



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Second Sunday of Easter

Overview

The Second Sunday of Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday, encompasses several key themes that are reflected in the Mass readings and the Church's teachings. The most prominent theme is Jesus Christ's Divine Mercy, particularly as manifested in his death and resurrection. The readings highlight Jesus's resurrection as the foundation of Christian hope and the promise of new life. Christ's rising from the dead signifies the ultimate victory over sin and death, offering believers the opportunity to share in his eternal life.

The apostles' actions, filled with signs and wonders, demonstrate the importance of witnessing to the resurrected Christ. The readings call on believers to proclaim the Gospel through both words and deeds, sharing the message of salvation and inviting others to encounter the risen Lord.

The Gospel is the story of doubting Thomas, who comes to believe in the risen Christ through a personal encounter. It underscores the importance of faith and trust in God's mercy, even in the face of doubt or uncertainty. This communal aspect highlights the importance of unity, mutual support, and love within the Church.

Contents

Overview	1
Background	3
Key Message for Children.....	3
The Liturgy	4
Procession from the main Church	4
Welcome.	4
FIRST READING	5
RESPONSORIAL PSALM	6
SECOND READING	7
GOSPEL.....	8
Adapted Readings for Children	10
FIRST READING	10
RESPONSORIAL PSALM.....	11
GOSPEL.....	12
Reflection	13
The Creed	14
Prayer of the Faithful	15
Return to the church.....	15

Background

Acts 5:12-16 describes the early Church in Jerusalem, marked by signs, wonders, and a growing number of believers. This passage reveals important theological meanings related to the power of the apostles, the presence of God, and the attraction of the early Christian community. It reveals the early Church as a community empowered by the Holy Spirit. The passage underscores the Church's mission to manifest Christ's healing presence in the world and to offer hope to all who are in need.

Psalms 118 emphasizes the enduring, steadfast love of the Lord, calling on Israel, the house of Aaron, and those who fear the Lord to proclaim it. It implores the Lord for salvation and success, blessing those who come in the name of the Lord and acknowledging that the Lord is God who gives light.

Revelation 1 The passage presents a powerful vision of the Risen Christ, rich in symbolism and theological meaning. It reveals Christ's glory, authority, and his message to the Church, offering hope to believers facing suffering.

John 20:19-31 Understanding the Church's mission, the sacraments, and faith is important. Jesus wants to share peace and help his followers with reconciliation. The story of Thomas shows the importance of having faith, even when we doubt, and the blessings of believing without seeing. John's Gospel tells about Jesus appearing after his resurrection and focuses on a God who is also human. Jesus gives the Church the power to forgive, which means recognizing past hurts. Just like a healed bone can become stronger, forgiveness creates a strong bond of love between the person who forgives and the person who is forgiven.

Key Message for Children

- † The Gift of Peace: Jesus appears to his disciples and says, "Peace be with you."
- † Believing Without Seeing: The story of Thomas teaches us about faith.
- † The Power of the Apostles: Jesus chose the apostles to spread his message.
- † Being Part of the Church: We can support each other by praying, helping and sharing.
- † Jesus is Alive: The most important message of Easter is that Jesus is alive!

The Liturgy

Procession from the main Church

After the opening prayer, when all are seated, the leaders come forward and stand facing the altar.

Priest: (in these or similar words)

Happy Easter! On Easter, we celebrate Jesus's resurrection. It's a super happy time, like a big party for Jesus. Go with your leaders to listen to what this means for us.

When most of the children have formed a procession, the leader with the book proceeds to the place of the celebration. The second leader usually walks behind the children. Upon arrival at the location of the celebration, the leader places the book on the prepared table.

Welcome.

The leaders assist the children in sitting and preparing. **Begin with the Sign of the Cross.** Help the children think and connect their actions as they touch their foreheads, shoulders, and stomachs. The leader may say the following prayer in these or similar words.

