

April 23, 20017 2nd Sunday of Easter
(Divine Mercy Sunday)

Blest are they who have not seen and believed!

Acts 2:42-47

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

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31



The community of believers were of one mind and heart. None claimed anything as their own but gave all to the Apostles who distributed to everyone according to need. As a result there were no needy among them. The apostles received great respect and bore witness with the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Psalmist emphasizes that the mercy of God endures forever. Personally he was hard pressed and falling but the Lord helped him. The Lord is savior and joyful shouts of victory ring out in the tents of the just.

Peter explains that it is a merciful Christ whose resurrection has given us a living hope. We have times of suffering but can rejoice in our faith that is more precious than even gold and leads us to our salvation.

After the resurrection Jesus appears to the disciples and breathes upon them and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit!" Thomas was absent and would not believe the Lord appeared until a week later when Jesus comes again. Thomas now responds, "My Lord and my God!"

**The Father renews his mercy
In Jesus who is risen to new life.
The Spirit of Truth gently uplifts our faith.**

Fear and doubt are aspects of everyday life and we can be thankful to Thomas who shows us how they can be transformed into reverence and deep belief. Thomas' doubt brought Jesus' reminder, "Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe." The psalmist came to realize that he was helped by our merciful God and filled his tent with a joyful praise. Jesus' appearance before the disciples was a new source of their enthusiastic conviction that he truly was the Messiah fully empowered to help them move forward through the Old Age into the New Age. He assured them that they would soon receive God's touch upon their spirits in a marvelous way, and this would be Jesus' signal that he was with the Father in the unseen spiritual realm and would continue to guide them and work most powerfully with them in bringing understanding to others willing to listen and believe!

"The *works of mercy* are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities.

Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of *mercy*, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. Among the corporal works of *mercy*, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God."

Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2447

Paul notes there was a time when all the faithful had their basic needs satisfied by an ideal sharing of wealth. Today we know there are so many in need do we share our resources generously?

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