



Living in the Spirit
◆ **2nd Sunday Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday**

Call to Prayer and Sharing

- ❖ *Invitation to Prayer - Leader*

Let us begin,

Now, here in this place

With a moment of silence, to reflect,

to focus, to be attentive to ourselves,

to one another, and to the presence of Christ.

May the Lord come and increase our faith. *(reflective pause)*

- ❖ *Opening Song - If time allows, sing a familiar hymn or song.*
- ❖ *Then: "In the name of the Father and of the Son"*

The Word of God

- ❖ *Leader: Let us welcome God's Word into our hearts.*
 - *Sing to the melody of "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow".*

Open our minds to, know you Lord;
Open our hearts to, hear your voice;
Open our hearts now, to your Word;
Come to us now, O Lord, our God.

From John 20:19-31 (Jesus' appearance to Thomas)

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you
retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.
So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord."
But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger
into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside
and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked,
and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."
Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands,
and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."
Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"
Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples
that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,
and that through this belief you may have life in his name.
The Word of the Lord...

- ❖ *At the conclusion of the reading, briefly pause for quiet reflection.*

Faith Sharing/Question of the Week (consider sharing on either question)

- ❖ **Adult:** Do you believe that there are situations in people's lives when they can withhold forgiveness from another?
- ❖ **Mixed Ages:** Do you ever choose not to forgive someone?

Time is provided for sharing responses to the question. Silence between responses is to be expected. Allow a few minutes for faith sharing. For larger groups, leader invites members to divide into groups of 3 or 4 for faith sharing.

- ❖ *When the sharing comes to an end, the leader invites everyone to take a moment to silently and reverently hold what has been shared together.*

Litany of Faith

Leader: Christ Jesus, you are the center, the source of our faith.
Help our unbelief and our unwillingness to forgive.

All: Happy are they who believe!

Leader: Christ Jesus, you are hope for us in times of struggle.
Help our unbelief and our unwillingness to forgive.

All: Happy are they who believe!

Leader: Christ Jesus, you are the living sign of new life.
You are our peace, our Lord and our God.
Help our unbelief and our unwillingness to forgive.

All: Happy are they who believe!

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together:

All: Gracious God,
we know that you are with us here,
and we have taken your Word into our hearts.
You call us all to conversion,
we who are here in this place,
and we who are now ready to welcome you into our lives.
We are ready,
we are willing,
and we are yours.
So we surrender to you
our aches and longings into one as we pray:
Our Father...

Continue with the Meeting

Final Blessing

Leader: Now let us bless one another:

All: May God bless and keep us, may God smile upon us.
May God show us kindness, fill us with peace.
And may God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
may we always love and serve,
filled with God's Peace. Amen.

Leader: *Conclude the meeting.*

Reflection Question to take home for the week: How has this Word touched or challenged my understanding of God? About faith? About the Church?