42-47

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

Response: 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 has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.'**R/**

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

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the conner 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: 1 Pet 1:3-9

GOSPEL: Jn 20:19-31

REFLECTION:

The gospel text of today helps us to believe that Jesus is risen and alive. Using the example of Thomas, John tells us that believing is not dependent on physical contact with Jesus, but coming to believe depends on a personal encounter with Jesus. An encounter between two persons takes place through mutual self giving: Jesus gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit and our self giving is when we open ourselves to receive the Holy Spirit. It is the work of the Spirit within us that helps us to believe that Jesus is risen and alive.

In the first reading we encounter the risen Lord in the breaking of bread. We experience the love of Christ in the Church, in the manner we relate to each other. By being faithful to Christ and living a life of self giving, we make the power of the resurrection concrete and tangible for others as they see Christ in us.

Today is also the feast of the Divine Mercy. As Christ's disciples, we can experience the risen Lord in *His mercy, His everlasting love and His help* (responsorial psalm). In difficult times like these, are we taking care of our senior citizens? Are we making food and other resources available to those who are in need? Can we extend help to the mission stations in the suffragan dioceses also, who are sheltering many in these difficult times? From the blessings we have received, as individuals and parishes, can we show God's mercy by sharing our blessing with others? Can we truly as individuals and parishes communities manifest Christ's risen presence in our self-giving? **Pause.**

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Trusting the the divine mercy of our Lord, let us bring before him our prayers.

Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church: We pray for all the members of the Church, that they may be beacons of Christ's mercy and love; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For the World: We pray for the nations of the world that the leaders may provide basic food, shelter, clothing and medical care for those undergoing hardships and difficulties because of the pandemic of Corona virus; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For the Sick and the Suffering: We pray for all those who are suffering from sickness and stress that Christ's peace may restore and heal them; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

For All Christians: We pray for all baptised Christians that we may be generous in our care for others and open to the working of the Holy Spirit; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

Leader: Heavenly Father, you have brought us to the joy of this Easter day. Hear our prayers and in your grace renew and strengthen us to be your faithful disciples. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us together by the Saviour's command and formed by Divine teaching, dare to say:
(All say the Lord's Prayer together) Our Father, ...

CLOSING PRAYER

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.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONAVIRUS

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for a quick control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors doing research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

We see Christ with eyes of the heart,

With our hands we touch the Word of life.

What we see and hear we declare

That together the life of Father and Son we may share.

For our Saviour has conquered, alleluia, he has conquered,

Over death victorious, alleluia, victorious,

Over evil he'll triumph, alleluia, he'll triumph,

Jesus Reigns over all!

(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)