

Do not fear: I am with you;
do not be anxious:
I am your God.
I will strengthen you,
I will help you,
I will uphold you.
~ Isaiah 41:10

Get Real!

Those of us who flatter ourselves that we have a “realistic” view of the world may listen to the first reading today and say, “Get real!” when we hear Luke’s account of the early, Elysian days of the Christian movement. All seems to be rosy, lots of wonders are performed, everyone shares selflessly, they eat together in “exultation,” and the Lord added to their numbers? Well, who wouldn’t be attracted to a group like this? From the wind that swept through the upper room at Pentecost as the Spirit of God blew over the face of the waters in Genesis, and the fire that appeared over each disciple as the light appeared at the dawn of creation, Luke’s intent in Acts is to show a new creation, a restoration of creation’s original goodness through the working of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who continues to make us into the Body of Christ. We may occasionally, like Thomas in the Gospel, say, “Get real!” but our ultimate reality in the Spirit is to work continually to make our Christian community a new creation, one in which others will find God’s joy and beauty.

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Our Sunday bulletin is an important way for us to communicate with you, especially during these days of the Coronavirus pandemic. It might be the only way that we can reach some of you. Every bulletin that you receive is paid for through the generosity of the businesses that you see advertised on the back cover. Most of these advertisers are members of our local community, and many belong to our parish. We urge you to think of them when you decide to have a meal or other item delivered to your door. Tell the business owners that you appreciate their support of our parish through their advertisements in the bulletin. This is one small way that we can work within our own community to weather the challenges that we face. Together we can help each other make it through.

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Readings for the Week

- Monday:** Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-9; Jn 3:1-8
- Tuesday:** Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15
- Wednesday:** Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21
- Thursday:** Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36
- Friday:** Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15
- Saturday:** 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20
- Sunday:** Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35



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Saints and Special Observances

- Sunday:** Second Sunday of Easter
(or Sunday of Divine Mercy);
Julian Calendar Easter
- Tuesday:** St. Anselm; Yom Hashoah
(Holocaust Remembrance Day)
- Wednesday:** Administrative Professionals Day;
Earth Day
- Thursday:** St. George; St. Adalbert
- Friday:** St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen;
National Arbor Day
- Saturday:** St. Mark

Today's Readings

First Reading — All who believed were devoted to the teachings of the apostles, the communal life, the breaking of the bread, and prayer (Acts 2:42-47).

Psalms — Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting (Psalm 118).

Second Reading — God has given us an undiminished inheritance, safeguarded for us in heaven (1 Peter 1:3-9).

Gospel — The risen Christ comes to his disciples with peace and the Spirit. The absent Thomas doubts (John 20:19-31).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



DIVINE MERCY

Today's first reading (Acts 2:42-47) presents a beautiful account of life among the early followers of Jesus, the people known as Christians. This list of the things they did showed people that they were continuing the work of Jesus. Next to these descriptions from the Acts of the Apostles, write how you continue that work today.



- They gathered for the breaking of the bread.

I do the same when I _____

- They prayed together.

I do the same when I _____

- They offered what they owned to help those in need.

I do the same when I _____

- They lived their lives praising God.

I do the same when I _____



This second Sunday of Easter is also called Divine Mercy Sunday. One of the most important characteristics of a Christian is the ability to forgive. Jesus even forgave those who put him on the cross. He told his followers that they must do the same. Jesus also forgives us when we find it too hard to do what he asks.

- The early Christians forgave one another.

I do the same when I _____

- The early Christians were not afraid to ask forgiveness. They knew that Jesus was full of mercy.

I do the same when I _____



Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you."

John 20:19

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