

## **DIVINE MERCY, (2<sup>ND</sup>) SUNDAY EASTER YEAR A**

First Reading: Acts 2: 42-47;

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118: 1-4, 13-15, 22-24;

Second Reading: 1 Pt 1. 3-9;

Gospel Reading: Jn 20: 19-31.

**Theme:** Basking in Divine Mercy and Being Merciful

In the Risen Lord, mercy connotes forbearance, pity, compassion, and empathy shown enemies, offenders, guilty parties, inferior persons. With reference to God, mercy speaks of benevolence, favor, and blessings. What is the greatest blessing or treasure? It is PEACE. The end result of mercy is peace; peace with or for offenders, enemies, or inferior persons. Peace is not just an absence of war and hostilities; it is about mutual harmony and freedom. One of the most important things the Risen Christ said in his post-resurrection appearances is the greetings pronounced 3X: "*Peace be with you.*" This gift was the fulfillment of the promise Jesus made at the Last Supper that He would give them peace which no one could take away from them. Peace is the greatest gift, which the world cannot give.

This Sunday is named Divine Mercy Sunday because it tells the story of the peace Christ won for sinners in his saving death and resurrection. On this Sunday that we celebrate Divine Mercy, the readings summarize the major aspects of our Christian life. They speak about communal prayer, mission as an essential part of discipleship, the institution of the Sacraments of Confirmation and Reconciliation, Eucharist, and the Scriptures. The three readings underline that all that we are come from the GRACE of God; purely the mercy of God.

The question is whether it is possible for us to become instruments and bearers of God's mercy in a world that has much anger and hate. The answer is affirmative. St. Peter reminds us of the promises made to us in the Risen Lord in the second reading: "*We have a sure hope and a promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away.*" From our perspective, Divine Mercy is not just meant to be a divine attribute or devotion but a way of life. As imitators of the Risen Lord, the virtue of mercy is to become part of our lives as we show it to difficult family and community members. Simply tell them "*Peace be with you.*" St. Peter assures in the second reading that "*Through your faith God's power will guard you*" to show mercy on others. To the God who has shown us unmeasurable mercy be glory and praise now and forever and ever, Amen.

Fr. Sev Kupo