



4-19-2020 甲年復活期第二主日 天主慈悲主日 聖道禮儀

本堂的話 4-17-2020

主內親愛的聖湯瑪斯的教友及朋友們：

希望你們都渡過了美好的聖週及復活節! 在這特殊的時期，讓我們繼續使用手邊有限的資源來讚美敬拜天主。我知道有一些教友無法使用 Zoom 軟件來參加我們的直播彌撒，所以我整理了每個主日彌撒中的聖道禮儀及自己的英文彌撒的證道與大家分享，希望大家彼此保持心理的連結以及與天主的關係距離。

本堂神父 Fr. John Kyebasuuta 供稿

天主教洛杉磯總教區

蒙市湯瑪斯堂家庭聖道禮儀（主日與平日） 劉振田神父 供稿

禮儀用品：將整潔的擺佈鋪在桌子上，將十字架/聖像擺放中間位置，兩邊放置蠟燭或花，將聖經擺放在十字架的前方，如同主日在聖堂看到的祭台的相類似。

一、開始儀式

1. 介紹今天禮儀的程式和要點
2. 聖歌（歡欣相聚，讚美天主）（起立）
3. 十字聖號

領：因父、及子、及聖神之名。

眾：阿們。

4. 引言（可參考以下的重點）：

領：感謝天主讓我們在疫情期間以這種形式在家庭中舉行（主日/平日）聖道禮。主日是教會相聚，慶祝主基督復活的日子。雖然我們不能參與由神父主持（主日/平日）彌撒，但我們仍然一起聆聽上主的聖言，（並以神領的方式領受耶穌基督的聖體）；我們也為整個教會、我們堂區（團體）的每一位成員，包括神父、主教祈禱。同時，我們期待儘快能回到堂區參與主日彌撒。現在，讓我們懷著信德，反省我們的思言行為，祈求上主更新我們的生活。（省察片刻）

5. 悔罪式（任選一式，目的是幫助信友懺悔。）

【第一式】

全體：我向全能的天主和各位兄弟姊妹，承認我在思、言、行為上的過失。
我罪、我罪、我的重罪。為此懇請終身童貞聖母瑪利亞、天使、聖人、
和你們各位兄弟姊妹，為我祈求上主，我們的天主。

領：上主，求你垂憐。**眾：**上主，求你垂憐。

領：基督，求你垂憐。**眾：**基督，求你垂憐。

領：上主，求你垂憐。**眾：**上主，求你垂憐。

【第二式】

領：上主，求你垂憐。**眾：**因為我們得罪了你。

領：上主，求你大發慈悲。**眾：**施給我們救恩。

【第三式】

領：主基督，你來是為使我們與主與人修好。上主，求你垂憐。

眾：上主，求你垂憐。

領：主基督，你治癒了因紛爭與罪惡所帶來的傷害。基督，求你垂憐。

眾：基督，求你垂憐。

領：主基督，你為我們向天主祈求。上主，求你垂憐。

眾：上主，求你垂憐。

6. 按禮規可唱合適的聖歌（目的是幫助信友讚美天主）

7. 禱文（按照《彌撒經文》的集禱經）

親愛的朋友們，我們聚集在一起，讚美我們的主、我們的天主。

今日是復活期第二主日，復活的基督照亮了我們的生命，為我們帶來新的希望，使我們得以分沾祂的平安與喜樂。無限仁慈的天主，祢藉著每年的逾越慶節，使我們的信仰重新振作；求祢廣施恩寵，使我們深入地領悟，我們如何藉聖洗而淨化，由聖神而重生、靠著基督寶血而獲得救贖的奧跡。因祢的聖子、我們的主耶穌基督，祂和祢及聖神，是唯一天主，永生永王。阿們。

