



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER [or Of Divine Mercy]
19th April 2020

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish, this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

"Divine Mercy" is a devotion originating with Saint Faustina Kowalska, and much beloved by Pope Saint John Paul II, who entrusted it to the whole Church: it celebrates the amazing personal love Jesus has for each one of us, that calls us to repentance and to live in that love every day of our lives. The distinctive image of Divine Mercy shows Jesus with rays of light reaching from his heart to us, and the words of our response "Jesus, I trust in you."

SIGN OF THE CROSS

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Leader: Our journey through Eastertide continues as we hear of the risen Jesus appearing to his friends: we meet "doubting Thomas", whom the Lord gently helps to come to faith and trust in him. Perhaps we can ask Saint Thomas to help us with our faith today, so that we may trust in the risen Jesus more and more. Celebrating the resurrection, we praise God's glory as we say:

GLORIA

All: **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

Leader: 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.

All: Amen.

GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He

said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

Leader: Faith is about believing what we cannot see. It is a step into the dark, an act of trust. Think about the ways in which we trust and believe in each other every day – as family and friends, we do not always demand "proof" but "go on trust." Today's celebration invites us to think about how much we trust Jesus – how much we believe in what we cannot prove! The world around us may think this foolish, may demand proof like Saint Thomas did. Let us step into the dark with the risen Lord, and let our faith and love and kindness help others to believe.

A THOUGHT FOR OUR YOUNGER FRIENDS: There's a test people do to show they trust each other: someone stands with their eyes closed, and falls backwards to be caught (they hope!) by someone else. You would only do this with

someone you REALLY trusted, wouldn't you? Would you do it with Jesus? He loves each one of us so much and wants us to trust him in everything. If there are things you are worried about at the moment, talk to Jesus in your heart, let him catch you!



all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. For he is the true Lamb who has taken away the sins of the world; by dying he has destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life. At the Last Supper he showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: Let us pray that the joy of the resurrection may help and sustain all people

Leader: Let us pray for all members of our parish, that our celebration of the resurrection of Jesus may renew and strengthen our faith. We pray:

All: Risen Lord Jesus, deepen our faith!

Leader: We pray for health workers and all who care for other who are sick, that they may have strength. We pray:

All: Risen Lord Jesus, deepen our faith!

Leader: Let us pray for anyone who, like Thomas, is filled with doubt, that they may come to believe and trust in Jesus. We pray:

All: Risen Lord Jesus, deepen our faith!

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: 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. Amen.

Leader: Exultant with paschal gladness, O Lord, we offer these prayers; grant that we may be wondrously reborn and nourished by your grace. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PREPARATION FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Leader: Loving Father, it is our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but on this day above

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

All: 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.



THANKSGIVING PSALM

Leader: 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.'

All: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Leader: I was thrust down, thrust down and falling,
but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.

There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just.

All: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Leader: The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner 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.

All: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

Leader: Let us pray. Grant, we pray, almighty God, that our celebration of the paschal mystery may have a continuing effect in our minds and hearts. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord, alleluia, alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!