

## **Second Sunday of Easter**

*Acts 2, 42-47; 1 Pet 1,3-9; Jn 20,19-31*

**The risen Lord, who lives in his and in our Church, be with you all.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Today we celebrate the Second Sunday of Easter, also called Divine Mercy Sunday, a day when we rejoice in the abundant mercy of God poured out for all humanity. Today also coincides in some countries with the traditional celebration of First Holy Communion, when children publicly receive the Lord for the first time.

Let me share a story: A young boy once planted a small seed in a garden. Every day he watered it, spoke to it, and watched carefully for signs of growth. Weeks passed with little visible change. But the boy persisted, and one morning he saw a tiny green sprout breaking through the soil. That small, seemingly fragile shoot would eventually grow into a strong, flourishing plant—but only because the boy had cared for it consistently, and the roots had quietly grown together beneath the surface.

This story reminds us that God's mercy often works quietly, beneath the surface. It grows in our hearts and in our communities when we nurture it through prayer, service, and love. Like the small seed that becomes a plant, our faith, when tended with patience and care, binds us together as one Body in Christ.

The first Christians, as we hear in the Acts of the Apostles, were “of one heart and one soul.” They prayed together. They broke bread together. They shared what they had. No one was in need, and the Lord added to their number daily. Today, we come together in the same spirit of unity, humility, and love, ready to receive the mercy of God anew. Let us prepare ourselves to celebrate this holy Mass by acknowledging our need for God's mercy.

### **PENITENTIAL ACT**

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Risen One, who came to bring peace, mercy, and reconciliation to a broken world. We humbly admit our failings and ask for your healing grace.

Lord Jesus, we often turn inward and ignore the needs of

others. Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, we have doubted your presence in our trials, like Thomas. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, we have withheld forgiveness, and have failed to unite in your love, Lord, have mercy.

### **PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION**

May Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on us, pardon our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

### **INVITATION TO THE GLORIA**

Let us lift our voices with joy and thanksgiving, glorifying God the Father, who in Christ has conquered sin and death, giving us new life and eternal hope.

### **COLLECT**

Almighty and eternal God, in this Easter season you renew our faith and strengthen our hope. You show us that even when we are broken, when fear and doubt close us behind locked doors, your mercy can enter and make us whole.

Unite us as one people, bound together by your love, and teach us to reach out to one another in compassion and

forgiveness. May we be witnesses to the peace of the Risen Lord in our families, our parish, and our world. 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. Amen.

### **HOMILY - Beams Tied Together: Finding Easter Unity in Peace and Wounds**

Many years ago, after a devastating earthquake, a reporter asked a rescue worker what had saved the most lives in the collapsed neighbourhoods. The rescuer did not speak about technology or heavy machinery. He said, “The buildings that stood were the ones whose beams were tied together. Where everything was connected, the structure held. Where each part stood for itself, it collapsed.”

That image has never left me: what is bound together holds.

It is a powerful image for the Church after Easter. The Acts of the Apostles tells us that the first Christians were “of one heart and one soul.” They prayed together. They broke

bread together. They shared what they had. No one was in need. And the Lord added to their number daily.

How did a small, frightened group without influence, money, or media change the world? It was not strategy. It was not marketing. It was visible unity. People saw something. They saw reconciliation. They saw rich and poor at one table. They saw wounds forgiven. They saw joy that could not be explained. And they were drawn in. They were, as one beautiful English phrase says, “in one accord.” Not uniform. Not identical. But like a chord: different notes, one harmony.

Think of an orchestra. The violins carry the melody. The trumpets are bright and bold. The drums sometimes make a lot of noise. The oboe can sound almost like it is weeping. And yes, sometimes there is dissonance. But in a true symphony, even dissonance serves a greater harmony.

A parish is like that. We do not need uniformity. We need harmony.

I once heard of a rural parish constantly divided: old versus

young, traditional versus modern, finance council versus choir. Finally, an elderly woman stood up and said, “We are not called to play our favourite tune. We are called to play the same piece.” That sentence changed everything. They chose one common focus for a year. It was not perfect. But slowly, they began to sound like one piece of music.

And yet—even the first orchestra failed.

On Good Friday, the beams came apart. Peter denied. The others fled. They had promised loyalty, but fear was stronger. When Jesus was arrested, “they all left him and fled.” Imagine the shame. The self-disgust. The silence afterward.

So on Easter evening, they lock the doors. Not only because they fear the authorities—but because they fear themselves. They had failed love.

And then Jesus stands in their midst.

You can almost feel them freeze. Now comes the reproach.

Now comes the disappointment.

Instead, one word: “Peace be with you.” Shalom.

No accusation. No reminder of their betrayal. Just peace.

And he shows them his hands and his side. The wounds remain. Resurrection is not a reset button. The suffering is not erased like chalk from a board. The wounds are transfigured—but visible.

There is a Japanese art form called kintsugi. When a bowl breaks, the cracks are repaired with gold lacquer. The fracture lines are not hidden; they are highlighted. The bowl becomes more beautiful because it was broken. The wounds shine.

So it is with Christ. And so it can be with us.

I once knew two neighbouring families who had not spoken for twenty years because of a property dispute. At a funeral Mass, they found themselves side by side. When the sign of peace came, there was hesitation. But slowly, awkwardly, they turned: “Peace be with you.” Tears followed. After Mass, they spoke for the first time in decades. Something broken was filled—not erased—but filled with gold.

Peace must be spoken. Sometimes again and again. In the Gospel, Jesus says it three times: “Peace be with you.”

Because peace is not a feeling. It is a gift. And a task. But one of the beams is missing that first Easter evening. Thomas is not there.

We often call him “the doubter.” But perhaps he is simply wounded. He had put everything on one card. And when Jesus died crying, “My God, why have you forsaken me?” Thomas’ world shattered. When he hears the others say, “We have seen the Lord,” it sounds too fast. Too easy. “Unless I see... unless I touch... I will not believe.”

Is he so different from us?

We live in a world that likes proof. “If I don’t see it, I won’t believe it.” A small boy once stood at the shore with his grandfather. The old man pointed to the horizon and said, “Beyond what you see are other countries, whole cities.” The boy squinted: “I see only water.” The grandfather smiled: “You don’t see it—but that doesn’t mean it isn’t there.”

Thomas wants to see beyond the water.

And notice something important: his greatest mistake was not his doubt. It was his absence. When Jesus first came,

Thomas was not there. A coal taken out of the fire grows cold. Faith is not a solo performance. It is an orchestra. It needs the others.

