

APRIL 17, 2022
EASTER

Psalm 22

The Crucifixion is a Moment of Distress and Trust that Gives Way to the Resurrection

If you have lived long enough, you have experienced some moment of distress. You have known extreme anxiety, sorrow, or pain. Such has been brought on by an external force you most likely did not have control over. And in that moment, you might have cried out, "my Lord, my Lord, why have you forsaken me?" These words come from Psalm 22. They are the words Jesus cried from the cross. "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"

On this Easter, the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, we remember Jesus' death cry. (Mark 15:34; Matthew 27:46) It evokes darkness as it was dark at the time of the crucifixion. It was an unusual darkness. (Mk 15:33) But is the darkness all bad?

The darkness at the time of the crucifixion may give rise to new life. That is, in the Old Testament darkness precedes God's creation. Something great is happening. Dark times lead to new light. God is not giving us darkness. God always leads to light. God leads us to new life. That is the call to us all. We are pointed in the direction of the salvation that brings Hope. So, the darkness of the most distressful moment of Jesus' earthly life gives way to the resurrection, the greatest triumph of love.

Jesus did not lose hope. In his case his death cry is a prayer. Calling God "My God" He is showing trust in God. Jesus is referencing Ps. 22. Read the whole psalm. It moves to hope and faith in a God who is life. Jesus is demonstrating great faith. He places his spirit into the hands of the Father.

God did not turn his face away. This is true and felt in the Old Testament sense when Psalm 22 was written and also when in New Testament times Jesus is quoted in the Gospels invoking the psalm. Psalm 22 shows the triumphant fate of one who prays. The author of the psalm was committed to God since birth. Jesus was committed to the Father since his birth.

Throughout Jesus' earthly ministry he showed his faith in the Father. In John he says, "I am never alone because the Father is with me." And he says, "The Father and I are one." In the Gospel of Luke Jesus

speaks of being in Paradise. In all, Jesus is not conceding abandonment nor the denial of the Father.

Jesus' cry is an explosion of suffering in love! The death process must play itself out. It is permitted to happen. The silence that is broken by Jesus' cry in distress is the sign that the death is permitted. The death must take place to reveal the power of the Father's creative love. The cry of Jesus breaks the silence and gives way to the resurrection. This is not the first time Jesus cries out.

In John's Gospel (Jn.5:28ff) Jesus cries out to Lazarus, "Come out"! He cries out to Lazarus and all who are in their graves to come out. There are different cries found in the scriptures. There are cries of proclamation. There are cries of the crowd and there are cries for help. Jesus uses the cry to raise Lazarus. It is a cry that raises all of us.

Jesus' use of Psalm 22 and the psalm itself is not a mere cry of distress. Overall, it stands to point out God's past mercy. "In you our ancestors trusted: they trusted and were not disappointed." Then it moves to an invitation to praise God. It calls for a universal chorus of praise. That is, all of us, all of creation is to praise God. "Then I will proclaim your name to the assembly, in the community I will praise you."

As Jesus dies on the cross the Father shows His divine intervention. At the point of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection the people begin to see the saving power of God! The distress but trust of Jesus in the Father gives way to the resurrection that all may participate in. The whole of the event is a climactic day for all of us.

Where are you now?? That is, what distress might you be in? Likewise, what distress have you already come through? Have you come through to the Resurrection yet? Do you still wallow in the distress of the past? Have you read the one line of Psalm 22 only? Have you read the whole psalm?

Give way to the Resurrection. Pray to the Holy Spirit to give you courage to reconcile with whomever and whatever you must. Become one again with God's people and with God. Give way to the Resurrection.

STEWARDSHIP

Time, Talent, Tithing

It is our way of showing gratitude to God for life itself. It is also your way of being part of the mission and participating in the challenge of spreading the Good News of Love.

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Attendance last week: | 340 |
| Tithes Collected: | \$6,439.00 |
| Online Giving: | \$457.00 |
| Total: | \$6,896.00 |

Thank You!

Archbishop's Charities and Development Drive

ABCD

Disciples in Faith. Missionaries of Hope. Servants for Charity.

Please make your pledge. Make sure your pledge card designates your pledge originates from Blessed Sacrament Parish. We must claim our quota.

**Our Goal
\$62,000.00
Let Us Do It!**

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

DIVINE MERCY

April 24, 2022

Acts 5:12-16

Ps. 118

Revelation 1:9-11, 12-13, 17-19

John 20:19-31

During the Easter Season we are inspired by the Holy Spirit's intensive work in the earliest days of the Church. The Scripture readings ring with enthusiasm over the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The power of God's Love overcomes even death on a cross. Moreover, especially seen in the Acts of the Apostles, is the development of the Church as the Lord's institution on Earth that maintains His presence in its structure that includes the Sacraments. The Holy Scriptures themselves take up to two generations to be written and even longer to be accepted by the Church as its canon.

Truly pay attention to all the readings throughout the Easter Season. We will go on a journey of Faith guided by the Holy Spirit that informs us we are the one true Church. The journey of the Easter season takes us through to Jesus's Ascension and to the sending of the Holy Spirit that is celebrated at Pentecost!

The Spirit now maintains the presence of Jesus in his community of Faith, the Church, until his second coming. The evidence of the development of the foundational phase of the Church is evident in the Scripture Readings of the Easter Season. From this foundation the Church has developed with its Scriptures, Tradition and Magisterium.

Christ's Church is evidence of his mercy. The Lord knew we human beings would need a divinely inspired and guided structure to keep us on the right path to salvation. His divine mercy still works in and through us as a community of Faith even correcting us whenever necessary and soothing us when distressed and lifting us up in his glory because he loves us. He expects us to ascent in faith to following in the Church the way to salvation. Turning away from the Church is to turn away from the Lord's divine mercy. We see this in today's gospel passage.

Jesus makes his resurrection appearance on the first day of the week. That is, the eighth day after his resurrection. It is the Day of the Lord and is a sign that considers this to be a moment beyond time. It is outside the ordinary. It will be the eighth day when the Lord will appear again in glory to usher in the fullness of God's kingdom. That is, the second coming. All this has happened and will happen as a result of God's Divine Mercy.

In today's scene in the gospel Jesus enters the room without asking permission to enter, and without invitation to come in. Jesus simply comes and stands among them. He wanted to be with his friends. This is mercy illustrated. Mercy is always in front of us. But there are times we fail to see God's mercy or put up walls that prevent us from seeing it. This is what Thomas does.

Thomas wants proof. He closes himself off to the Lord's mercy. Thomas will not believe the testimony of the other apostles.

Be open to Mercy. Keep your eyes and ears open to the blessed moments in your life. See them as God's way of saying, "here I am". Be of soft heart. Let the power of the Resurrection work in your life. And make your life in the Church that is guided by the Holy Spirit.

Divine Mercy Chaplet

Sunday April 24th, 2022, after the 10:45am Liturgy. Please plan to stay for just a little longer after Mass and pray the chaplet with the community. It will take about an extra 15 minutes.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts5:27-32, 40b-41; Rev5:11-14; Jn21:1-19

COMMUNITY

Faith Formation Families Event

Sunday May 1st

After the 10:45am Liturgy the families participating in our Faith Formation program will take part in an hour and a half of play activities. This is to build up fellowship among the children and parents.

Mother's Day

You can print the name of your mother, grandmother, mother-in-law, wife, etc., on the sheet that is in the foyer. Father Bob will remember them all in his prayers and in a novena of Masses.

"Operation Utilities Bag"

Remember, keep filling your Zip Lock Bag with Currency. The little money you save here and there each day truly adds up for the many people the Saint Vincent de Paul Society serves every week.

One major project they perform each Friday, from 1:30pm to 4:00pm is the Food Distribution. Stop by and see it in operation someday. It is a marvel how it all works.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, June 10-12, 2022

You're invited to deepen your communication, strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance, and renew your sacrament by attending the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. A series of presentations made by the Presenting Team, consisting of 3 married couples and 1 priest. Each presentation builds on the last as we examine ourselves, our behaviors and attitudes, our relationship with our spouse and God. Communication tools are taught on the weekend helping couples connect in healthy, constructive ways on areas that can deepen their intimacy and connectedness. After the Weekend couples often return to their lives and families, refreshed, with a

renewed commitment to each other. Sign up here: www.wvme.org, Fort Lauderdale is the location. \$100 Non-refundable registration fee applies.

