



# Divine Mercy Sunday

April 18-19, 2020

## Prayer for the Times

Lord Jesus Christ, our Divine Physician, we ask you to guard and protect us from Coronavirus COVIS-19 and all serious illness. For all that have died from it, have mercy; for those that are ill now, bring healing. For those searching for a remedy, enlighten them; for medical caregivers helping the sick, strengthen and shield them. For those working to contain the spread, grant them success; for those afraid, grant peace. May your precious blood be our defense and salvation. By your grace, may you turn the evil of disease into moments of consolation and hope. May we always fear the contagion of sin more than any illness. We abandon ourselves to your infinite mercy. Amen

*-Pedro de la Cruz*

## Gloria

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.

## Opening Prayer

### First Reading

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.

### Responsorial

Psalm 118

**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. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

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. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

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. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

### Second Reading

1Peter 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.

## Alleluia

### R. 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!

### R. Alleluia, alleluia.

## Gospel

John 20:19-31

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.

## Homily

### THE DIFFERENCE A WEEK MAKES?

*"A week later, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time  
Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came."*

—John 20:26

The octave of the first Easter was disappointing and uneventful for the apostles. On the evening of the day of Jesus' Resurrection, Jesus sent His apostles to proclaim His Gospel (Jn 20:21), but eight days later they were still paralyzed by fear and behind locked doors (see Jn 20:26). You can see why Thomas, not present a week earlier, did not believe that Jesus was risen from the dead. However, the Lord had mercy on the apostles after they were unfaithful to Him so many times. He came to them once again and was even willing to subject Himself to Thomas prodding His wounds (Jn 20:27).

Possibly the octave of Easter has been disappointing for you also. You may have even sinned against the risen Lord. You may be concealing Jesus' Resurrection more than revealing it. Nevertheless, Jesus comes to you once again with rays of mercy coming from His wounded heart.

Jesus gives us mercy primarily by commanding us to "receive the Holy Spirit" (Jn 20:22) and receive a new Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is "the

Spirit of truth" (Jn 16:13). He will make us true to the Lord and not unfaithful. The Holy Spirit will produce the fruit of love in us (Gal 5:22), and we will stop our sinful rejection of the Lord and our disobedience to Him. By Jesus' mercy and the power of the Holy Spirit, we will be witnesses for the risen Christ and truly celebrate Easter. "Lord, have mercy. Come, Holy Spirit!"

**Prayer:** Father, make Divine Mercy Sunday one of the most important days of my life because of my love for You.

**Promise:** "They devoted themselves to the apostles' instruction and the communal life." —Acts 2:42

**Praise:** God "saved us; not because of any righteous deeds we had done, but because of His mercy" (see Ti 3:5).

## Profession of Faith

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,  
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.

## Prayers of the Faithful

1. For the Church, stronghold of trust in the everlasting mercy of God, that the gift of faith be generously shared with all who search for it,  
Let us pray to the Lord.
2. For all who answer the call to a life of civic service, that they may be ever mindful of the sanctity of all life,  
Let us pray to the Lord.
3. For the wounded, the sorrowing, and the hopeless, that they know God's mercy through our community's love,  
Let us pray to the Lord.
4. For caregivers, healthcare workers, and those who work to cure diseases, that they know the compassionate love and wisdom of Jesus,

Let us pray to the Lord.

5. For our parishioners, our students and others who are sick, that they find strength and courage in the cross of Christ and discover the redemptive value of their suffering,

Let us pray to the Lord.

6. For our brothers and sisters who have died, especially, Mary Hendrickson, mother of Dennis, that God raise them up on the last day,

Let us pray to the Lord.

7. For our faith community as we celebrate Christ's victory while practicing physical distancing, that faith lights our lives and the lives of those we love,

Let us pray to the Lord.

## **Spiritual Communion Prayer**

My Jesus,  
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen

## **Dismissal**