A young doctor once worked with a wounded soldier who refused therapy, refused visitors, refused even to look at his scars. One day she simply sat beside him and said quietly, "I can't take away your wounds. But I am not afraid to see them." Slowly, he uncovered his bandaged arm. That small gesture was the beginning of healing.

Jesus does the same. When he comes again, he does not scold Thomas. He says, "Put your finger here. See my hands. Bring your hand into my side."

He is not afraid of wounds. Not his. Not ours.

How often we hide our inner wounds—guilt, anger, disappointment, envy, grief. We think faith means pretending everything is fine. But the early Church Fathers said, "Only what has been accepted is redeemed." What we hide cannot be healed.

Think of Peter. Only when he wept over his denial could he later say, "Lord, you know that I love you." Think of

Zacchaeus. Only when he admitted his injustice did salvation enter his house. Think of Thomas. Only when he faced the wound did he reach the deepest confession in the Gospel: "My Lord and my God."

That is not second-hand faith. That is encounter.

The twin brother of faith is doubt. Thomas is called "the Twin." He is our twin. In him we see our mixture of Easter and Good Friday. We are an Easter people—but we are also people who still carry crosses.

I remember a man who lost his wife during the Easter season. While the Church sang "Alleluia," he felt empty. After the funeral he went home alone. That evening he noticed a candle in his neighbour's window. Later she said simply, "I thought you might need a little Easter light." He told me, "I didn't feel resurrection. But I knew I wasn't alone. And somehow that was enough."

That is the Church. We keep the light in the window for those who are still in Good Friday. We stay together like beams tied firmly. We remain in one accord. We speak peace. We dare to touch wounds.

And when we do, something happens. Locked doors begin to open. Fear loosens its grip. A bridge appears—not only on the table, but between hearts.

A conductor once asked a famous violinist, “What makes an orchestra truly great?” The violinist answered, “When every musician listens more than he plays.”

Perhaps that is the secret of Easter unity.

Listening to Christ, who still stands among us and says, “Peace be with you.”

Listening to one another’s wounds without fear.

Listening even to our own doubts, and bringing them into the light. If we remain bound together—like beams after an earthquake—if we allow the Risen One to breathe peace into our fear, if we dare to touch his wounds and let him touch ours, then our parish, our families, our lives will hold.

And maybe, just maybe, someone looking at us will say what they said about the first Christians: “See how they love one another.” And from the depths of our own wrestled-through faith, we too will be able to whisper with Thomas, “My Lord and my God.” Amen.

## **INVITATION TO THE CREED**

Let us profess together the faith that sustains and binds us, the faith that holds our lives in Christ, who shows us mercy and life beyond fear.

## **INVITATION TO PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

With hearts open and hands joined, we present our gifts of bread and wine, along with the work, joys, and struggles of our lives. Pray that they may they be pleasing to God the Father almighty.

## **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Merciful God, we bring before you these gifts of bread and wine, symbols of our lives, our labours, our hopes, and our wounds. May they be transformed by your Holy Spirit into the Body and Blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, who bore our pain and reconciled us to you. Teach us to see that even our failures and doubts can become channels of your grace. Strengthen us to live in peace, to forgive as we have been forgiven, and to bring your mercy into the lives of others. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **PREFACE (Through the Holy Spirit God Leads the Church)**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere, to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in every age, your providence rules over creation. You guide the Church through trials and joys alike, and in your wisdom, you lead us to unity and mercy. By the power of your Holy Spirit, your Church is kept together in faith, hope, and love, so that we may bear witness to the risen Christ in the world.

Through your Spirit, we are strengthened to pray together, to forgive one another, to break bread as one body, and to share our lives as a living sign of your mercy. You call us to be like the beams of a building tied together, holding firm even when the storms of life threaten to shake us.

Therefore, with all the angels and saints, with every voice that sings of your goodness, we proclaim the glory of your name and join the heavenly hymn of praise:

## **INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER**

Brothers and sisters, trusting in the mercy of God who binds us together as one family in Christ, let us lift our hearts and pray as Jesus taught us, with courage, hope, and trust:

### **EMBOLISM**

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our hearts, our homes, and our communities. Strengthen us to live as your children, united in faith and hope, and let no fear, anger, or division keep us from being instruments of your mercy. May your Spirit guide our steps and fill us with courage as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **PRAYER FOR PEACE**

Lord Jesus Christ, you appeared to your disciples in the upper room and spoke these words of reassurance: “Peace be with you.” Today, you speak the same words to us.

Grant that your peace may dwell in our hearts, guiding our thoughts, words, and actions. May we be slow to anger

and quick to forgive, reaching out to those who are wounded or lonely. Teach us to touch one another's wounds with love and patience, just as you allowed Thomas to see and touch your hands and side. May our communities, our families, and our friendships be strengthened in harmony, so that the world may recognize your presence in us. You live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to this table of mercy, where brokenness is healed, doubts are embraced, and the Risen Lord gives himself to us in love.

### **SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION**

We have received the Body and Blood of Christ, the Risen Lord, who carries his wounds and shows us mercy. In this sacred gift, we are reminded that even our own wounds, doubts, and fears can be touched by his healing presence. As we go forth from this table, let us bring reconciliation to

our families, kindness to our neighbours, and mercy to those who are broken. Like the first Christians, may we live in one accord, bound together in love, forgiving freely, and offering hope to all. Let us remember that the smallest gesture of peace, the gentlest word of comfort, or the humble act of listening can become a bridge of light in a world that often feels fractured.

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Almighty God, through this holy meal you have nourished our hearts with the Body and Blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. May the grace we have received strengthen us to walk in faith, to embrace one another's wounds with mercy, and to live in unity and love.

Help us, Lord, to be instruments of reconciliation, to bring peace to those who are divided, and to offer hope to those who are discouraged. May our lives shine as a witness to your mercy, so that all who see us may say with wonder: "See how they love one another."

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## FINAL BLESSING

May God the Father guide you in all truth and protect you with his loving care. - May God the Son walk with you, bringing courage, hope, and the joy of the Risen Lord into your life. - May God the Holy Spirit strengthen you, unite you with your brothers and sisters, and fill you with peace that surpasses all understanding.

**May Almighty God bless you, + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your lives and sharing the mercy you have received.

## TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Like the beams of a building bound together, our lives, our families, and our parish hold firm only when tied together in Christ. Speak peace wherever you go, embrace the wounds of others with mercy, and live as a witness to the Risen Lord. And may you, like Thomas, boldly proclaim in your life and your faith: “My Lord and my God.”

