

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

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 God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT

God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Ac 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 117 (118):2-4, 13-15, 22-24

Response: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Or Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- Let the sons of Israel say: "His love has no end." Let the sons of Aaron say

"His love has no end." Let those who fear the Lord say: "His love has no end." (R.)

- I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper. The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour. There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just. (R.)

- The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Pet 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter. Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which had been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold - only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire - and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John. In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, "Peace be with you," and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you." After saying this he breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained." Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, "We have seen the Lord," he answered, "Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to

believe." Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, "Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe." Thomas replied, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him: "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." There are many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, (all bow during the next two lines) who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the oblations of your people (and of those you have brought to new birth), that, renewed by confession of your name and by Baptism, they may attain unending happiness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

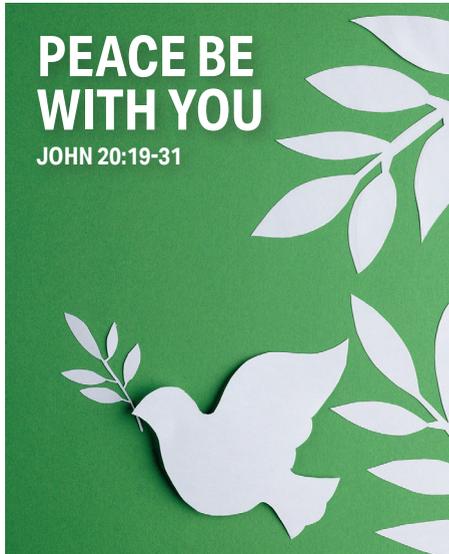
Grant, we pray, almighty God, that our reception of this paschal Sacrament may have a continuing effect in our minds and hearts. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday Message

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year A • 12 April 2026 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 2



It's the evening of the first Sunday after Jesus' crucifixion, and his disciples have gathered behind locked doors. They're afraid that those who executed Jesus will come for them too, so they quiver in fear. Suddenly, Jesus appears before them. They are flabbergasted, but Jesus shows them his wounds, and they know it is the Lord.

Jesus' very first words to them, the first words he speaks after his resurrection, are of peace: "Peace be with you." Moments later, he repeats those words: "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you."

One of the disciples, Thomas, was absent that evening, so when they tell him that Jesus is alive, he doesn't believe them. Why would he?

A week later, the disciples are in the locked room again and this time Thomas is with them. Once more, Jesus appears, and again, his first words are a greeting of peace. He knows what Thomas had said about him and so he offers him an invitation. "Put your finger here; see my hands. Put your hand into my side. Doubt no more but believe."

Thomas doesn't need to touch Jesus. Seeing with his own eyes is enough. He falls on his knees and gives the most wonderful profession of faith in all of history: "My Lord and my God!"

In reply, Jesus offers words of comfort and praise for all future believers: "You believe because you can see me; happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Peace is a gift of our faith. Knowing God is with us, assured of the promise of eternal life, we can be at peace. ■

REFLECT

In his letter introducing the jubilee year 2025, Pope Francis identified several signs of hope. It's telling that the first sign of hope he lists is the urgent desire for peace in our world. "Heedless of the horrors of the past," he writes, "humanity is confronting yet another ordeal, as many peoples are prey to brutality and violence. What does the future hold for those peoples, who have already endured so much? How is it possible that their desperate plea for help is not motivating world leaders to resolve the numerous regional conflicts in view of their possible consequences at the global level?" Is it too much to dream that arms can fall silent and cease to rain down destruction and death?

The need for peace challenges us all, and demands that concrete steps be taken. We must pray, he writes, for an end to war and for negotiations aimed at a lasting peace.

It is easy to see why Pope Francis chose the desire for peace in our world as the first sign of hope. Once again, war is raging on the European continent, creating more refugees than at any time since the 1940s. Fifty-nine wars are now being fought worldwide, either between nations or between ethnic or social groups. Once again, politicians have come to power who seek to build walls and barriers rather than promote harmony and understanding. Once again, hate speech is on the rise, fuelled by social media platforms which, far from fulfilling their stated mission of bringing people together, are being manipulated to stoke conflict and confusion, driving people apart.

We know that bullying, domestic violence, racism, xenophobia, homophobia, sexual exploitation and discrimination are as rampant as ever, while our consumer society leaves many people feeling restless, excluded, angry and unfulfilled.

For all our modern sophistication and technological advances, it seems that division, violence, tribalism, hatred, and revenge are deeply ingrained in our human DNA. Peace is difficult to make or to enjoy.

Jesus promises those who sow peace that they will be called "children of God."

We are peacemakers, first, by knowing that peace is God's gift to us. It is how the resurrected Lord greeted his disciples: "Peace I leave you, my peace I give you." It is what we pray for in the liturgy: "The peace of the Lord be with you." It is what we pray for before receiving Holy Communion. Peace is a gift of our faith.

But to be effective peacemakers, we must be at peace with ourselves. God is the source of peace and calls us to exhibit peace in our own lives. Anger, resentment, failure to forgive, self-pity, lust, restlessness, self-obsession, jealousy, envy, greed, addiction, self-harm, regret - all can keep us from experiencing peace. But the resurrected Lord assures us, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." Troubled hearts are an obstacle to peace. Peacemakers are people at peace with themselves.

We are peacemakers when we make the effort to walk in our opponents' shoes, to try to see things from the others' point of view, when we display a readiness to talk, listen, and understand. Closed minds and hard hearts, incapable of dialogue, are impregnable obstacles to peace.

Finally, we are peacemakers when we actively desire peace and never stop working toward it. Whether it's to build harmony between two people or two families or between two tribes or two nations, the desire for peace is part of our message to the world. ■

LEARN

Faith is a gift never to be taken for granted

Peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit

PRAY

Pray for the people of Palestine, Ukraine, Sudan and all who are victims of war. Pray for a just and lasting peace.

DO

Think of practical ways in which you might show your opposition to war. Is there anybody with whom you need to make your peace?

SAY

"My Lord and my God."