

Divine Mercy Sunday (Second Sunday of Easter YrB) 11th April 2021

Preparation

If possible arrange candles, a crucifix and a Gospel or Sunday Missal on a table.

Introduction

Today we hear how Jesus appeared to the disciples after he had risen from the dead. We hear how the disciple Thomas was not there and did not believe that Jesus had appeared because he did not see Him with his own eyes.

As we gather together at home today, we thank God for our families, and for the time we spend together in prayer. We do this today knowing that God is with us, helping us always especially when times are difficult.

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us.

An adult lights the candles.

Penitential Act

Adults and children think about how you have behaved in the past week. Especially when our daily routines are different just now. Have you shown patience to those around you? Have you been kind and helpful even when you don't feel like it and it's difficult?

Lead the children in singing the "Sorry Song".

We are sorry,

(To the Tune of Frere Jacques)

Truly sorry,

Heal us Lord,

In Your love,

Help us to do better,

Help us to be kinder.

Forgive us,

Forgive us.

Gloria (Sung) *Remind the children of the importance of singing this song of praise during the season of Easter.*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship You, we give You thanks,
we praise You for Your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of the Father.

Amen

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing the **Gospel Acclamation:**

(Sing to the tune of 'If You're Happy and You Know It')

Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord.

As we listen to the story,
let us praise him for his glory.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord.⁽¹⁾

Gospel (John 20: 19-29)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John

Explain and demonstrate- make three crosses: one on your forehead, one on your lips and one on your heart in this way we think God's word, speak God's word, and keep God's word in our hearts as we say together:

“Glory to You, O Lord.”

Use this link to read the Gospel if you don't have a Sunday Missal

<https://cafod.org.uk>education.Children'sLiturgy>

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say:

“The Gospel of the Lord.”

All reply : **“Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ”**

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

Ask the children what they remember from today's Gospel. Jesus appeared to the Disciples as they gathered together, how did they feel as they sat together? (Sad, alone, afraid without Jesus)

Jesus appeared to show them that it was true. He had risen from the dead. The mood changed, why? (They were so relieved to see him. They were in shock and disbelief but renewed in hope)

Thomas was not there when Jesus appeared, what did he say when he heard? (He said he did not believe that Jesus had risen. He would only believe if he saw for himself)

Jesus appeared again to show Thomas the wounds in his hands and his side and prove that He had risen from the dead. What did Thomas cry out? (He said “My Lord and my God”)

Jesus left us all with an important message. He reminded us it's easy to have faith and believe when we see for ourselves but blessed are we who have not seen and yet believe.

Discuss with the children things in their lives they don't always believe unless they see for themselves. Ask them what helps them to believe. It may be if they see evidence of something left behind or a photograph of something that has happened. Often it's if someone else that they trust tells them, maybe a parent or a teacher at school.

Although we have not seen Jesus with our own eyes, our Faith allows us to know that he did rise from the dead for all of us. He sent the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us in our lives so that although we do not see, we believe.

Prayers of the Faithful

Lord Jesus,

Help us to always have Faith to believe in you and be reminded of the words of your Disciple Thomas "My Lord and my God"

Lord in Your Mercy
-Hear our Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Led by the Holy Spirit may we show your love to others through our words and actions in our world today.

Lord in Your Mercy
-Hear our Prayer .

We now pray together saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name:
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil. **Amen.**

We can also say the following prayer as a **Spiritual Communion**

(Anyone can do this- even if you have not yet made your first Sacramental Holy Communion, or are unable to receive the Sacrament Holy Communion- you can always make a Spiritual communion by saying this prayer)

Spiritual Communion (Prayer of St. Alphonsus Liguori)

My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You Sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my soul.
I embrace You as if You were already come,
and I unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. **Amen.**

(It's Divine Mercy Sunday today! Perhaps later on you can pray the chaplet of Divine Mercy on your Rosary beads.

Start with : One Our Father, One Hail Mary and then the Apostles Creed

On the first "Our Father" bead pray:

Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

On the ten "Hail Mary" beads of each decade of your rosary beads pray:

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion have mercy on us and on the whole world.

End by praying three times:

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Amen

Parents and children, if you would like to learn more about this beautiful devotion just Google it and read about St. Faustina and the Divine Mercy)

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, fill us with Faith to go out into the world and preach the Gospel to all nations. May we never lose the hope that comes from you alone as we spread your light throughout the world.

References

1. The Complete Children's Liturgy Book. Katie Thomson, published by Kevin Mayhew. P349.