



## St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Community

### Reflections with Fr. Mark

*April 19, 2020*



Dear Parishioners,

On Easter Sunday 2018, Pope Francis said, “To celebrate Easter is to believe once more that God constantly breaks into our personal histories, challenging our “conventions,” those fixed ways of thinking and acting that end up paralyzing us. To celebrate Easter is to allow Jesus to triumph over the craven fear that so often assails us and tries to bury every kind of hope.

When Jesus called the disciples to “follow Him” it was a recipe for radical change. It was those moments in their journey with Jesus of refusing to change or “be opened” that they would most often find themselves in trouble, faltering or failing. It is like that with us. If we attempt to be faithful to our Christian faith it requires seeing things differently and acting on it. We cannot come to Church and leave the same. Having encountered the Lord in Word and Sacrament we fail ourselves if we do not allow the Holy Spirit to work within us.

The Easter season and this Sunday’s celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday invite us to renew our experience of the divine and merciful compassion that underlies the Church’s Easter faith. The growth of the early Christian community began its Resurrection life in Christ by continuing His teachings and providing for the needs of all. A radical change: focus on the needs of the other! Our second reading attributed to Peter reminds the faith communities of their “raised” way of life (which would eventually conflict with the culture around them) by directing our attention to the love of God. We live faith, love and **JOY!**

In our Gospel reading, Jesus has an invitation for Thomas, which really is an invitation to join in the life of the Holy Spirit and come to know the glory of God. Divine Mercy is **NOT** a Sunday but the experience of a lifetime. A recognition that the love of God conquers **ALL** sin and death and restores life. As we continue our difficult journey let us rest in the mercy of God, the love of God who cradles us in our daily sufferings and faults. Each day of our journey this Easter season may be for us an invitation to “new life” in Him who is **LIFE** and **LOVE**. Our pilgrim journey is not about us it is about this relationship with our merciful God who **IS** always present in our midst.

So, where is God in all of this? God is in the midst of it! Where was God as Jesus inquired, “My God, my God why have you forsaken me?” God was in the midst of that place! Where was God in the sufferings across the globe through the centuries: God was there. In Peter’s faltering while leaving the boat amid the storm caused him to begin to sink. God is with us even now. Don’t lose your faith. Don’t fear the storm. Rather, walk through the “storm” knowing the calm that is on the other side. For the time being, in our time apart:

*Be still and know God! Don’t allow hope to be buried. Don’t give into self-pity. Give yourself over to the love of God who will see us through the storm and bring us to safe harbor.*

*Happy Easter! He is Risen! Alleluia!*

*Fr. Mark*

**Watch Mass from St. Luke at Home:** The recordings are available on our Parish website, [www.stluketemplecity.org](http://www.stluketemplecity.org), and sent through our e-communications. The services will remain posted so you may view at your convenience.

**Please visit our Parish Website for continued COVID-19 information related to parish activities and previous e-communications:** <https://stluketemplecity.org/covid-19>