二、聖道禮（天主親臨向他的子民說話）（坐下）

8. 恭讀聖經（宣讀福音時，全體站立。）

讀經一：

宗徒大事錄二，42~47

那時弟兄們都專心聽從宗徒們的教訓，時常聚會分餅和祈禱。宗徒們行了許多奇蹟異事，人人都懷著敬畏之情。所有的信徒常聚集一處，一切所有都歸公用。他們變賣了自己的產業和財物，按照每人的需要加以分配。他們每天都成群結隊地前往聖殿聚會，又分別在各人家中行分餅禮，懷著歡樂和誠實的心一起吃飯。他們常讚頌天主，也獲得了全民眾的愛戴；上主使那些得救的人日益增多。

這是天主的聖言

答唱詠： 詠一一七；1~15，22~24

答：

請 你 們 頌 謝 上 主， 因 為 祂 美 善 寬 仁。 祂 的 慈 愛 永 遠 常 存。

答：請你們頌謝上主，因為祂美善寬仁，祂的慈愛永遠常存。

- 一、願以色列子民說：上主的慈愛永遠常存。願亞郎的家族說：上主的慈愛永遠常存。願敬畏上主的人說：上主的慈愛永遠常存。答
- 二、雖然人們用力推我，想把我推倒，但是上主必前來扶持我。上主是我的力量，我的歌詠，上主是我的救主。在義人居住的帳幕中，響起了勝利的歡呼聲：上主的右手獲得了勝利。答
- 三、匠人棄而不用的廢石，反而成了屋角的基石；這是上主的作為，在我們眼中神奇莫測。這是上主選定的一天，我們要歡欣鼓舞。答

讀經二：

聖伯鐸前書一，3~9

願我們的主耶穌基督的天主和父受讚美！祂因祂的無限仁慈，藉著耶穌基督由死者中的復活，而重生了我們，使我們獲得那充滿生命的希望，可以承受那不能朽壞、不能玷污，永不衰殘的產業----為你們保留在天上的產業。你們藉著信德成為天主能力所保護的人，將獲得那已準備好，要在最後時期出現的救恩。因此，你們要歡欣，雖然現在你們暫時還該在各種磨煉中受苦，這是為使你們的信德，鍛鍊得比經過火煉而仍易消失的黃金更有價值，使你們在耶穌基督顯現時，得到稱讚、光榮和尊敬。你們雖然沒有看見過祂，卻愛慕祂；雖然現在仍看不見祂，還是相信祂；並且你們心裏充滿了不可言傳，和滿有光榮的喜樂，因為你們已經得到信仰的效果，就是靈魂的救恩。

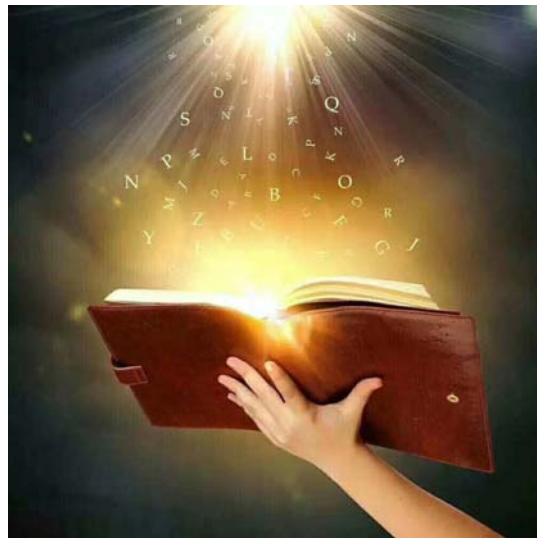
這是天主的聖言

阿肋路亞： 若二十，29

答：阿肋路亞。

領：主說：多默，因為你看見了我，你纔相信。那些沒有看見而相信的，纔是有福的。

答：阿肋路亞。



福音：

聖若望福音 二十，19~31

那一週的第一天黃昏時，門徒們都聚在一起，因為怕猶太人。就把門戶都關上。耶穌來了，站在他們當中，對他們說：「願你們平安！」說了這話，便把手和肋旁指給他們看。門徒看見了主，非常歡喜。耶穌又對他們說：「願你們平安！父怎樣派遣了我，我也怎樣派遣你們。」說了這話，就對他們吹了一口氣，說：「你們領受聖神罷！你們赦免誰的罪，誰的罪就得赦免；你們不赦免誰的罪，誰的罪就不得赦免。」

十二門徒中有一個稱為雙胞胎的多默，耶穌來的時候，沒有和他們在一起。別的門徒對他說：「我們看見了主。」但是他對他們說：「除非我看見祂手上的釘孔，用我的指頭摸那釘痕；用我的手摸祂的肋旁，我決不相信。」過了八天，門徒們又在屋子裏，多默也和他們在一起。門戶都關著，耶穌又來了，站在他們當中說：「願你們平安！」然後對多默說：「把你的指頭伸到這裏來，看看我的手罷！伸出你的手來，摸摸我的肋旁，不要作沒有信德的人，而要作個有信德的人。」多默對祂說：「我的主！我的天主！」耶穌對他說：「你因為看見了我纔相信嗎？那些沒有看見就相信的，纔是有福的！」耶穌在門徒面前還行了許多其他的神跡，沒有記在這部書上。所記錄的這些，是要你們信耶穌是默西亞，是天主子；並使你們信了的人，賴祂的名而獲得生命。

這是基督的福音

來自本堂神父的證道分享：

耶穌被捕的前幾天，祂讓拉匝祿死而復活，還有其它幾個實例，祂治癒了病人並使死者復活，門徒們目睹了其中的大多數的例子，但是我們看到在祂死後，他們不相信祂會從死裡復活，他們一起感到無比的恐懼，並為自己的未來感到疑惑，他們害怕那些將耶穌處死的人，也會殺死他們，他們感到很不安寧。

從死裡復活後，耶穌向他們顯現、安慰並保證祂從死裡復活，祂來給他們希望，並祝他們平安，祂囑咐他們要寬恕罪惡，創造奇蹟並對所有人們友善寬容。

在親身經歷目睹主耶穌的復活之後，門徒們不再害怕，他們按照耶穌的指示去很多不同的地方，幫助人、做好事，於是他們組成了小團體，在人們的家中一起集聚祈禱，他們彼此信賴和熱誠以待，常常在一起吃飯、談話，彼此之間有了更多的了解，我們早期的教會就是這樣形成的。

我們在生活中也透過很多種方式，見證了復活的主耶穌基督，祂在我們的苦難和歡樂中來到我們中間，在聖體聖事中、在聖經中、甚至在我們的日常生活中，祂來到我們當中，都是為了給我們帶來安慰與希望。

在這個令人惶恐的疫情期間，當我們看到整個世界，都在經歷冠狀病毒的不確定性，以及影響我們生活各個方面的骨牌效應時，很容易對天主產生懷疑。我們想知道，為什麼天主不為這個情況做點什麼呢？祂為什麼不馬上終止它呢？祂為什麼不能給世界帶來和平呢？許許多多的問題呈現出來，挑戰我們對主耶穌基督的承諾與信仰，這些心中的疑惑也可能都是門徒們在耶穌被捕並處死時，曾遇到過的相同問題。

平常我們認為理所當然的事，諸如：主日上教堂、登門拜訪親朋好友、逛街購物買菜...等等，但是，在過去一個月裡，這些稀鬆平常的事都發生了變化，我們害怕、懷疑、有時甚至迷失，然而與此同時，就像門徒們一樣，我們都是復活的人，復活的耶穌給了我們希望，即使在這個黑暗的時期，祂仍與我們同在。祂向我們保證，無論有二個人或多個人以上的聚會，祂都會在我們中間。因此，無論何時我們在一起吃飯或在家裡分享彼此的想法時，主耶穌基督都會來到我們中間。不單單只是這樣，現在我們也在自己的家中找到了一個大家庭教會，我們在這裡一起祈禱並且一起擘餅，一起慶祝主耶穌基督的復活聖事。

