

Second Sunday of Easter

FutureChurch Online Liturgy of the Word

Introductory Rites

Sign of the Cross

Leader: *(making the sign of the cross)*
In the name of God, who loves us into being,
Of Christ Jesus, who calls us to fullness of life,
and the Spirit, who gifts and guides us on our journey

ALL: AMEN

Greeting

Leader: May the peace of Jesus,
the abundant Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with
you,

ALL: And also with you.

Introductory Remarks

Prepared by the Leader

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

God of life,
as you have raised Christ Jesus from death,
raise us to new life in your tender care.

Reveal yourself to us in our very midst,
that we may know peace in your abiding presence.

Gives us eyes of faith, that we may cherish your bounteous gifts
in joy beyond glorious joy.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, Who brings us peace,
Who lives and thrives with you, with us all,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

ALL: AMEN

LITURGY OF THE WORD

****Texts have been adapted for inclusive/expansive language****

First Reading

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles,

They devoted themselves
to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life,
to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone,
and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.
All who believed were together and had all things in common;
they would sell their property and possessions
and divide them among all according to each one's need.

Every day they devoted themselves
to meeting together in the temple area
and to breaking bread in their homes.
They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart,
praising God and enjoying favor with all the people.

And every day the God added to their number those who were being
saved.

The Word of God

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm

Psalmist: The response is: "Give thanks to God, whose love is everlasting"
ALL: "Give thanks to God, whose love is everlasting"

Let the house of Israel say,
"God's mercy endures forever."
Let the house of Aaron say,
"God's mercy endures forever."
Let those who love God say,
"God's mercy endures forever."
"Give thanks to God, whose love is everlasting"

I was hard pressed and was falling,
but you, O God, helped me.
You are my courage and my strength,
And you have saved me.
The joyful shout of victory
in the tents of the Just
"Give thanks to God, whose love is everlasting"

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By you, O God, has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.
We are glad and rejoice
In this day you have made!
"Give thanks to God, whose love is everlasting"

Second Reading

Lector: A reading from the First Letter of Peter,

Blessed be the God of our Savior Jesus Christ,
who with great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading,
kept in heaven for you
who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith,
to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time.

In this you rejoice,
although now for a little while
you may have to suffer through various trials,
so that the genuineness of your faith,
more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire,
may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor
at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Although you have not seen Christ you love Christ;
and without seeing, you still believe,
And you rejoice with indescribable and glorious joy,
as you attain the goal of your faith – your salvation.

ALL: The word of God
Thanks be to God

Gospel

Leader: Alleluia! Alleluia!

ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Leader: Blessed are they who have not seen, but still believe!

ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia!

A reading from the Gospel according to John:

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the authorities,
Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."
Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion.

The disciples rejoiced when they saw Jesus,
who said to them again, "Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so I send you."

After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and those you hold fast are held fast."

Thomas, called Didymus (or twin), one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.
So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen Jesus."
But he said to them, "Unless I put my finger into the nail marks
and put my hand into the spear wound, I will not believe."

Now a week later the disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them.
Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said,
"Peace be with you."

Then Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands,
and bring your hand and put it into my side,
and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

Thomas answered and said, "My Savior and my God!"

Jesus then, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

(Continues on next page)

Now, Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples that are not written in this book.

But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Begotten of God, and that through this belief you may have life in Jesus' name.

The Good News of Our Salvation

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

– CWP Video: www.catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/04192020

FAITH SHARING

Questions for Shared Reflection:

1. *Through her preaching, Joanna invites us to “savor” God’s abundance, adding “As we practice this discipline of cherishing it is not because we are ignorant of suffering, evil, and darkness.” **Have you been able to see – or even savor or cherish -- God’s abundance this time of darkness of pandemic? Or what has taken on new, elevating meaning for you in this time? How so?***
2. *Or perhaps like Thomas, you – or someone you know – are struggling to find hope, belief, or Easter joy when the “evidence of ... suffering and death is so obvious.” **What do you need at this time? From whom? How can you ask for it? Or are others who have been struggling trying to tell you what they need at this time? How might you respond?***

CONCLUDING RITES

Closing Prayer

Leader: Nourished by God's word and strengthened by this community,
Let us pray together,

ALL: Loving God, Holy One,

Your desire is for our wholeness and well-being.

We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time.

We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened.

We ache for ourselves and our neighbors, standing before an uncertain future.

We pray: may love, not fear, go viral. Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good.

Help us to practice physical distancing, revealing to us new and creative ways to hold each other fast, so we may care for each other in tender solidarity.

**Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence,
You, the God who does not abandon,**

**You, the Holy One, breathing within us, breathing among us,
breathing around us, in our beautiful yet wounded world. AMEN**

Adapted from "Prayer during a Pandemic" by Sr. Chris Koellhoffer, IHM

Leader: And may the God of hope fill us with every comfort and joy in believing.
May the peace of Christ abound in our hearts and minds.
and may the Holy Spirit gift and guide us
(making Sign of the Cross) now and forever,

ALL: AMEN

Leader: Our God sustains us through this prayer and conversation as we go forth to cherish, to savor, to love, and to serve. Alleluia! Alleluia!

ALL: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!