## Monday of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Easter

*Acts 4,23-31; Jn 3,1-8*

## INTRODUCTION

A young boy once went out with his father on a windy afternoon to fly a kite. The boy kept pulling the string tightly, trying to control the kite and make it go exactly where he wanted. But the more he tried to control it, the more the kite struggled and dipped toward the ground. Seeing his frustration, the father gently said, “Don’t fight the wind. Let the wind carry it.” When the boy loosened his grip and allowed the wind to do its work, the kite rose easily and began to glide high in the sky.

That simple lesson reflects something about our life of faith. We often try to manage everything ourselves, relying on our own strength and understanding. Yet in today’s Gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus, “*The wind blows where it chooses.*” He uses the image of the wind to speak about the Holy Spirit, who moves quietly and freely in our lives.

Like Nicodemus, we are all seekers, still learning to trust the ways of God. As we gather for this Eucharist, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us again today, helping us to open our hearts and allow God's Spirit to lead us closer to Christ.

### **PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS**

Lord Jesus,  
you invite us to be born anew through the Spirit when our faith grows tired or hesitant. Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus,  
you patiently meet us in our questions and doubts, just as you met Nicodemus in the night. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,  
you send your Holy Spirit to renew our courage and lead us closer to you each day. Lord, have mercy.

### **PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION**

Merciful God,  
you know our searching hearts and our need for renewal. Look kindly upon us, forgive our sins,  
and fill us again with the life of your Spirit,  
so that we may walk in faith and hope.  
In your mercy bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

### **COLLECT**

Loving Father,  
you call each of us to new life in the Spirit.  
When we struggle to understand your ways  
or rely too much on our own strength,  
teach us to trust the gentle movement of your Spirit.

Renew in us the grace of our baptism,  
so that our lives may be guided by your wisdom  
and our hearts may grow ever closer to your Son.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## HOMILY

A man once told the story of learning to sail with his grandfather. As a boy he thought sailing depended on strength — pulling ropes and gripping the rudder tightly. One day the wind shifted and he struggled to control the boat. His grandfather calmly said, “Don’t fight the wind. Let it carry you.” When he adjusted the sail, the boat suddenly began to glide smoothly across the water. The boy learned that sailing is not about controlling the wind but allowing the wind to move the boat.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus speaks about the wind when he tells Nicodemus, “The wind blows where it pleases; you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus is an interesting person in John’s Gospel. He is a Pharisee and a respected leader, yet he is searching for something more. He comes to Jesus at night, perhaps

hesitant or unsure. But even with his hesitation, he takes the first step toward Jesus.

Many of us can recognize ourselves in Nicodemus. Even after years of faith, we remain seekers. We know the Lord, yet we still long to know him more deeply.

Jesus immediately invites Nicodemus to go further. He tells him that to enter the kingdom of God he must be “born from above... born of water and the Spirit.” In other words, the life of faith is not something we achieve by our own effort. It is the work of the Holy Spirit within us.

The first reading shows this clearly. When the apostles were threatened and told not to speak about Jesus, they did not rely on their own courage. They prayed, and as they prayed they were filled again with the Holy Spirit and began to proclaim the word of God boldly.

Even though they had already received the Spirit, they still needed fresh strength. The same is true for us. We received the Holy Spirit at baptism and confirmation, but

every day we need to open our hearts again to the Spirit's guidance.

Like the wind that moves a sailing boat, the Spirit gently moves our lives toward God. Our task is not to control the Spirit, but to allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit.

There is a beautiful detail about Nicodemus. At first he comes to Jesus secretly at night. But at the end of the Gospel he appears again — this time at the foot of the cross, helping to give Jesus a dignified burial. Slowly and quietly, the Spirit had led him closer to Christ.

A wise Christian once said that the most important prayer each day is very simple:

“Come, Holy Spirit, guide me today.”

If we pray that prayer and truly mean it, the Spirit will lead us — quietly but surely — closer to the Lord. Amen.

## INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we bring forward these gifts of bread and wine, let us also offer our lives to God—our questions, our hopes, and our desire to be led by the Holy Spirit. Let us pray that these gifts may be acceptable to God the Father almighty.

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,  
we place before you these simple gifts of bread and wine,  
signs of our lives and our work.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them and upon us.

Just as the wind fills the sails of a boat  
and moves it across the water,  
let your Spirit fill our hearts  
so that our lives may move in the direction of your love.

Transform these gifts and transform us,  
that we may live more fully as your people.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## PREFACE

Father in heaven, it is always right to give you thanks, for you never cease to guide your people with patience and love.

Through your Son Jesus Christ you reveal that new life is born not from human effort alone but from the mysterious and life-giving work of the Spirit.

Like Nicodemus, we often come to you searching and uncertain, yet you welcome our questions and gently lead us deeper into faith.

You filled the apostles with courage when they prayed together, and through the same Spirit you continue to renew your Church today.

Quietly and faithfully, your Spirit moves through our lives like the wind— unseen yet powerful, guiding us toward truth, courage, and hope.

And so, united with all who have been reborn in your Spirit, we lift our voices with the angels and saints as we proclaim your glory: **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

## INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Guided by the Spirit who makes us children of God, and trusting in the love of our Father, let us pray together in the words Jesus gave us.

## EMBOLISM

Lord God,  
deliver us from the fears and anxieties that hold us back from trusting you.  
Free us from the tendency to rely only on our own strength, and help us to walk in the freedom of your Spirit.

Grant peace to our hearts and to our world,  
and keep us watchful in hope  
as we await the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

## PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,  
through your resurrection you brought peace to your disciples and filled them with the Holy Spirit.  
Look upon your Church and upon our world.  
Where there is fear, bring courage;

where there is division, bring unity; where hearts are restless, bring the quiet peace of your presence.

Grant us the peace that comes from trusting in your Spirit, who guides us toward the Father.

You live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus invites us to a deeper life in the Spirit.

In this Eucharist he nourishes us with his own life so that we may be renewed in faith and courage.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

### **SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION**

The Spirit of God often works quietly within us.

Like the wind, we may not see it,

but we can sense its movement when our hearts grow in faith, courage, and love.

Today we have received Christ in the Eucharist.

May the Spirit continue the quiet work of transformation within us, leading us step by step closer to the Lord.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God our Father,

in this Eucharist you have nourished us with the life of your Son and renewed us with the power of your Spirit.

Continue the work you have begun within us.

Help us to listen to the quiet promptings of your Spirit in the ordinary moments of our lives.

May we leave this place with hearts open to your guidance, ready to live and speak your word with courage and faith.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

May the God who gives us new birth through the Holy Spirit renew your hearts and strengthen your faith.

May Christ Jesus, who welcomes all who seek him, guide you closer to his truth and love.

