



Hosanna



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SUNDAY LITURGY

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DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Year A

INTRODUCTION

Today, we are celebrating the “Divine Mercy Sunday.” At the close of the Holy Doors, question must arise in all our minds that have we closed the door of mercy? for the act of mercy there is no hour, there is no day. All through our life we must continue the act of mercy. So, let us open the door of our heart and welcome Christ who is in the deformed face of our brothers and sisters.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia. (*1 Pet 2:2*)

COLLECT

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.

FIRST READING

Are we truly Christians? Do we practice the Christian virtues? Today, we are called to have personal examination our Christian life in the light of the life of Early Christians.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47

And they (the new converts) devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as many had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Responsorial Psalm (118)

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

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.”

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

I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper. The Lord is my strength and my song; he is my saviour. There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just.

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

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.

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

SECOND READING

St. Peter exhorts us to be firm in our Faith. We may be tested yet we are called to be firm in our faith that it may bring us joy and mercy of God.

A reading from the First Letter of St Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may redound to praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Without having seen him you love him; though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. As

the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls.

ALLELUIA (Jn 20:29)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia! Thomas, you have believed, says the Lord, because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe. Alleluia!

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John 20:19-31

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out

your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God.” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Dear friends, God’s mercy leads us to heal the wounds of our heart. In his mercy let us put forth the needs of our community and families.

Response: LORD OF MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

1. Merciful God, make all our Church leaders – our Pope Francis, our Archbishop Bernard Moras, all the Bishops and clergy, to be more merciful like You, that they may become the agents of Your Mercy. Let us pray.

2. Lord, make us to get in to the shoes of those in need that we may have the heart to help them. Let us pray.

3. Lord, May all the divorced couples feel the goodness of the sacrament of matrimony so that they may be given heart of reconciliation to be united with their partners. Let us pray.

4. Lord, comfort all the souls in purgatory in your mercy that they may gain the grace of seeing you. Let us pray.

Celebrant: Loving Father, may the prayers of this congregation gathered

in your name may find favor in your sight. Thus we also may become your instruments of mercy in this merciless world. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the oblations of your people (and of those you have brought to new birth), that, renewed by confession of your name and by Baptism, they may attain unending happiness. Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE I (Easter)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but on this day above 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.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

All: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia. (*Jn 20:27*)

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.

REFLECTION

Jesus fulfilled the mission on earth. He did what his father wanted him to do to save the humanity from the pit of sin. He carried his cross, shed his blood, and sacrificed his life on the cross. Seeing all these horrible things, the apostles of Jesus were shattered. They feared their life and the Jews. There was an imminent danger that the disciples would be arrested by the authorities because the disciples were considered as revolutionaries. They feared that the wrath of Jews should not fall on the disciples.

At this point of time, their fear pushed them to hide in underground or behind closed doors. Jesus appeared to them after the resurrection. He was real but the disciples were confused (vision or spirit). The appearance of Jesus was real and it was not a vision or spirit. Jesus understood the mind and the fear of the disciples. Therefore, Jesus used day to day greetings, “peace be with you” to calm the situation. The greeting was familiar and common. His greeting was an indication for the disciples to understand the real presence of Jesus. Furthermore, he showed his wounds to them and allowed them to touch. It was touching moment for them to touch the wounds of Jesus and feel the real body of Jesus. Once, they got the conviction in their hearts, it was a moment of joy and Jubilation. They believed in the resurrection of Jesus. They were filled

with hysteria but fear of the authorities and the Jews stopped them to go out and proclaim the resurrection of Jesus. In their joy, Jesus wanted to remind them the purpose of their gathering. The Father sent Jesus on a mission. As father sent him, he also wanted to send his disciples on a mission. The purpose is to proclaim the salvation of Jesus. The greatest hurdles for the disciples to go out is their fear. Their fear stopped them in fulfilling the mission entrusted to them. They were filled with joy when they experienced the resurrection of Jesus. It was not enough for them to go out and bear witness to the resurrection of Jesus. Therefore, Jesus breathed on to them the gift of the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Holy Spirit is the symbolic representation and preparation of the disciples for the mission. ‘He breathed on to them’. Breathing symbolized two things. Primarily, he sent the Holy Spirit on them. Secondly, in the first book of the Bible, God created man from clay. The clay did not live. When God breathed in to the clay, the clay began living. The life began to live with the living breath of God. Both the aspects, life and the spirit in a man on whom God breathed He indwelt in him. Breathing on the entire community symbolized the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the community. In this regard, St. Paul says, “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s spirit lives in you?”.

- **Rev. Fr. Arockiaswamy Sebastian**

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