

Sunday, April 16, 2023

The Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday

- 1) Acts 2:42-47
- 2) 1 Peter 1:3-9
- 3) John 20:19-31

FOCUS: Showing love and mercy to one another is a way of showing gratitude to God for his mercy toward us.

If Easter needs an exclamation point, Divine Mercy Sunday provides it. The death and resurrection of Jesus reveal the depths of God's mercy toward us. For by his death, Jesus won forgiveness for our sins and by rising, restored our life. In gratitude for all that we have received from God, let us go forth and treat one another with kindness and mercy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Today's first reading speaks of the early Christians living in community and showing great concern for one another. The Church grew as the Lord blessed their work. The second reading highlights the blessings of following Christ, even in times of trial. In the Gospel, the risen Jesus appears to the Apostles and sends them out to forgive sins and bring people to salvation.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Raised up to a newer and fuller life in Christ Jesus, let us come together to offer our petitions to him.

- 1) That God's mercy, poured out in and through Christ Jesus, may move all members of our Church, both clergy and laity, to be merciful and forgiving to others, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders around the world will work to protect the most vulnerable in their midst, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer from chronic pain may find relief and solace through the compassion of their caregivers and the ever-constant love of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That each of us gathered here may be aware of God's mercy in our lives and acknowledge it gratefully, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may rest in peace eternally, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Heavenly Father, hear our prayers. Help us to know your mercy and goodness as we strive to follow the example of Jesus. We ask these and all things through your son, Jesus Christ.