



Diocese of
OWENSBORO

LITURGY OF THE WORD- 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)

HYMN

O SONS AND DAUGHTERS

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O sons and daughters, let us sing!
The King of heav'n, our glorious King,
From death today rose triumphing, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

“My wounded side, O Thomas, see;
Behold my hands, my feet,” said he:
“Not faithless, but believing be.” Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Jean Tisserand, d. 1494

INTRODUCTION

All sign themselves with the sign of the cross saying, “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and home with peace.
Blessed be God for ever.

All respond: Blessed be God for ever.

Sing or recite the *Gloria* together:

**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.**

Leader: Let us pray,

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.

READINGS

It is encouraged that someone other than the leader should proclaim the readings of the day from a Bible. Otherwise, daily readings may be found at uscgb.org/bible/readings, and audio recordings of the daily readings may be found at uscgb.org/bible/readings-audio.cfm.

First reading: Acts 2:42-47

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

Refrain (all together): **Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

or **Alleluia.**

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.”

Refrain (all together): **Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

or **Alleluia.**

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:

Refrain (all together): **Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

or **Alleluia.**

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.

Refrain (all together): **Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

or **Alleluia.**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel (All stand for the reading of the Gospel. A layperson omits the greeting, “The Lord be with you” and proceeds to “A reading from the holy Gospel According to”): John 20:19-31

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

This week we have a reflection from Sr. Francis Marie, CP, a nun at the Passionist Monastery in Whitesville.

Do Not Be Unbelieving, But Believe!

“Jesus came, although the doors were locked...” Today, like the disciples in the Gospel for this Divine Mercy Sunday, we are huddled behind locked doors. We are isolated in our homes, kept away from our neighbors, our churches, friends, and extended family, by the fear that has gripped the world in the face of the uncontrollable contagion of the coronavirus. In God’s Word for today, the risen Jesus comes to us, even through our locked doors, bringing an Easter message of hope and glorious joy (Now, don’t go chasing Him away, wearing a face mask and wielding a bottle of hand sanitizer!).

In this time of trial, Jesus offers us His gift of peace. Three times, He tells us, “Peace be with you.”

He invites us, as He invited Thomas, to touch His glorious wounds. “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side...” We behold Jesus risen, and yet we touch the marks left in His body from the bitter suffering of Good Friday, just a few days ago. As our hands touch the marks of the nails, we recall the fear, anguish, pain, confusion, darkness of the day of Christ’s death. And we feel sharply the fear, anguish, pain, confusion, darkness of the Good Friday we are living right now.

And as we, in this moment, touch Christ’s wounds, we hear Him saying to us, “Do not be unbelieving, but believe.” It is a living, glorious Jesus Who bears these wounds and Who speaks to us. These wounds of His Passion are now fountains of mercy, grace, and healing for the world. With Thomas, we profess our faith in the Risen Lord, Who has triumphed over the darkness of Good Friday, and we say, “My Lord and my God.”

In our moments of fear, anguish, and doubt, as we wonder about the future of our world, our country, work, finances, family, in the wake of the pandemic, we fix our gaze on the risen Jesus, and touching His wounds, we repeat our profession of faith, “My Lord and My God”, entrusting ourselves and our families entirely to the Divine Mercy and infinite power of our Risen Lord.

This is what it means to be a person of faith. This is where the “rubber hits the road”. Is our faith such that, as St. Peter says in our second reading today, we can rejoice even as we suffer through various trials, knowing that Our Lord and God will work out all things for our good? St. Peter says that in times like these, our faith is like gold tested in fire, and “will prove to be for praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ appears.” Through our faith in Him, Christ offers us “indescribable and glorious joy” even in the midst of the trials of this life, and hope of unending joy in heaven. May Christ’s joy and peace be ours as we continue to celebrate this unusual Easter season.

Additionally, you can also find video reflections from the USCCB on the readings here:

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/reflections/>.

Observe a period of silence for reflection on the Word of God. You may want to ask the following questions:

What word or phrase is stirring in your heart?

How can you apply this message to your daily life?

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: The Son of God who invites us to live by his Light stands ready to banish our darkness, Let us call upon him in our need.

You or members of your family can be invited to speak out their intercessions, to which all reply, “Lord, hear our prayer.” It would be good to include a prayer for the end of the coronavirus pandemic and a return to public Sunday Eucharist.

Leader: Incline your merciful ear to our prayers, we ask, O Lord, and listen in kindness to the supplications of those who call on you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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.

ACT OF THANKSGIVING

Make a prayer of thanksgiving. This can be your own personal prayer of thanksgiving, a canticle of praise from scripture, or you may choose one of the following Psalms: Psalm 100; Psalm 113; Psalm 118:1-4, 19-29; Psalm 136; Psalm 150

CONCLUDING RITE

In solidarity with our diocese, here you could include Pope Francis’ prayer to Mary for protection against the coronavirus found at the beginning of the *Diocese of Owensboro Prayer Companion*.

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

All sign themselves with the cross.

Response: Amen

As an option here, you could add “Let us offer each other the sign of peace,” extending a sign of Christ’s peace to your loved ones by way of a hug, kiss, or whatever would be most appropriate for your situation.

HYMN

WE WALK BY FAITH

We walk by faith, and not by sight:
No gracious words we hear
Of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
But we believe him near.

We may not touch his hands and side,
Nor follow where he trod;
Yet in his promise we rejoice,
And cry, "My Lord and God."

Henry Alford, 1841