Contact Information: For more information contact-Frank & Fran Kulzer, 954-961-5078/954-801-0661 or Roberto & Maria Ibarra, 954-972-8129

Archdiocese of Miami Human Resource Department

St. Helen Catholic Church and School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida has an opening for a *full-time Bookkeeper*. This position is responsible for financial, accounting, payroll, and other business-related support to the church and school. Other functions include processing of personnel-related transactions, entering invoices, maintaining inventories, and processing new-hire information. For a more complete description of tasks and required qualifications, visit

https://www.miamiarch.org/CatholicDiocese.php?op=Job_Openings, click on the green "Church" tab, and select the job listed.

Schedule is 40 hours per week.

To apply: Send resume with cover letter to Rev. Lucien Pierre, Pastor at Fatherlucien@sainthelen.net and Careers@theadom.org.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Joe Alfaro, Jordan Almendral, JoAnn Anderson, Angiolina Armenti, Michael Beard, Karen Becker, Mary Benivegna, Margarita Bogle, Tom Carver, Sean Chin, Robert Clark, Mary Collis, John Cooper, Logan Costante, Gregoria Daen, Sam DeMarco, Ines DeSalle, Roseanne DeSimone, Lisa DeStasio, Joseph Devlin, John Dooney, Nelson Douaihi, Peggy Duff, Susan Fabbri, Lisa Findlay, Megan Forrester, Joshua Freeman, Richard Gossett, Ana Gilajota, Stephen Goch, Keri Greenan, Richard & Cathy Harper, Tyler Harrison, Dil Hatchett, Cindy Hogman, Tiffany Kentosh, Butch Klinger, Judith Kolo, John LaNeve, Tamika Lee, Bernie Ligget, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Mary McKelvey, Clare McMahan, Frank McNeil, Rylee Mertz, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Thomas O'Brien, Barbara Perry, Della Mae Reblin, Lucy Reitano, Coleen Riley, Paul Riley, Dee Ripple, Matilda Rivier, Charles Rousseau, Anthony Ruggiero, Theresa Schluter, Brad Schroder, Ellen Seaman, Roger Sherman, Jim Smullen, Vivian Spasiano, Rick Steffan, M. Stoufer, Richard Taylor, Antoinette Teresi, Constantino Thomas, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wrisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

MASS INTENTIONS

Dunn

10:45 a.m. † Peggy Dimovski by Brother
Eve, Calob, Jacob Brommer by
Aunt Anita

Saturday, April 16
8:00 p.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish

Sunday, April 17
9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish
10:45 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish

Monday, April 18
8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, April 19
8:00 a.m. † Rev. Benjamin M. Horton, SSJ
by Daniel Murphy

Wednesday, April 20
8:00 a.m. † Rev. Charles H. McTague by
Daniel Murphy

Thursday, April 21
8:00 a.m. † Rev. Benjamin M. Horton, SSJ
by Daniel Murphy

Friday, April 22
8:00 a.m. † Jean Emanski Sakska by John
Galinas

Saturday, April 23
4:00 p.m. † Rev. Benjamin M. Horton, SSJ
by Daniel Murphy
† Peter R. Mannion by Mannion
Family & Carol Walgenwitt

Sunday, April 24
9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish
10:45 a.m. † Robert D. Joyce by Joan Joyce
& Judy Dempsey
† E. Thomas Marchese by son
David

Monday, April 25
8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, April 26
8:00 a.m. Past & Present Members &
Benefactors of St. Vincent de
Paul Society

Wednesday, April 27
8:00 a.m. † Rev. Charles H. McTague by
Daniel Murphy

Thursday, April 28
8:00 a.m. † Rev. Benjamin M. Horton, SSJ
by Daniel Murphy

Friday, April 29
8:00 a.m. † Rev. Charles H. McTague by
Daniel Murphy

Saturday, April 30
4:00 p.m. † Andres Martorell by Wife
† Rev. Benjamin M. Horton, SSJ
by Daniel Murphy

Sunday, May 1
9:00 a.m. † Jean Yves Dartois & Alette
Berthier by Catherine & Donald