Let us pray:

(pause for a few seconds)

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for rising from the dead and bringing us peace.

Help us to believe in you, even when we cannot see you.

Fill our hearts with joy and faith.

Amen.

Invite the children to listen to the readings. Proclaiming all the readings is unnecessary; however, the Gospel is required.

FIRST READING

Acts 5.12-16

*More than ever, believers were added to the Lord,
great numbers of both men and women.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- 12 Many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles.
And the believers were all together in Solomon's Portico.
- 13 None of the rest dared to join them,
but the people held them in high esteem.
- 14 Yet more than ever, believers were added to the Lord,
great numbers of both men and women,
- 15 so that they even carried out the sick into the streets,
and laid them on cots and mats,
in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them
as he came by.
- 16 A great number of people would also gather
from the towns around Jerusalem,
bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits,
and they were all cured.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

The word of the Lord.

Children: Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 118.2-4, 22-24, 25-27a

- R.** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
God's love is everlasting.
- 2** Let Israel say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."
- 3** Let the house of Aaron say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."
- 4** Let those who fear the Lord say,
"His steadfast love endures forever. **R.**
- 22** The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23** This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.
- 24** This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it. **R.**
- 25** Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!
- 26** Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
We bless you from the house of the Lord.
- 27** The Lord is God,
and he has given us light. **R.**

SECOND READING

Revelation 1.9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

- 9 I, John, your brother
who share with you in Jesus
the persecution and the kingdom and the patient endurance,
was on the island called Patmos
because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.
- 10 I was in the spirit on the Lord's day,
and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet
- 11 saying, "Write in a book what you see
and send it to the seven churches."
- 12 Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me,
and on turning, I saw seven golden lampstands,
- 13 and in the midst of the lampstands
I saw one like the Son of Man,
clothed with a long robe
and with a golden sash across his chest.
- 17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.
But he placed his right hand on me, saying,
"Do not be afraid;
I am the first and the last,
and the living one.
- 18 I was dead, but see, I am alive forever and ever;
and I have the keys of Death and of Hades.
- 19 Now write what you have seen,
what is, and what is to take place after this."

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

The word of the Lord.

Children: Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

The children stand for the Gospel. They sign themselves on the forehead, lips, and chest.

GOSPEL

John 20.19-31

A week later Jesus came and stood among them.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

- 19 It was evening on the day Jesus rose from the dead,
the first day of the week,
and the doors of the house
where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the authorities.
Jesus came and stood among them and said,
"Peace be with you."
- 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
- 21 Jesus said to them again,
"Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
- 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.
- 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them;
if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."
- 24 But Thomas, who was called the Twin, one of the twelve,
was not with them when Jesus came.
- 25 So the other disciples told him,
"We have seen the Lord."
But he said to them,
"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands,
and put my finger in the mark of the nails
and my hand in his side,
I will not believe."
- 26 A week later his disciples were again in the house,
and Thomas was with them.
Although the doors were shut,
Jesus came and stood among them and said,

"Peace be with you."

27 Then he said to Thomas,
"Put your finger here and see my hands.
Reach out your hand and put it in my side.
Do not doubt but believe."

28 Thomas answered him,
"My Lord and my God!"

29 Jesus said to him,
"Have you believed because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have come to believe."

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples,
which are not written in this book.

31 But these are written so that you may come to believe
that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God,
and that through believing you may have life in his name.

At the end of the Gospel, the Minister of the Word proclaims, "The Gospel of the Lord."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Children: Glory to you, O Lord.

FIRST READING

Acts 5.12-16

*More than ever, believers were added to the Lord,
great numbers of both men and women.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- 12** The apostles — Jesus' special friends — did many amazing things. People saw the signs and wonders they did and were amazed.
- 14** More and more people began to believe in Jesus and joined the Church, and people came from all around.
- 15** They brought the sick and those who needed healing. Some hoped that even Peter's shadow might touch the sick as he walked by!
- 16** God helped the apostles heal many people. Everyone who came to them was made well.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

The word of the Lord.