And may the Holy Spirit,

like the gentle wind that carries a sail, lead your lives each day toward the fullness of God.

And may almighty God bless you,

the Father ✠ and the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit ✠. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go now in peace,  
trusting the quiet guidance of the Holy Spirit in your daily  
lives.

## TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Each day can begin with a simple prayer:

**“Come, Holy Spirit, guide me today.”**

If we truly open our hearts to that prayer,  
the Spirit will gently lead us—  
often quietly, but always faithfully—  
closer to Christ.

## Tuesday of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Easter

*Acts 4,32-37; Jn 3,7-15*

## INTRODUCTION

A teacher once asked her students on a windy day, “Can anyone show me the wind?” The children looked around. One boy pointed to a tree and said, “I can’t see the wind, but I can see the leaves moving.” Another pointed to a flag fluttering in the distance. Soon they realized something important: the wind itself could not be seen, but its effects were everywhere.

Jesus speaks about that same mystery in today’s Gospel. He tells Nicodemus, “The wind blows where it chooses.” In the language Jesus used, the word for wind also means spirit. Just as we cannot see the wind but can see its effects, we may not always see the Holy Spirit directly, but we can see what the Spirit does in people’s lives.

When the Spirit is at work, hearts change, faith grows, and love becomes visible. The first reading shows this beautifully in the early Christian community, where

believers were united and generous with one another.

As we begin this Eucharist, we ask God to open our hearts to the gentle power of the Holy Spirit, so that our lives too may reveal the presence of God's love in the world.

### **PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS**

Lord Jesus, you call us to a new birth through the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you patiently guide us when we struggle to understand the mystery of faith. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you send your Spirit to unite hearts and make God's love visible among us. **Lord, have mercy.**

### **PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION**

God of mercy and compassion,  
you know our weakness and the times when we resist the quiet work of your Spirit.

Forgive our sins, renew our hearts, and lead us everlasting life. Amen.

### **COLLECT**

Loving Father,  
through your Son you reveal the gift of new life born of the Spirit.

Help us to trust the quiet and mysterious ways in which your Spirit works within us.

Open our hearts to your guidance,  
so that our lives may reflect your love  
and our community may grow in unity and generosity.

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.

### **HOMILY**

A sailor once told of a boy who went out to sea with his father for the first time. As the boat began to move quickly, the boy asked, "Dad, where does the wind come from?"

His father smiled and said, "No one really knows. But if you open the sails, the wind will carry you."

The boy could not see the wind, but he could see what it did. The invisible power moved the whole boat.

Jesus uses that same image in today's Gospel: "The wind blows where it pleases; you hear its sound but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes." In the language of Jesus, the same word means **both "wind" and "Spirit."** So Jesus is really speaking about the **Holy Spirit.**

Like the wind, the Spirit cannot be controlled. We cannot tell the Spirit where to go. Rather, the Spirit leads us where God wants us to go. Our task is simply to open our lives to the Spirit, the way a sailor opens the sails to the wind.

Nicodemus struggles to understand this. When Jesus speaks about being **"born from above" or "born of the Spirit,"** he asks, "How can that be possible?" It is an honest question. Even human birth is already a mystery. The birth of a child brings wonder and gratitude. Yet Jesus speaks about an even deeper birth—becoming **children of God** through the gift of the Spirit.

This new birth does not happen all at once. It unfolds throughout our lives as we allow the Spirit to guide and shape us. Nicodemus himself shows this. At first he comes to Jesus confused and searching, but later we see him at Calvary helping to bury Jesus. Slowly, the Spirit had led him closer to Christ.

The first reading shows what happens when people truly live by the Spirit: the early Christians were **"of one heart and soul,"** sharing what they had. When the Spirit fills people, God's love becomes visible in their lives.

A farmer once placed a weather vane on his barn with the words **"God is love."** A neighbour asked, "Do you mean God's love changes direction like the wind?"

The farmer replied, "No. I mean that **no matter which way the wind blows, God is love.**"

The Spirit moves in many ways, often mysterious and unseen. Our part is simply to **open the sails of our hearts** and let the Spirit carry us where God wants us to go. Amen.

## **INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

As we present these gifts of bread and wine, let us also offer our hearts to God and ask that the Spirit who gives new life may transform these gifts and our lives, and that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

## **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Lord God,  
we bring before you these simple gifts,  
fruit of the earth and the work of human hands.  
  
Send your Spirit upon them  
just as your Spirit moves unseen in the world.  
Transform this bread and wine into the life of Christ,  
and transform our hearts  
so that your love may become visible in our lives.  
  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **PREFACE**

It is truly right and just to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You have given us new life through your Son  
and poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit upon your people.  
Though the Spirit moves like the wind—unseen and  
mysterious— its power renews hearts, strengthens faith,  
and unites your Church.

Through this Spirit the first believers became one in heart  
and soul, sharing what they had and witnessing with  
courage to the risen Christ.

Even today your Spirit continues to guide us,  
teaching us to trust your ways  
and making your love visible through lives of generosity  
and compassion.

And so, with the angels and saints,  
we proclaim your glory as we sing:

Holy, Holy, Holy...

## **INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER**

As people reborn through water and the Spirit,  
let us pray with confidence to God our Father in the words  
Jesus gave us:

## **EMBOLISM**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
and free us from the fears that prevent us from trusting  
your Spirit.

Fill our hearts with peace and guide our lives in your love,  
so that we may follow wherever your Spirit leads us with  
courage and faith.

Help us to remain open to the quiet movements of your  
Spirit in our daily lives, as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

## **PRAYER FOR PEACE**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you breathed your Spirit upon your disciples and filled  
them with your peace.

Look upon your Church and upon our world.

Where hearts are divided, bring unity;

where fear prevails, bring trust;

where love has grown weak, renew it by your Spirit.

Teach us to become instruments of your peace in the  
communities where we live.

You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus Christ gives us the life that comes from above  
and nourishes us with his own presence.

Behold the Lamb of God,

behold him who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

## **SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION**

The wind cannot be seen, yet its presence is known by  
what it moves.

The Holy Spirit works in the same quiet way in our lives.

When faith grows stronger, when generosity replaces  
selfishness, when people live with one heart and soul,  
the Spirit of God is at work.

May the Eucharist we have received today  
open our hearts more deeply to that Spirit.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God our Father,  
through this Eucharist you have nourished us with the life  
of Christ and renewed us with the power of your Spirit.  
Help us to live as people born of the Spirit—  
united in heart, generous in love,  
and faithful in witnessing to the risen Lord.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

May the God who gives new birth through the Holy Spirit  
fill your hearts with faith and hope.  
May Christ the risen Lord  
guide your lives and strengthen your love for one another.  
  