在天主慈悲主日的今天，讓我們一起向天父祈禱，神聖慈悲的天主可以垂憐眷顧我們，並賜予給我們新的生活。我們通過復活的主耶穌基督這樣地祈禱，尤其是在這個艱難的時刻，求主憐憫、撫慰我們的心。我主耶穌，求祢垂憐，耶穌，我們信賴祢！

我想藉這個機會來感謝你們所有的人，在這個艱困的時期繼續在經濟上支持本堂區。如您所知，我們辦公室所有的職員仍繼續工作上班，所有的水電營運帳單也沒有停繳止付。因此，我鼓勵大家繼續透過郵寄支票或網路 **Faith Direct** 捐款來繼續支持我們堂區的運作。歡迎造訪堂區的網站 www.stampk.org 以及天主教華人的網站

www.chinesecatholic.org。我衷心感謝您，因為有您，本堂區才能正常運轉，福傳牧靈的工作得以繼續不間斷。願天主降福您的慷慨善心!

本堂神父 Fr. John Kyebasuuta 敬上

10. 按禮規可念或唱信經（目的是幫助信友宣認信仰）（起立）

我信唯一的天主，全能的聖父，天地萬物，無論有形無形，都是祂所創造的。

我信唯一的主、耶穌基督、天主的獨生子。祂在萬世之前，由聖父所生。祂是出自天主的天主，出自光明的光明，出自真天主的真天主。祂是聖父所生，而非聖父所造，與聖父同性同體，萬物是藉著祂而造成的。祂爲了我們人類，並爲了我們的得救，從天降下。(鞠躬)「祂因聖神由童貞瑪利亞取得肉軀，而成爲人」。祂在般雀比拉多執政時，爲我們被釘在十字架上，受難而被埋葬。祂正如聖經所載，第三日復活了。祂升了天，坐在聖父的右邊。祂還要光榮地降來，審判生者死者，祂的神國萬世無疆。

我信聖神，祂是主及賦予生命者，由聖父聖子所共發。祂和聖父聖子，同受欽崇，同享光榮，祂曾藉先知們發言。

我信唯一、至聖、至公、從宗徒傳下來的教會。我承認赦罪的聖洗，只有一個。我期待死人的復活，及來世的生命。阿們。

11. 信友禱詞（爲教會、主教和神職人員、世界、社會、有需要的人、團體及聖召祈禱。）（起立）

1. 請爲聖教會祈禱。求主藉著教會所有成員的生活見證，把復活基督的平安帶給這個世界，爲紛擾的世界帶來真正的平，並使人經驗到救主的慈悲。
爲此，我們同聲祈禱。

2. 請爲候洗者祈禱。復活的基督曾對多默說：「那些沒有看見就相信的，才是有福的！」祈求天主降福所有天主子民，尤其是候洗者，都能在信德上不斷增長，讓基督真正成爲我們的生命之主。
爲此，我們同聲祈禱。

3. 請爲政府官員祈禱。祈求天主降福這些願意爲人民工作的官員們，讓他們充滿智慧和剛正能面對所有挑戰，建立佳美和康健的國度。
爲此，我們同聲祈禱。

4. 爲受疫情折磨的人祈禱，求天主聖父，以祢的大能遏止疫情的蔓延，早日平息災難，賜健康給病者，賜力量給醫護人員，賜安慰給病者的家人，並使亡者獲得救恩。
爲此，我們同聲祈禱。

領：天主父，你善察人心，求你驅除你子民及候洗者內心的愚蒙，使我們得見你的美善。因主耶穌基督之名，求你俯聽我們的祈禱。

眾：求主俯聽我們。

三、神領聖體禮

12. 天主經

領：請大家起立。在領受基督聖體之前，讓我們以耶穌基督所教導的經文，求天父幫助我們相稱地領受這天國的食糧。（起立）

全體：（念或唱天主經）

我們的天父，願你的名受顯揚，願你的國來臨，願你的旨意奉行在人間，如同在天上。求你今天賞給我們日用的食糧；求你寬恕我們的罪過，如同我們寬恕別人一樣；不要讓我們陷於誘惑；但救我們免於兇惡。

13. 平安禮 領：在領受基督聖體之前，讓我們首先互祝基督的平安。（互祝平安）

14. 神領聖體經：吾主耶穌，我俯伏在你腳前，向你獻上我痛悔之心和懺悔的精神。我的心隱藏虛無的深淵，卻又沉浸與你聖善的親臨。在你愛情的聖事裡，我朝主你；將我這兩個簡陋居所的心全獻給你，我渴望領受你。在等待領受共融聖事的福樂之際，我願在精神上擁有你。吾主耶穌，求你來到我內，我也進入你內。願你的愛情能燃燒我的整個生命，無論生死。主耶穌，我相信你，我盼望你，我愛你。阿們（後可唱聖體的聖歌。）（領聖體後默禱。）

15. 禱文（按照《彌撒經文》的領聖體後經）（起立）

四、結束儀式

16. 結束

領：願天主降福我們，保護我們免於災禍，引領我們到達永生。

眾：阿們。

17. 禮成可唱一首聖歌讚美天主

耶穌站在他們中間

林思川神父

經文分析

若望福音二十章一共報導了三個耶穌復活後顯現的故事。第一次是復活的主顯現給瑪麗德蓮一個人（若二十 1-18），這是復活的主日的福音內容。這個主日是復活期第二主日，福音選自若二十 19-31，內容可分為三段：耶穌第二次顯現、耶穌第三次顯現和若望福音的結束語。

復活主全新的存在方式

若二十 19-23 敘述耶穌復活後第二次顯現的情景。時間是復活當日晚上，地點在一間門戶緊閉的房屋內。緊閉的門戶一方面顯出門徒們的恐懼害怕，另一方面則顯示出主復活後的存在方式是全新的、不受任何時空限制的存在。

復活的基督就是和歷史中的耶穌

復活的主首先祝福門徒們「平安」，這個平安的祝福不再只是猶太人慣用的問候語而已，更具有去除一切恐懼與害怕的救援功效。復活的基督向門徒們顯露手和肋膀的傷痕，表示祂正是那位曾經和他們一起生活過的師傅；復活的基督和歷史中的耶穌是同一位。門徒們因看見主而歡喜，先前的懼怕也隨之消失，耶穌在晚餐廳的許諾：「我必不留下你們為孤兒，我要回到你們這裡來。」（若十四 18）在此便已兌現。

派遣使命

復活的主藉著顯現給予門徒們一個使命，這個使命使門徒們分享祂得自於父的派遣。門徒們的派遣就是耶穌原有的派遣。耶穌不僅被派遣他們去繼續執行自己的使命，也給予他們完成使命的能力。藉著噓氣，他們領受了聖神的恩賜，在聖神的帶領下，他們要去使一切人得到罪赦而和天主和好。

復活的主身上的傷痕，治癒了門徒們的懷疑與不安。門徒們得到與耶穌受自父一樣的派遣，並充滿聖神的德能，使他們的宣講和耶穌的教導有相同的重要性。透過赦免罪惡，他們完成耶穌的使命，使人出死入生和天父和好。

眼見為憑？

若二十 24-29 描述耶穌的第三次顯現，基本上是前一段顯現故事的延伸。多默的情況代表了日後所有的基督徒的處境。歷史上無數的人、包含我們現今生活的人，大多和多默一樣，強調「眼見為憑」；但信仰出於報導，信仰的基礎是來自於宗徒們的見證。

多默的信仰宣示

多默不相信宗徒們的話，而強調必須親眼看見、親手觸摸耶穌的傷痕才相信；在他的要求中，我們經驗到耶穌真的曾經被釘在十字架上。耶穌在八天後再次顯現時，允許多默進行他所要求的驗證，多默對耶穌傷痕的觸摸便證實一切的确是真實的。然而，聖經經文並沒有明說，多默是否真的接受了耶穌的邀請，用手探觸祂的傷痕。吾人在經文中看到的是，多默決定性的宣誓了信仰「我主，我天主！」這個信仰宣示具有多重意義：