Children: Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 118

R. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

2 Let Israel say,
"God is always merciful!"

4 Let those who fear the Lord say,
"God is always merciful!" **R.**

26 Blessed is the Lord.
We bless you.

27 The Lord is God,
and he has given us light. **R.**

The children stand for the Gospel. They sign themselves on the forehead, lips, and chest.

GOSPEL

John 20.19-31

A week later Jesus came and stood among them.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

- 19 It was evening on the day Jesus rose from the dead,
and the doors of the house were locked because they were afraid.
Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."
- 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
- 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.
- 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven.
- 24 But Thomas, one of the twelve apostles, was not with them.
- 25 The other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord."
But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands,
and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side,
I will not believe."
- 26 A week later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was there.
Although the doors were shut, Jesus appeared among them and said,
"Peace be with you."
- 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands.
Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."
- 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"
- 29 Jesus said to him,
Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have come to believe."

At the end of the Gospel, the Minister of the Word proclaims, "The Gospel of the Lord."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Children: Glory to you, O Lord.

Reflection

The leader may offer this reflection in these or similar words. Remember the amount of time available to return to the main assembly. The leader may wish to reduce the number of questions. An excellent place to begin is the question:

What did you hear? *(Allow children to respond)*

Today, we celebrate the Second Sunday of Easter. Easter is such a special time because we remember that Jesus is alive! We are reminded of the importance of believing in Jesus and sharing our faith with everyone we meet.

In the first reading, we hear about the apostles and all the amazing things they did. The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people, showing God's power and love.

Why do you think people brought the sick to Peter?

More and more people, both men and women, believed in Jesus. People brought the sick into the streets so that Peter's shadow might fall on them, and they were all healed. These miracles were signs of God's love and power working through the apostles.

How do you think the apostles felt when they saw Jesus alive?

They were filled with joy and vitality when they realized that Jesus was alive!

Why do you think Thomas found it hard to believe that Jesus was alive?

We can show our faith by being kind in our own lives. Think about someone you know who always helps others or is very kind. That person is showing Jesus' love to the world.

How can we share Jesus' love?

Like the apostles, we are called to share Jesus with everyone. We can share Jesus' love with others through small acts of kindness, like helping a friend, forgiving someone who has hurt us, or saying a prayer for someone in need. Even when it's hard, we can be brave in our faith, just like the apostles and John.

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess their faith. Recite the Creed or use the sample below to ask the children to respond.

The Creed

Depending on the time, a simple profession of faith may be made (see below).

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who gave his life for us?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts and gives us everlasting life?

All: I believe.

Leader: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it.

Prayer of the Faithful

The intercessions are said. The Leader introduces them - and an assistant announces them.

The leader says:

Let us bring our prayers to God. After each prayer, we will say: "Lord, hear our prayer." R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Assistant:

For the Church, that we may share the peace of Jesus with everyone. We pray to the Lord. R:

Assistant:

For ourselves, that we may believe in Jesus even when we cannot see him. We pray to the Lord. R:

Assistant:

For people who are afraid or alone, that they may feel Jesus' love. We pray to the Lord. R:

Assistant:

For all who are sick or suffering, that God may bring them healing, peace, and comfort. We pray to the Lord. R:

Assistant:

For Pope Francis – that God welcomes him into Heaven. We pray to the Lord. R:

The Leader says:

Heavenly Father, thank you for hearing our prayers. Help us to trust in you always. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Let's finish by making the Sign of the Cross together.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Return to the church.

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and think about what they have heard and are now doing. Be mindful of children having difficulty finding their families.

Readings: Lectionary for Sundays and Solemnities, CCCB, Ottawa, ON.
All rights reserved and prepared by the Diocese of Hamilton, Liturgy Office, © 2025.



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON