

April 08, 2018

2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

Blest are they who have not seen and believed!

Acts 4:32-35

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

1 John 5:1-6

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.



John explains that everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten of God. We love God's children when we love God and obey his commands as we learn they are not burdensome. Those begotten of God conquer the world by power of faith in the Son of God. Jesus came through water and blood and the Spirit testifies to this truth.

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 our belief
In Jesus who is risen to a 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. 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 many in need do we share our resources generously?

Lord, help us to realize that we are precious in your eyes and that we matter to you. May we have the wisdom to know which life to follow and which life to die to. In all our choices, may we choose what truly will bring us life by bringing us closer to your love. Lord, you already know everything about us and you love us anyway! Give us the courage to be honest with you about ourselves and to talk to you about what we consider to be the dark places of our selves and our lives. Help us to realize that nothing we could do or say could lessen the love you have for us. May we laugh at ourselves when we need to, but on the serious side guide us to discern our mistakes and failures as signs of how much we need you at work in us through the Eucharist.

But who can detect his own failings? Wash away my hidden faults. (Psalm 19:12)

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