多默的信仰表白也正是福音作者的寫作目的，他要引領一切讀者到達這個目的：和多默一起明認耶穌基督為主。

多默的信仰宣誓是一種決定性的信仰，宗徒們在耶穌還在世上生活時無法達到如此圓滿的地步。斐理伯在晚餐廳中的祈求：「主！把父顯示給我們，我們就心滿意足了！」（若十四 8）便顯示出宗徒們尚未真正認識耶穌。

這個信仰宣誓也和福音的序言前後呼應。整本福音是由一首讚美天主聖言的詩歌開始，聖言從起初就和天主在一起，如今在多默的宣信中，我們發現聖言就是耶穌基督，祂也就是真天主。

多默以第一人稱單數的形式表達信仰：「我主，我天主！」這樣的表達顯示出在信仰的終極處，畢竟是一個個人性的抉擇。信仰必須自己負責，既不能越俎代庖，也不能委託他人。這情形當然也許諾了每個人都可以和天主建立親密的關係，神秘的信仰經驗並非某些人的特權，而是每個認真尋找天主的人都可達到的境界。

「信仰」與「看見」

面對多默的宣信，耶穌的回應一方面責斥了這種對於「證據」的要求，但更重要的則是給那些向天主聖言開放的人許諾真福。後世之人不必爲了沒見過歷史中的耶穌而沮喪，因爲透過他人的宣講和信仰見證，人人都可以達於天主，而「天主合一」就是生命的終極目標，是最大的幸福。

福音的結語

若二十 30-31 是福音書的結語（第二十一章是所謂的若望團體編輯補充加入的故事）。作者說明只能記下耶穌生命中極少的事例，但這一切應該足以使人相信耶穌是默西亞、天主子，也可以使人發現基督徒的本質，就是得到和耶穌共融的生命。

本文經林思川神父同意之後轉載。

若想閱讀更多林思川神父的作品，歡迎點選林神父的個人網站：[【思高聖經推廣中心】](#)

反省與實踐

1. 我是否在日常生活和多默一樣的眼見爲憑嗎？
2. 耶穌的平安祝福和問候，對我有什麼意義？
3. 這個主日是天主慈悲主日，我願意爲那不願意承認耶穌復活的人祈禱。

Divine Mercy Sunday April 19th 2020 Liturgy of the Word

Dear St. Thomas Aquinas parishioners and friends,

I hope you had a good Holy Week and Easter. We continue to worship God using the resources at our disposal at this time. Some of you may not be able to access the Zoom Application. So, we are sending you this liturgy of the Word so you can stay connected to the readings we use at Mass every Sunday. A short homily is included after the gospel.

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Dear friends, we are gathered to give praise to our God. Let us begin by asking for his mercy and compassion towards us.

All: Together we pray:

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;
therefore, I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.
May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: 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.**

OPENING PRAYER

God of Mercy, you wash away our sins in water, you give us a new birth in the Spirit, and redeem us in the blood of Christ. As we celebrate Christ's resurrection, increase our awareness of these blessings and renew your gift of life within us. We ask you this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

All: Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1 ACTS 2:42-47

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 Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm PS 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

R. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the house of Israel say,
"His mercy endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say,
"His mercy endures forever."

Let those who fear the LORD say,
"His mercy endures forever."

R. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.

I was hard pressed and was falling,
but the LORD helped me.
My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.
The joyful shout of victory
in the tents of the just:

R. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.
This is the day the LORD has made;
let us be glad and rejoice in it.

R. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Reading 2 [1 PT 1:3-9](#)

A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who in his 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 him you love him;
even though you do not see him now yet believe in him,
you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,
as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Alleluia JN 20:29

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord;
blessed are they who have not seen me, but still believe!