And may the Holy Spirit, moving quietly like the wind,  
lead you each day closer to the fullness of God.  
  
And may almighty God bless you,  
the Father ✠ and the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace,  
and let the Spirit of God make his love visible in your lives.

## **TAKE-HOME THOUGHT**

Like the wind, the Holy Spirit cannot be seen,  
but its presence becomes clear in changed hearts, united  
communities, and generous love.

### **Today, ask yourself:**

Can people see the work of the Spirit in the way I live?

## Wednesday of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Easter

*Acts 5,17-26; Jn 3,16-21*

### INTRODUCTION

A small child was once afraid to enter a dark room. The lights were off and the shadows made everything seem uncertain and frightening. His mother simply walked in and turned on the light. Instantly the whole room changed. The same furniture was there, the same walls and the same space—but the fear disappeared because the light made everything clear.

That simple experience reflects something Jesus speaks about in today's Gospel. He says that *the light has come into the world*, yet people sometimes prefer darkness to light. In John's Gospel, the light is Christ himself. God sent his Son into the world not to condemn us but to bring us life and salvation.

When we step into the light of Christ, we allow God's truth and love to touch our lives. The light may reveal our weaknesses, but it also brings healing, hope, and new life. As we gather for this Eucharist, we ask the Lord to draw us

out of every shadow and help us walk more fully in the light of his love.

### PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus,  
you are the light that has come into the world to guide us to the Father. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus,  
you came not to condemn the world but to save it through your love. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
you invite us to leave behind the darkness of sin and walk in the light of truth. **Lord, have mercy.**

### PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

Merciful God, you sent your Son as the light of the world so that we might be freed from darkness and live in your love. Forgive our sins, renew our hearts, and help us walk in the light of Christ, and may He bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

## COLLECT

Loving Father,  
you revealed your great love for the world  
by sending your Son as the light that brings life.  
Help us to welcome that light into our hearts.  
Free us from the shadows that keep us from you,  
and guide us to live in truth, courage, and faith.  
May our lives reflect the light of Christ  
so that others may come to know your saving love.  
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.

## HOMILY

A man once installed a bright security light outside his house. Whenever someone walked near the door at night, the light suddenly switched on and flooded the whole yard. One evening his neighbour joked with him, “Anyone planning to break into your house will think twice now. Thieves prefer darkness!”

That simple observation echoes something Jesus says in today’s Gospel: “People have shown they prefer darkness to the light, because their deeds were evil.” Darkness hides; light reveals.

In John’s Gospel, the light is Jesus himself. When the Gospel says, “the light has come into the world,” it is speaking about Christ. Yet Jesus makes something very clear: God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through him.

One of the most beautiful sentences in the whole Bible appears in today’s reading:

“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.”

At the heart of the Gospel is not condemnation but love. God’s love is life-giving. God gives his Son so that we might have life, what the Gospel calls eternal life, a life that begins now and continues forever.

Yet love always waits for a response. God offers the light, but we must choose to step into it. The Gospel says that those who live by the truth come out into the light. Anyone who sincerely seeks what is true and good is already moving toward the light of Christ, even if they do not yet fully realize it.

At the same time, the Gospel is realistic. People can resist the light. We sometimes prefer the shadows, where our weaknesses and sins remain hidden. But the light of Christ is not meant to shame us. It is meant to heal us and lead us to fuller life.

God is patient with us, just as Jesus was patient with Nicodemus. Nicodemus did not understand everything immediately. His faith grew slowly. Yet in the end we find him standing near the cross, helping to give Jesus a dignified burial. Little by little he stepped into the light.

Let me finish with another small story.

A teacher once brought a candle into a dark classroom. The room was completely black. Then she lit the candle.

Instantly the darkness began to disappear. She asked the students, “How much darkness does it take to put out this light?”

The students were silent. Finally one said, “None. Darkness cannot overcome light.”

That is the message of today’s Gospel. God’s love has entered the world in Jesus, the light of the world. Our task is simply to step out of the shadows and walk in that light—because in that light we find life. Amen.

### **INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

As we bring these gifts of bread and wine before the Lord, let us also offer our lives, asking that God’s light may purify our hearts and strengthen us to live in truth. Let us now pray that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the Father almighty.

### **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Lord God, we place before you these gifts that will become for us the Bread of Life.

Let the light of your Son shine upon us as we celebrate this

Eucharist. Purify our hearts from all that keeps us in darkness, and renew us in the life that comes from your love. May this offering draw us closer to Christ, who is the light that leads us to eternal life.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **PREFACE**

It is truly right and just to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. In your great love for the world you sent your only Son as the light that no darkness can overcome.

Through him you revealed not condemnation but salvation, offering life to all who believe in him.

In Christ you call us out of the shadows of sin into the freedom and truth of your love.

He continues to guide your people so that we may walk as children of the light and reflect your goodness in the world.

And so, united with the angels and saints, we proclaim your glory as we sing:

**Holy, Holy, Holy...**

## **INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER**

As children of the light and trusting in the love of our heavenly Father, let us pray together in the words Jesus taught us:

## **EMBOLISM**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, and free us from the darkness that clouds our hearts and minds. Guide us to walk always in the light of your truth and love. Strengthen us to choose what is good and to live honestly before you. May your light give us courage in our struggles and hope in every difficulty, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

## **PRAYER FOR PEACE**

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the light that shines in the darkness and the source of peace for all who follow you. Look upon your Church and upon our world. Where there is division, bring reconciliation; where there is confusion, bring the light of truth; where hearts are troubled, bring the peace that only you

can give. Help us to live as children of the light, bringing your peace to others.

You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world and the source of eternal life for all who believe in him.

Behold the Lamb of God,

behold him who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

### **SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION**

A single light can brighten a dark room.

Christ, the light of the world, now comes to us in the Eucharist. As we receive him, may his light enter the hidden corners of our hearts, healing what is wounded and guiding us in the way of truth and love.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God our Father,

in this Eucharist we have received the living presence of your Son, the light who brings life to the world.

Strengthen us to walk faithfully in that light.

Help us to live in truth, to grow in love, and to reflect your goodness in all that we do.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **BLESSING**

May the God who loves the world so deeply fill your hearts with the light of his truth.

May Jesus Christ, the light of the world, guide your steps and strengthen your faith.

And may the Holy Spirit

help you walk always in the light of God's love.

And may almighty God bless you,

the Father ✠ and the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, and walk always in the light of Christ.

