

Our Faith on Sunday

LITURGY

2nd Sunday of Easter (or of Divine Mercy) (B)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: 4 Esdr 2:36-37

Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God, who has called you into the heavenly kingdom, alleluia.

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

United, heart and soul.

PSALM: Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24. R.v1

R) Give thanks to the Lord for he is Good, for his love has no end.

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)

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live

and recount his deeds.

I was punished,

I was punished by the Lord,

but not doomed to die. (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: I John 5:1-6

Anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jn 20:29

Jesus said:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen

and yet believe.'

Alleluia!

GOSPEL:

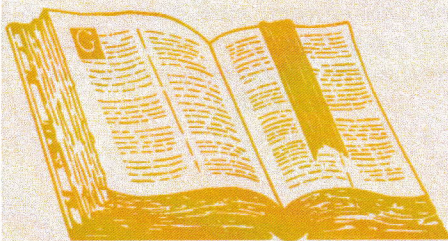
John 20:19-31

Eight days later, Jesus came.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Cf. Jn 20:27

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



GOSPEL REFLECTION



"The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord." They saw the Lord in his resurrected, 'spiritual' body; the body as ours shall be when the time comes for the resurrection of all the dead. Christians today cannot see him as the disciples saw him. He may choose, as he sometimes does, to show himself to someone who loves him; to St. Faustina, for example, or perhaps in our own century and country. Nevertheless, on the night before his passion and death he promised, *"Whoever holds to my commandments and keeps them is the one who loves me..... and I shall love him and reveal myself to him."* That Jesus keeps this promise many believing, prayerful people have discovered. It is not a physical 'seeing' as the disciples had; yet those who 'see' would claim that it is a very real 'seeing'; an intimacy that is the fruit of obedience to Christ's teaching –

which of course means obedience to his Church – and faithful prayer. The joy that the disciples experienced on seeing the Lord, is likewise promised to all those who 'see' in this second way. *"I shall see you again,"* Jesus said, *"and your hearts will be full of joy."* Of peace too, which is a fruit of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



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24. We should also recognize that "even though the international community has adopted numerous agreements aimed at ending slavery in all its forms, and has launched various strategies to combat this phenomenon, millions of people today – children, women and men of all ages – are deprived of freedom and forced to live in conditions akin to slavery... Today, as in the past, slavery is rooted in a notion of the human person that allows him or her to be treated as an object... Whether by coercion, or deception, or by physical or psychological duress, human persons created in the image and likeness of God are deprived of their freedom, sold and reduced to being the property of others. They are treated as means to an end..."



The Still Waters of Beauty*

ALL OF LIFE IS WORSHIP



'Let those who desire my vindication shout for joy and be glad and say evermore, "Great is the Lord, who delights in the welfare of his servant!" Then my tongue shall tell of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long'. But whose tongue can praise God all the day long? And now I have allowed this talk to go on a little longer, and you are tired. Who can praise God all the day long? I will suggest a remedy whereby you can praise God all day if you so wish.

Whatever it is that you do, do it well, and you will have praised God.

When you sing a hymn, you praise God; but

what can your tongue achieve unless your heart also praises him? When you stop singing the hymn, and go away in order to take some refreshment, then you will praise God if you do not have too much to drink. If you leave in order to sleep, then you will praise God if you do not get up in the morning to do evil things. Are you involved in business? Then do not deceive anyone, and you will have praised God. Do you labour in the fields? Then do not stir up trouble. It is by the innocence of what you do that you can train yourself to praise God all the day long.

*Augustine of Hippo Edited by Oliver Davies Published by New City

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