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel JN 20:19-31

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 Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you."
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve,
was not with them when Jesus came.
So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord."
But he said to them,
"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands
and put my finger into the nail marks
and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his 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 he 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 to him, "My Lord and my God!"
Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

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

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

The gospel of the Lord.

HOMILY

A few days before Jesus was arrested, he had brought Lazarus back to life. There are also other instances where he cured the sick and brought the dead to life. The disciples witnessed most of these, yet we see that at his own death, they do not believe he would rise from the dead. They stayed together in fear and wondering about the future of their own lives. They were afraid that those who put Jesus to death would kill them too. They had no peace in their lives.

After rising from the dead, Jesus appeared to them and gave them comfort and assurance that he had risen from the dead. He came to give them hope and to wish them peace. He commissioned them to go out and forgive sins, work miracles and be kind to everyone.

After encountering the risen Lord, the disciples were not afraid any more. They followed Jesus' instructions and went to different places doing good to people. They formed small communities and gathered in people's homes for prayer. They ate together and got to know each other more. With confidence and enthusiasm, they formed our early church.

We have witnessed the risen Lord in so many ways in our lives. He comes to us in our sufferings and in our joys too. In the Eucharist, in the scripture, and even in our daily life, he comes to us to give us comfort and hope.

During this pandemic, when we see the entire world going through the uncertainty of the coronavirus, and the domino effect that is affecting every aspect of our lives, it is easy to have doubt in God. We wonder, why does God not do something about this? Why doesn't he stop it? Why can't he

bring peace to the world? Many questions come to challenge our commitment and our faith in Christ.

These are probably the same questions the disciples had when Jesus was arrested and put to death.

Things we took for granted, such as going to Church on Sunday, visiting friends, going shopping, all have been changed over the past month. We are afraid, doubtful, and sometimes lost. Yet at the same time, like the apostles, we are people of the resurrection. The resurrected Jesus gives us hope, that even in this time of darkness, he is with us. He assured us that wherever two or more are gathered, he would be in our midst. So, whenever we share a meal together or when we share time as thoughts in our own homes, we encounter Christ in our midst. Not only that, in our own homes, we now find the domestic church where we pray and break bread together.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, let us pray that God of Mercy may look upon us, his creation, and give us a new life. We pray that through the risen Christ, his mercy may be made visible to us every day, especially at this time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have continued to support our church financially during this difficult time. As you may know, all of our parish staff is still working and our bills still come in. I am therefore encouraging you to please continue to support our parish financially, either by sending a check through the mail, or by donating through Faith Direct on our parish website, www.stampk.org. My sincere appreciation to you for keeping the parish running.

The Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

General Intercessions

Let us pray for the church and for the world.

The response is, *Jesus, Risen Lord, hear our prayer.*

1. That the light of the Risen Christ may shine upon the poor, the afflicted, the hungry, the homeless, and the those with special needs. ***We pray to the Lord.***
2. For all who have died during Lent especially from the coronavirus. May Christ who conquered death, welcome them to the eternal feast of life and light. ***We pray to the Lord.***

3. For all the people in the world whose lives have been affected by this virus. For those who are sick, for the caretakers and their families. ***We pray to the Lord.***
4. In thanksgiving for the conclusion of the Lenten season. May the blessings of Easter empower us to proclaim the God news of Jesus by the way we live our lives. ***We pray to the Lord.***

Loving God, hear and answer our prayers that we raise to you through your risen Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Leader: God our Father, hear the prayers of your people.
Give us what you have inspired us to ask for in faith.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: United to all people who are searching for you from one end of the world to the other, as brother and sisters we pray in the words that Jesus taught us.

All: 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 Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

(Let us take a moment for spiritual communion)

Prayer:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at

this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Leader: May the God of all consolation bless us in every way and grant us peace all the days of our lives.

May God free us from all anxiety strengthen our hearts and fill us with love.

All: Amen.

Leader: May Almighty God bless us, The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.