### **TAKE-HOME THOUGHT**

“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.”

God's light has already come into our lives.

**Each day we are invited to step out of the shadows and walk in that light.**

## Thursday of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Easter

*Acts 5, 27-33; Jn 3,31-36*

### INTRODUCTION

Imagine a lighthouse standing on a rocky shore. Its light does not shine for itself, but for the ships far out at sea. The lighthouse does not compete with the sun or the moon. Its purpose is to guide others safely through the darkness.

That image reminds us of John the Baptist in today's Gospel. John knew his role clearly: he was a messenger, pointing to someone greater—Jesus. He said, "He must increase; I must decrease." Like the lighthouse, John's mission was to let Christ's light guide the world, not to draw attention to himself.

We, too, are called to be lighthouses in our world. Every act of kindness, every word of encouragement, every moment of patience and forgiveness can point others toward Christ. Sometimes it is tempting to seek recognition for our efforts, but true Christian living is about stepping aside so that Christ can take centre stage. The more we

allow him to shine through us, the brighter his light becomes for those navigating the storms of life.

As we celebrate this Eucharist, we too are called to let Christ increase in our lives. Our task is not to shine for ourselves, but to allow his light and love to shine through us, guiding others to him.

### PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus,  
you come from above and bring God's Spirit into the world.  
Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus,  
you are the Son of God, full of grace and truth, and we are called to follow you. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,  
help us step aside so that you may grow in our hearts, and your love may shine through us. Lord, have mercy.

## PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, you sent your Son into the world so that all might see your love. Forgive our pride and our desire for recognition. Renew us in humility, and let Christ increase in our lives, so that through us others may come to know your truth and love, and may He and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

## COLLECT

Father of all, you have entrusted everything to your Son, Jesus, who comes from heaven and speaks the words of truth and life.

Help us to follow John's example,  
to step back from our own desire for attention,  
so that Christ may increase in our hearts.

Teach us to share your love with others  
and to let your Spirit guide every action we take.

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.

## HOMILY

A music teacher once trained a gifted young violinist. As the boy improved, people began praising him everywhere he played. One day someone asked the teacher, "Does it bother you that your student is becoming more famous than you?"

The teacher smiled and said, "Not at all. A good teacher hopes that the student will one day surpass him."

That attitude reminds us of John the Baptist in today's Gospel. Speaking about Jesus, John says: "He who comes from above is above all others." In another place he expresses it even more simply: "He must increase; I must decrease."

John knew very clearly who he was—and who Jesus was. John was the messenger, but Jesus was the one sent from heaven. John pointed toward the light, but \*\*Jesus was the light.

The Gospel makes some striking claims about Jesus. It tells us that Jesus comes from above, from God. Because

he comes from heaven, he can speak about God in a way no one else can. He speaks God's own words, and the Father gives him the Spirit without reserve. Everything has been entrusted to the Son.

In other words, Jesus is not just another teacher or prophet. He is the full revelation of God. When we listen to Jesus, we are hearing the voice of God. When we see how Jesus lives and loves, we are seeing what God is like.

That is why our response to Jesus matters so much. The Gospel says very simply: "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life." Eternal life is not only something that begins after death. It begins now, when we enter into a living relationship with Christ and share already in the life of God.

John the Baptist shows us the right attitude toward Jesus. He was willing to step back so that Christ could take centre stage. Yet when Christ increases in our lives, we do not lose ourselves. On the contrary, we become our truest selves, the person God created us to be.

The closer we come to Jesus, the more we realize how much more there is to discover about him. Our whole life becomes a journey of letting Christ grow within us.

Let me end with a simple story.

A small lamp once complained to the sun, "When you rise in the morning, everyone forgets about me."

The sun replied gently, "But that is exactly what you were made for—to shine until the greater light appears."

Like John the Baptist, our role is simply to point to Christ. And the more Christ increases in us, the more his light shines through our lives for others to see. Amen.

### **INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

As we bring these gifts of bread and wine before God, let us also offer our hearts, so that Christ may grow in us and his light shine through our lives.

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

## **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Lord God,  
accept these gifts, the work of human hands.  
May the bread and wine become for us the Body and  
Blood of Christ,  
and may your Spirit fill our hearts  
so that Christ may increase in us and his love be visible to  
all. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **PREFACE**

It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation, to give you thanks, Lord, holy  
Father, almighty and eternal God.

You have sent your Son from above,  
entrusting everything to him.

Through him, we see the fullness of your truth and love.

Like John the Baptist, we learn to step aside,

so that Christ may increase and guide your people.

Through him, your Church grows in faith, humility, and

charity,

and your Spirit continues to lead us in your ways.

And so, with angels and saints, we proclaim your glory:

Holy, Holy, Holy...

## **INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER**

As children called to follow Christ, let us pray confidently to  
our Father:

## **EMBOLISM**

Lord, deliver us from every evil,

and free us from the desire to put ourselves first.

Let Christ grow in our hearts,

so that his love and light may shine through us for others.

Strengthen us to live in humility and generosity,

as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our

Saviour, Jesus Christ.

## **PRAYER FOR PEACE**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you are the Son sent from above and the source of life and peace.

Look upon your Church and our world.

Where pride and selfishness divide, bring unity;  
where hearts cling to recognition, bring humility;  
help us live so that your truth and love may shine through our lives.

You who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ comes from above and offers us eternal life.

He nourishes us so that his love may shine through our hearts.

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

## **SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION**

John knew his role, and so do we: to let Christ increase in our lives. Today we have received him in the Eucharist; may his presence fill our hearts, and may his light shine through our words and actions to guide others to God.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God our Father,  
you sent your Son from above to show us your love. May the Eucharist we have received strengthen us to step back from self-interest,  
so that Christ may grow within us and through us, bringing your light and life to the world.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

May the God who entrusted all things to his Son fill your hearts with humility and love.

May Jesus Christ increase in your life and guide you to reflect his light and truth.

And may the Holy Spirit strengthen you each day,  
so that Christ may shine through all that you do.

And may almighty God bless you,  
the Father ✠ and the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace,  
and let Christ increase in your hearts and lives.

## **TAKE-HOME THOUGHT**

Our role is not to shine for ourselves but to point others to  
Christ.

The more Christ grows in us, the more his light shines  
through our lives.

## **Friday of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Easter**

*Acts 5, 34-42; Jn 6,1-15*

## **INTRODUCTION**

A gardener once planted a tiny seed in a barren patch of soil. Every day she watered it, cleared the weeds, and patiently tended the ground. Weeks passed, and it seemed as if nothing was happening. Then one morning, a small green sprout broke through the soil. Over time, that fragile seedling grew into a strong tree, providing shade, fruit, and shelter to many creatures. All of this began with one small seed, cared for with love and patience.

Today's Gospel shows a similar principle. A boy offers five loaves and two fish—seemingly too little to make a difference. Yet when he places it in Jesus' hands, it feeds thousands, with food left over. What seems small in our eyes can become extraordinary in God's hands.

We are reminded that our own acts—no matter how small—can bear fruit if offered with faith. A kind word, a moment of patience, a prayer for someone in need, or a small gesture of generosity may seem insignificant at first.

Yet, placed in Christ's hands, they can grow in ways we cannot imagine, blessing others and transforming our communities. Just like the seed in the garden, our small offerings can become instruments of God's abundant love. As we celebrate this Eucharist, we are called to trust God with our "small seeds" and allow him to work through us. Even the tiniest act of faith or love, when surrendered to Christ, can become a source of nourishment, hope, and light for many.

### **PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS**

Lord Jesus, you take what little we offer and transform it into abundant life. Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you teach us that even our smallest gifts can bless others when placed in your hands. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, help us not to underestimate the power of our acts of faith and love. Lord, have mercy.

### **PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION**

Almighty God, forgive our hesitation and doubts, and open our hearts to give freely as the little boy in today's Gospel did.

Renew us with your Spirit so that our offerings, small as they may seem, may become channels of your grace and blessing for others, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

### **COLLECT**

Father of generosity,  
you take what is small and make it abundant in your love.  
Help us to offer freely what we have—our time, our talents,  
our resources—

so that your goodness may flow through us to others.

Teach us to trust your power to multiply our gifts,  
and guide us to live in faith, hope, and charity.

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.

## HOMILY

A teacher once told the story of a small act that changed her classroom. One day a young student brought an extra sandwich to school. When the teacher asked why, the child said, “My mum said someone in class might not have lunch.” That day another student indeed had none. The sandwich was shared, and soon other children began bringing a little extra too. Before long the class had a small “sharing box” so no one would go hungry. It all began with one small sandwich offered by one small child.

Something like that happens in today’s Gospel.

Jesus and his disciples are faced with a huge crowd of hungry people. The situation seems impossible. Philip immediately begins calculating: even six months’ wages would not be enough to give everyone a little food. Andrew notices a boy with five barley loaves and two fish, but he quickly dismisses it: “What is that among so many?”

Their reactions are very human. When we face big needs, we often respond the same way. Like Philip we think, *It’s*

*impossible*. Like Andrew we think, *My small contribution won’t make any difference*.

But the small boy in the crowd reacts differently. He simply offers what he has — five loaves and two fish, probably his whole lunch. It seems insignificant, yet Jesus accepts it.

Jesus takes the bread, gives thanks, and distributes it. Somehow the crowd is fed, and there is even food left over. The Gospel is showing us something important: the Lord can do great things with very small resources when they are placed in his hands.

The boy’s gift was small, but without it the miracle would not have happened. God often works this way. As Saint Paul says, *“God’s power is made perfect in weakness.”*

Sometimes we look at the needs around us and feel overwhelmed. Sometimes we look at ourselves and think we have very little to offer — not enough time, not enough ability, not enough faith. Yet the Lord does not ask us to do everything. He simply asks us to offer what we have.

A little kindness.

A little generosity.

A little faith.

Placed in the hands of Christ, even these small things can multiply in ways we cannot imagine.

Mother Teresa once said, “If you can’t feed a hundred people, then feed one.” That is the spirit of the small boy in today’s Gospel.

A visitor once stood in a cathedral filled with beautiful stained-glass windows. Nearby he noticed a small piece of coloured glass. When sunlight passed through it, the glass suddenly shone with brilliant colour. The guide said, “The glass itself is nothing special. The beauty comes when the light passes through it.”

That is also true for us. On our own we may feel small and limited. But when we place our lives in the hands of Christ, his light shines through us — and even the smallest offering can become a blessing for many. Amen.

## **INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE**

**OFFERINGS** As we bring forward these gifts, let us also place before the Lord our lives, our small efforts, and our willingness to serve.

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

## **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Lord God, accept these gifts of bread and wine, and bless the small offerings of our hearts and hands.

As you multiplied the loaves and fishes, so multiply the good we place in your hands.

May these gifts become for us the Body and Blood of Christ, and may our lives reflect the generosity of your love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **PREFACE**

It is truly right and just to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. You multiply what is small into abundance, turning our weakness into strength and our gifts into blessings.

Through your Son, you teach us that even the smallest

offering, when placed in your hands, can feed many.  
As we join the angels and saints in praising you,  
we rejoice in your wisdom and generosity,  
which transforms our lives and the world through Christ.  
And so, with angels and saints, we proclaim your glory:  
Holy, Holy, Holy...

### **INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER**

As those who have received from God more than we can  
measure, let us pray with confidence to our Father:

### **EMBOLISM**

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil,  
and free us from the fear that our small contributions are  
insignificant. Help us to trust that even the tiniest gift,  
offered in faith, can bear fruit beyond what we can imagine.  
May we give generously and joyfully,  
as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our  
Saviour, Jesus Christ.

### **PRAYER FOR PEACE**

Lord Jesus Christ, you take our small offerings and multiply  
them in abundance. Look upon your Church and upon our  
world. Where needs seem overwhelming, bring hope;  
where generosity falters, inspire giving;  
where hearts feel weak, fill them with faith in your  
providence. May we live as channels of your mercy,  
multiplying your blessings in the lives of others.  
You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ, the Bread of Life, nourishes us and transforms our  
small gifts into abundant blessings.

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

### **SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION**

Even the smallest offering, when placed in Jesus' hands,  
can become extraordinary. The Eucharist reminds us that  
Christ multiplies what we give in faith, and through him, our  
lives can bless countless others.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord God, you feed us with the Bread of Life and strengthen us with the gift of your Spirit.

May we follow the example of the boy in today's Gospel, offering freely what we have, trusting that you will multiply it.

Help our lives to become instruments of your grace and blessing for the world.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

May God who multiplies even the smallest offerings fill your hearts with faith, generosity, and joy.

May Christ, the Bread of Life, nourish you and strengthen your love.

And may the Holy Spirit guide your actions, so that even your smallest gifts may bear abundant fruit.

And may almighty God bless you, the Father ✠ and the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, and let Christ multiply the small gifts of your life into blessings for others.

## **TAKE-HOME THOUGHT**

Even the smallest act of faith, love, or generosity, when placed in Christ's hands, can be multiplied beyond imagination.

What small gift can I offer today for God to bless?

## Saturday of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Easter

*Acts 6,1-7; Jn 6,16-21*

### INTRODUCTION

A young sailor once prepared for a long voyage on the open sea. The night before departure, he carefully checked the ropes, sails, and provisions. Yet as he lay in his cabin, he felt anxious. He could not control the waves or the wind, and the uncertainty made him uneasy. The next morning, he noticed the captain quietly steering the ship with steady hands. Watching the captain, the sailor felt calm. He realized that he could face the unknown safely because he was not alone—the captain was guiding the way.

Today's Gospel shows a similar reality. The disciples are caught on the Sea of Galilee, struggling against strong winds and rough waves. Darkness surrounds them. Then Jesus appears, walking toward them on the water, saying, "It is I. Do not be afraid." Just as the captain reassured the sailor, Christ's presence reassures and guides the disciples through the storm.

We, too, are invited to place our trust in Christ, especially when life feels uncertain or overwhelming. Our worries, fears, and struggles may feel like strong waves against our boat, but we are never alone. When we invite Jesus into our lives through prayer, faith, and participation in the Eucharist, he becomes our guiding presence, steadying us through difficulties and leading us safely toward the shore of his peace.

As we celebrate this Eucharist, let us bring our storms, our doubts, and our challenges before the Lord. Even when the journey seems dark or impossible, his presence illuminates the way, giving us courage and hope to continue forward.

### PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you come to us in our fears and reassure us with your presence. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you calm the storms of our hearts and guide us through life's challenges. **Christ, have mercy.** Lord Jesus, help us trust in you when we feel lost or overwhelmed by darkness. **Lord, have mercy.**

## PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

Merciful God, forgive us our fears and our doubts. Strengthen our faith so that, even in life's storms, we may recognize your presence, follow your guidance, and walk safely in your light, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

## COLLECT

Heavenly Father,  
you sent your Son to be the light in our darkness,  
guiding us through life's storms and trials.  
Help us to trust in his presence and follow him with  
courage. May we remain close to you in prayer, and may  
your Spirit strengthen us to serve one another faithfully,  
so that, even amid difficulties, we may reach the safe  
harbor of your eternal love.  
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.

## HOMILY

A fisherman once told the story of a frightening night at sea. A sudden storm arose, the wind was strong, and the waves were rough. For a while he felt completely lost in the darkness. Then he saw the faint light of the harbour lighthouse in the distance. The storm had not stopped, but he said, "Once I saw the light, I knew I would make it."

The Gospel today describes a similar experience for the disciples.

After feeding the crowd, Jesus withdraws to the mountain by himself to pray. Meanwhile the disciples set out across the Sea of Galilee without him. Soon the wind grows strong, the sea becomes rough, and darkness falls. They struggle to row forward and seem to be getting nowhere.

Then, in the middle of the storm, they see Jesus coming toward them across the water. He says to them, "It is I. Do not be afraid." In fact, the words can also mean "I am. Do not be afraid," echoing the name of God revealed to

Moses. Jesus comes to them as God's reassuring presence in the midst of their fear.

The Gospel reminds us that our own journey of life and faith can sometimes feel like that crossing of the lake. We try to move forward, but at times we meet strong winds, rough seas, and moments of darkness. It is precisely then that the Lord comes to us and says, "Do not be afraid."

The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles shows that even the early Church experienced storms. There was tension in the community because some widows felt neglected. The apostles responded wisely. They invited others in the community, people filled with the Spirit and wisdom, to take responsibility for this ministry, while they themselves focused on prayer and the service of the word. What could have become a serious conflict instead became an opportunity for growth.

Both readings remind us how important it is to remain connected to the Lord in prayer. Without him we struggle,

like the disciples rowing in the dark. But when the Lord enters the boat, the journey becomes possible again.

A child once asked his grandfather during a night walk, "How can we find our way in the dark?" The grandfather lifted his lantern and said, "This light only shows a few steps ahead, but if we keep walking with it, it will take us all the way home."

Faith is like that lantern. We may not see the whole journey ahead, but when the Lord is with us, even through strong winds and rough seas, he will lead us safely to the shore. Amen.

### **INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

As we bring forward these gifts of bread and wine, let us also offer our hearts, our struggles, and our faith, so that the Lord may calm the storms in our lives and guide us safely. Let us pray, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, accept these gifts and the prayers of your people. As you sent your Son to reassure the disciples in the storm, so send your Spirit upon us.

Transform these gifts into the Body and Blood of Christ, and strengthen us in faith, hope, and love, so that we may follow him faithfully through life's challenges. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PREFACE

It is truly right and just to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

In your great love, you sent your Son to guide and protect us, even amid life's storms.

He walks toward us in darkness and fear, saying, "*Do not be afraid.*"

Through him, the Church is strengthened and united, and your people are guided safely to the harbor of your eternal love.

With the angels and saints, we praise your name and proclaim your glory: **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

## INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

With confidence, let us pray to our Father, who guides and protects us through all storms of life:

## EMBOLISM

Lord, deliver us from every evil, and free us from the fear that keeps us from trusting your presence.

Calm the storms of our hearts and lead us safely through every difficulty.

May we walk in faith, trusting that you are always with us, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

## PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you walked toward your disciples amid their fear and darkness, and your presence brought peace.

Look upon your Church and upon our world.

Where people are overwhelmed by life's challenges, bring reassurance; where hearts are anxious, bring calm; where fear and despair prevail, bring hope.

May we live as witnesses to your guiding light and peace in the world. You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ comes to us, even amid life's storms, bringing his presence and reassuring us with his peace. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

### **SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION**

Even when we cannot see the full path ahead, Christ is with us. Like the disciples on the stormy sea, we are guided and reassured by his presence. In the Eucharist, he strengthens our faith and gives us the courage to continue our journey.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord God, you send your Son to guide and strengthen us through life's storms. May the Eucharist we have received give us courage and peace, so that we may follow him faithfully, trusting his presence, and serving others along the way. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **BLESSING**

May God, who walks with us through every storm, fill your hearts with courage, hope, and faith. May Jesus Christ, our Lord, be your guiding light and strengthen you in all challenges. And may the Holy Spirit lead you safely through life's trials, so that you may reach the eternal harbor of God's love. And may almighty God bless you, the Father ✠ and the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, and trust that Christ is always with you, guiding you through every storm.

### **TAKE-HOME THOUGHT**

Faith is like a lantern in the dark: we may not see the whole journey, but with Christ's presence, every step is safe.  
**Even through life's storms, God will lead us to the shore.**