

Suggested Opening Song: We Walk by Faith, #258

Today we hear the well-known story of Saint Thomas, the apostle who doubted that Jesus had truly risen, refusing to believe until he touched the nailmarks in the Lord's hands. Out of mercy for the single apostle who had missed his first appearance after rising from the dead, Jesus returned to invite Thomas to probe his wounds. Thomas, with the faith we hope to emulate, immediately exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" On this Divine Mercy Sunday, we ask God to strengthen our faith to overcome our doubts so that we too may see the risen Lord in our midst.

As we gather let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

Profession of Faith p. 22

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 as we say) and by the Holy Spirit he 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.

Introductory Rite:

Greeting:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God forever. **Blessed be God forever.**

Penitential Rite: p. 8

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to participate in this sacred celebration.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen**

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 reborn, 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. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading p. 190

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to GodResponsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:1, 2-4, 13-15, 22-24

R/. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

R/. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

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/.**Second Reading

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time. In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

John 20:19-31

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 nail marks 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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection on the Word:

- The first two readings go hand in hand in describing the experience of the early church. The first three words of the first reading are key: “They devoted themselves” (Acts 2:42). Members of the early church were nothing if not devoted. They devoted themselves to learning from the apostles, to living communally with other Christians (the word they’d started using to describe their identity), to prayer, to worship, and to the Eucharist. They also devoted themselves to making sure that everything they had was divided equitably among them so that no one was in need, to meeting together to share and strengthen their faith, to eating together as Jesus had with the apostles, and to growing in number. The second reading hints at the persecution they faced. But they were able to endure the trials they suffered because of their faith: a certainty of their salvation, which they called “a living hope . . . to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading” (1 Peter 1:3–4). No wonder they experienced “an indescribable and glorious joy” (1 Peter 1:8).
- Jesus returned to his disciples in a glorified body, but his body still had the wounds from the cross, wounds that could be seen, felt, and probed. Wounds remain on the Body of Christ still. These are real wounds that are visible and palpable. These are wounds that still need healing. Pope Francis famously described the Church as a field hospital, where the wounded and ill are treated and restored to health. We are called to do this. We are called to heal the wounds of the body of Christ.
- “As the Father has sent me, so I send you,” Jesus tells his disciples after greeting them and offering them peace (John 20:21). Years before, Jesus had taught the disciples to pray that the Father’s will be done here on earth. The Father’s will in sending Jesus was to win our salvation by suffering and dying for our sins. Now Jesus is sending us on a mission in accordance with the Father’s will. Before he ascends to be with the Father forever, he tells his disciples to make disciples of all nations. God created every one of us for a reason and Jesus is telling us what it is. As he did what he was sent to do, so must we.

Question of the Week

What do I see as God’s purpose for my life? How will I, with the grace of God, fulfill that purpose?

Prayer of the Faithful:

God’s mercy endures forever and so we confidently ask that that mercy be showered upon us and all those in need.

- For the Church, that we may be reinvigorated during this joyous season of Easter, devoting ourselves to the teaching of the apostles, prayer, and breaking bread together, much as the first disciples, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That the leaders of the world may find ways to respond to the cries of the poor so that even the poorest of the poor may have their basic needs satisfied, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For young people, that they may listen for the Holy Spirit's call and respond by spreading the Good News through lay, consecrated, or ordained ministry to the people of God, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That remembering the millions of victims of the Holocaust this Tuesday on Holocaust Remembrance Day may also remind us that hatred and resentment can lead to mistreating fellow children of God, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all of us and our families, that our faith may be strengthened in our joining together to pray, worship, and break bread, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For what else should we pray? Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, bless us as we devote ourselves to proclaiming your mercy throughout the world. Hear the prayers we make and in your mercy grant them through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer: p. 54

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Rite of Peace:

The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ's presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Communion:

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.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

Concluding Rite:

Final Blessing:

May the Lord bless us, ✠ protect us from all evil and lead us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Go in peace! **Thanks be to God.**

Suggested Closing Song: Go, Make of All Disciples, #246