

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



That Our Joy Might Be Complete

O God,
from the beginning you prepared us,
making us in your image,
sharing with us every good gift,
revealing yourself to us over the ages,
until in the incarnation, you broke
into history
in a new way, doing a new thing.
You give us your life.

Help us to honor that gift,
that we might use the life we have been
given to serve
and be willing to lay it down with the hope
that we might rise like Jesus,
and that our joy might be complete.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

April 11, 2021 Our Joy Overflows

Today's readings: Acts 4:32–35; Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24; 1 John 5:1–6; John 20:19–31. When Jesus appears in a locked room and says, “Peace be with you,” the apostles rejoice that their Lord is present. Jesus then breathes on them, giving them the Spirit, and commissions them. Their joy in the Resurrection is not theirs alone.

The new life that comes from God, the new life where there was only death, changes the Twelve. Acts tells us that, in the early Church, the needs of all were met. The Christian community was part of the inauguration of the kingdom of justice and peace, and a sign of the kingdom. Therefore in their community, the demands of justice were recognized.

Our Easter joy should bubble up within us and be poured out. The joy should inspire us toward service and self-sacrifice in imitation of Jesus. Whose needs in your community are going unmet? Bring an Easter basket to a homebound member of your parish, and sit and visit for an hour. Pick up a package of diapers on your next trip to the store, and drop them at a center that serves families or women in crisis pregnancies. Volunteer to serve at a soup kitchen, and be present as you smile and greet the guests. Call a person who seems lonely, and set up a time to talk. When you find a need and meet it, others peer through a window into the coming kingdom.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 12

Reading Acts

The first reading each day has been making its way through the Acts of the Apostles, as it does each Easter season. We hear about the early Christians' preaching, teaching, and healing, and what occurred as a result. Acts is filled with drama and adventure. During this Easter season, try to read the entire book. Be inspired by those who "were filled with the holy Spirit and continued to speak of God with boldness." *Today's readings: Acts 4:23–31; Psalm 2:1–3, 4–7a, 7b–9; John 3:1–8.*

Tuesday, April 13

No Needy Person among Us

In the early Christian Church, the community cared for one another. Most homeless shelters have a constant need for basics, such as socks and underwear. Imagine how profound a need this is for those who lack them. Buy a few pairs of socks or underwear, and take them to a place in your community that serves those who are without a home. *Today's readings: Acts 4:32–37; Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd–2, 5; John 3:7b–15.*

Wednesday, April 14

We Cannot Help But Proclaim It

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." The early Christians could not help but proclaim the Good News in word and deed, and we are called to continue to do so. How can you bring those around you into the light of God's love? *Today's readings: Acts 5:17–26; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; John 3:16–21.*

Thursday, April 15

Continue the Celebration

One of the beautiful things about Easter is that for fifty days we celebrate our joy. Do something that reflects an Easter custom today. When my children were little, we hid plastic eggs all over the house throughout the Easter season. It was a fun way to keep the joy of the season present for us. You might continue to add flowers to a prayer area in your home, or adorn it with white and gold, to help you to be present in the season and remind those you love that we are still in the season of celebration. Consider also making a lamb cake or getting special Easter treats at the store. *Today's readings: Acts 5:27–33; Psalm 34:2 and 9, 17–18, 19–20; John 3:31–36.*

Friday, April 16

Loaves and Fishes

In the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, we see the Eucharist. Go to Mass or adoration today. Take this opportunity to thank Jesus for the great gift of himself in the Eucharist. Receive this gift and go out into the world and love as he does. *Today's readings: Acts 5:34–42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14; John 6:1–15.*

Saturday, April 17

Called to Serve

We hear about the apostles choosing assistants and laying their hands on these men, including Stephen, who would be the first Christian martyr. They were called by God to serve the needs of the community so that no one would be left at the margins. God is calling you to use your gifts to serve as well. How is God calling you today? Do you think the path of following that call is always going to be easy? *Today's readings: Acts 6:1–7; Psalm 33:1–2, 4–5, 18–19; John 6:16–21.*

