

FROM MERCY TO MISSION

April 12, 2026 | Divine Mercy Sunday



John 20:19 – 31

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 nailmarks 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.

Opening Prayer

Draw us forth, God of all creation. Draw us forward and away from limited certainty into the immense world of your love. Give us the capacity to even for a moment taste the richness of the feast you give us. Give us the peace to live with uncertainty, with questions, with doubts. Help us to experience the resurrection anew with open wonder and an increasing ability to see you in the people of Easter. Amen.

Call to Action

(Choose One)

- **Trust**

Pray each day: "Jesus, I trust in You."

- **Mercy**

Offer forgiveness to someone
(in your heart or directly)

- **Mission**

Reach out to someone who needs
encouragement or support

- **Sacrament**

Make a plan to receive Reconciliation
or spend time in prayer before the
Eucharist

From Fear -> Peace -> Trust -> Mission

On the evening of Easter, the disciples are gathered behind locked doors, filled with fear, uncertainty, and doubt. Into that very space, Jesus comes—not with condemnation, but with peace: “Peace be with you.” This inner peace is one of the signs of His presence. It is not the kind of peace the world gives, but peace with God—a peace only He can give, and a promise He always keeps. Jesus does not wait for the disciples to be ready or fearless; He meets them exactly where they are and shows them His pierced hands and side. Even now, He continues to show us those wounds—through the Gospels, through the Church, and through the Eucharist, where His Body is truly present among us. From His wounds flows mercy, and through that mercy He gives us the gift of forgiveness, entrusting His authority to forgive sins to His Apostles and their successors in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Yet the locked doors were not only in the room—they were in the hearts of the disciples, especially Thomas. And still, Jesus enters. Just as He passed through the locked doors of that room, He also breaks through the deeper barriers within us—our doubt, fear, and resistance. Thomas’s struggle becomes our own, reminding us that doubt is not a barrier to encountering Christ, but often the very place where He draws near. And when we come to Him honestly—like a child who trusts and asks—we discover that His response is not hesitation, but overwhelming mercy.

Then comes the surprising turn: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” Jesus sends them not after they are perfected, but while they are still afraid and unsure. This moment becomes the foundation for our journey through the Easter season. We are invited to receive His mercy, to trust Him even when we do not fully see, and to step into the mission He gives us. Over the coming weeks, we will walk this path together—from fear to peace, from doubt to trust, from encounter to recognition, and ultimately from mercy to mission—discovering that we are not sent because we are perfect, but because we are loved, forgiven, and empowered by the risen Christ.

Discussion Questions

- **Entering the Story** - Where in your life do you feel “behind locked doors” right now (fear, doubt, hesitation), and what might Jesus be trying to enter?
- **Encountering Mercy** - What stands out to you about how Jesus responds to the disciples’ fear—and why do you think He keeps His wounds?
- **Wrestling with Doubt** - Where do you find yourself needing proof or certainty before trusting God?
- **Receiving Peace** - What might be preventing you from receiving Jesus’ peace—and what would it look like to accept it this week?
- **Being Sent** - Jesus sends the disciples while they are still afraid. Where might God be inviting you to step out in trust and serve this week?