



**Sunday Activity
Pages**

April 7, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter- Divine Mercy Sunday

1

Gospel

Gospel – Adapted from John 20:19-31

On the evening of the first day of the week, the Apostles were together, with the doors locked, because they were afraid. Jesus appeared to them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he showed them the wounds in his hands and side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I send you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whoever’s sins you forgive are forgiven, and whoever’s sins you do not forgive are not forgiven.”

One of the Apostles, Thomas, was not there when this happened. So the others told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But Thomas would not believe them and said, “Unless I see him and touch the nail marks in his hands and the wound in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later, Jesus appeared to the Apostles again, even though the doors were locked. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Come, touch the wounds in my hands and my side, and stop doubting, but believe in me.” Thomas answered, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said, “You believe because you have seen me. God will bless those who have not seen me, but still believe.”

Jesus did many other wonderful things with his Apostles that are not written in this book. But these are written here so you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and so you will have life in his name.

2

Reflection

Today is the second Sunday of Easter, the Octave (eighth day) of Easter, and Divine Mercy Sunday. We are in the beginning of the Easter season, which lasts for fifty days, and is a period of great joy. Jesus has risen, and has defeated death forever!

In today's Gospel, one of the Apostles, Thomas, is slow to believe. He has been told of Jesus's Resurrection, but he hasn't seen it with his own eyes. Thomas refuses to believe unless he can see and touch. He lowers his faith beneath his senses, and demands that God plays by his rules. We could imagine Jesus becoming very angry with Thomas for such a thing, but instead He humbles Himself and invites Thomas to touch and see. But Jesus does scold Him, and He blesses us. How? He says that we who believe without being able to touch, like Thomas did, are truly blessed.

Jesus is very close to us, always. All we need to do is have faith. Don't put demands on Jesus; don't tell Him to do things your way. But ask Him to reveal Himself to you. Tell Jesus that you want to know Him better. He will come to you, as sure as He came to Thomas.

3

Discussion Questions

Why did Jesus invite Thomas to touch His wounds?

How does Jesus show Himself to us?

4

Vocabulary

- **Divine Mercy** – Pope St. John Paul II declared this day Divine Mercy Sunday. It is a day that we celebrate and honor God’s great mercy toward us.
- **Easter season** – The Easter season lasts for 50 days, from Easter Sunday until Pentecost.
- **Faith** – Faith means believing all the things that God has revealed to us. Faith is believing and following Jesus. Jesus promises to bless us for our faith.
- **Reconciliation** – Jesus gave us the sacrament of Reconciliation so that we can confess our sins and be completely freed of them. In today’s Gospel, Jesus gives the Apostles the power to administer this sacrament.

5

Fill in the Blank

- 1) The Sunday right after Easter Sunday is known as _____ Sunday.
- 2) With the gift of _____, we can know and love Jesus.
- 3) Lent is forty days long, but the _____ is fifty days.
- 4) We should often go to the sacrament of _____ and be freed from our sin.

- 1) What did Jesus say first when He appeared to the Apostles in the Gospel?
 - A) "Receive the Holy Spirit"
 - B) "See my hands and side"
 - C) "Forgive others"
 - D) "Peace be with you"

- 2) What did Jesus give the Apostles power to do?
 - A) Forgive sins
 - B) Walk on water
 - C) Heal the sick
 - D) Touch His wounds

- 3) Who was not with the rest of the Apostles when Jesus appeared?
 - A) Peter
 - B) John
 - C) Thomas
 - D) Philip

Sunday April 7

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DIVINE MERCY
 EASTER SEASON
 FAITH
 OCTAVE
 RECONCILIATION
 THOMAS





Fill in the Blank

- 1) Divine Mercy
- 2) Faith
- 3) Easter season
- 4) Reconciliation

Quiz:

- 1) D – “Peace be with you”
- 2) A – Forgive sins
- 3) C – Thomas