

“The Lord Has Been Truly Raised!” (Luke: Chapter 24, verse 24)

If Christ had not risen from the dead, there would be no Eucharist as we know it.

We might have a meal commemorating his last supper. But it would only be a memorial, a re-enactment-no more real than people gathering on July 4<sup>th</sup> to dress up like the colonists and ring the liberty Bell.

But the Eucharist is not a re-enactment. IT IS REAL. It is “live.” It is the Risen Lord himself who leads every celebration of the Eucharist. It isn’t something we do on our own. The Church teaches that the Mass is “the action of Christ and the People of God.”

It is the Risen Lord, in his glorified human body, who calls us together, who hosts the celebration, and invites us to join him as he continues to give himself-and us-to the God he calls Abba.

Christ DID rise from the dead. That’s why we get together every Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist.

And that’s why every Sunday has traditionally been called “Little Easter.”

The Resurrection was not a resuscitation-like Lazarus. Jesus has gone through death, to a transformed human existence (he wasn’t recognized at first), to the “right hand of God,” and is now present to them in a new and fuller way, As one of the Eucharist prayers says: “Father in heaven...Jesus now lives with you in glory, but he is also here on earth among us.”

After Jesus’ Resurrection, He opened the apostle’s minds to a deeper understanding of the Scriptures. This is what is supposed to happen in the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. The proclaimed Word takes on new meaning because of the feast, the setting...and most of all, because it is the Lord who is present and active in the Word saying something to us.

The Lord, through the Spirit, is especially present to us. Now.

Prayer...

God of the living, you sent your Son in mercy to open for us the gates of eternal life. Open the hearts of all peoples to receive the Good News of his dying and rising in faith and love, through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. AMEN

“THERE IS NOTHING THE WORLD NEEDS MORE THAN DIVINE MERCY”

The Feast of Divine Mercy provides the perfect complement to Holy Week. In this devotion, we acknowledge the merciful love of God and his Divine mercy to all. It is one of the most beautiful and genuine expressions of God’s love, one that’s celebrated on the Sunday following Easter Sunday.

### A FEAST of MERCY

In the evening, when I was in my cell, I saw the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand [was] raised in the gesture of blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From beneath the garment, slightly drawn aside at the breast, there were emanating two large rays, one red, the other pale. In silence I kept my gaze fixed on the Lord; my soul was struck with awe, but also with great joy. After a while, Jesus said to me, “Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus I trust in you. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I myself will defend it as my own glory.” .....from the diary of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska

### DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Novena Dates; April 2-10    Feast Day: April 11

I fly to Your Mercy, Compassionate God, Who alone are good.

Although my misery is great and my offense are many, I trust in Your Mercy because You Are the God of Mercy, and it has never been heard of in all ages, nor do Heaven and earth remember, that a soul trusting in Your mercy as been disappointed. (state your intentions.)

Jesus, Friend of a lonely heart, You are my haven. You are my peace. You are my salvation. You are my serenity in moments of struggle and amidst an ocean of doubts.

AMEN

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.)