

to laud you yet more gloriously,
when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.
For he is the true Lamb
who has taken away the sins of the world;
by dying he has destroyed our death,
and by rising, restored our life.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy,
every land, every people exults in your praise
and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts,
sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The mystery of faith: **Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.**

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

REFLECTION

The First Christians

'These Christians love one another. They never fail to help widows. They save orphans from those who would hurt them. If a man has something, he gives freely to the man who has nothing. If they see a stranger, Christians take him into their homes and treat him as a brother. And if they hear that one of them is in jail, or persecuted for professing the name of their redeemer, they all give him what he needs. If it is possible, they bail him out. If one of them is poor and there isn't enough food to go around, they fast several days to give him the food he needs. We are dealing with a new kind of person. There is something divine in them.'

Aristides, a non-Christian.

Prayer after Communion

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that our reception of this paschal Sacrament may have a continuing effect in our minds and hearts. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Final Blessing:

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

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

Amen.

Go in peace, alleluia.

Thanks be to God, alleluia.

God be with you on the road of life's agonies
Christ be with you in life's ecstasies,
the Spirit be with you to encourage and bless you
at all times and in all time.

Second Sunday of Easter **B**



Entrance Antiphon: **Like new-born infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.**

Our faith is exposed to the harsh winds of doubt which blow through the modern world. Here on Sunday we experience a strengthening of our faith.

Lord, you strengthen our faith by your presence among us.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, you strengthen our faith by your steadfast love for us.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, you nourish our faith with your word and the Eucharistic food.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Let us pray:

God of everlasting mercy, who, in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith for the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed. 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.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 4:32-35

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common. The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

