

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 – dcn. joe schmitt  
2nd Sunday of Easter  
Divine Mercy Sunday  
Cycle A

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 2: 42 – 47.

*All who believed were together and held all things in common.*

Psalm 118:2 – 4, 13 – 15, 22 – 24.

*God is good, and God's love is everlasting, give God thanks.*

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Peter 1:3 – 9.

*God has given us a new birth in a living hope through Jesus' resurrection.*

Gospel: John 20:19 – 31.

*Thomas' faith is confirmed.*

God is good, **all the time**. All the time, **God is good**.

Our Psalm response today is Psalm 118 which is what we just shared. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Jesus is risen! Alleluia! Did you notice our Gospel reading begins on the eve of that first day? It's still Easter. Jesus is risen! Alleluia.

Pope John Paul II also named this Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. Hope appropriate is that since our loving God just extended to us during Holy Week the greatest mercy possible. Jesus is Risen! Alleluia. Now through our baptism we may join Jesus in a new life which begins in the here in now, we do not have to wait for death to enter into it. Although I suppose you could call death a transformation into a new and more intimate relationship with our loving God: truly an entrance into the divine. Let us today give thanks to our God for God's great mercy which has offered us salvation. Jesus is Risen! Alleluia!

For those of us filled with human cynicism, our response, like Thomas, might be I don't believe it. "Show me!" Jesus reassures us as he did the early Christians of John's community that even more blessed are those who believe and have not seen! Help each of us to respond with the deep conviction of Thomas, "My Lord and my God!" (my childhood experience with this aphorism) Jesus is risen! Alleluia!

Do you really want to follow Jesus? Do you want to be that light of the Christ shining through our world? The desire, the faith, was instilled in our hearts at Baptism, and we just renewed it today with our opening sprinkling rite. As St. Peter said in our 1<sup>st</sup> reading, this faith is more precious than gold tested by fire which will still perish (you can't take it with you); but not our salvation. What Jesus did for us is "imperishable, undefiled, and unfading." Jesus offered it all to us: a life healed and whole. Alleluia, Jesus is risen!

Do you really want to follow Jesus? St. Peter says we may find that the efforts to hold tight to our faith might require some suffering on our part (kind of like fire in refining gold). It will, however, prove our faith genuine. Fr. Daniel Berrigan, of recent memory, is known to have said: "If you want to follow Jesus, you must look good on wood." Jesus is risen, Alleluia!

As followers where do find Jesus? All around us! In the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, the dying, the neighbor, your child, your spouse, the immigrant, the politician. Sometimes all we are called to do is hold the hand of a lonely person, give a smile to passing pedestrian, make a call to someone you are concerned about, offer a prayer to someone or even more importantly in a mirror every morning; those are miracles enough. We are called to take care of one another, just like the early Christians described by Luke in our reading from Acts. How good do you look on Wood? Jesus is risen, Alleluia. Let's shine our light this week and not keep it locked up in fear. My Lord and my God!

As we approach the altar today and consume the body and blood, let us hold in our thoughts the love of God for broken people. People like me.

God is good, **all the time.** All the time, **God is good.**