



Second Sunday Of Easter

The Healing Power Of Touch

Introduction

Faith is a delicate thing. It is exposed to the harsh winds of doubt, cynicism, and despair, which frequently blow through the modern world. It is like a candle burning in an exposed place. Here on Sunday we ought to experience a great strengthening of our faith – our faith in each other, in ourselves, in life, in God, and especially in the presence of the Risen Christ among us. Renewing our faith in God's love and mercy, let us confess our sins.

First Reading (Acts 4:32-35)

This paints a glowing picture of the first Christian Community. It is a community ideally faithful to the Gospel message.

Second Reading (1 John 5:1-6)

The Christian is a child of God. He shows his love for God by keeping his commandments.

Gospel (John 20:19-31)

By touching the wounds of the Risen Jesus Thomas' doubt is turned into belief.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray to God our Father in the spirit of today's Gospel, so that his Risen Son may touch our lives and heal in us the wounds of separation and of sin.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who celebrate the Eucharist: that they may experience the presence of Christ among them as the apostles did on Easter Day. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



Liturgy Cycle B

For our leaders: that Christ may touch their minds and hearts, and so enable them to build a human society based on love, justice and peace. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who are wounded emotionally or physically: that their wounds may be touched and healed by those who care for them. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Communion Reflection

(Aristides, a non-Christian, when defending the Christians before the Emperor Hadrian made the following statement)

“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.

Not that they consider themselves brothers

in the usual sense,

but brothers instead through the Spirit, in God.

“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”.