



# Liturgy of the Word for Individuals, Families & Communities

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Easter Time Year C – Sunday of Divine Mercy – ANZAC Weekend

**Prepare a prayer focus and light a candle.**

**SIGN OF THE CROSS: Ki te ingoa...**

**READER:** Kia noho te Ariki ki a koutou -- The Lord be with you

**ALL:** Ki tōu wairua anō hoki -- And also with you

**READER:**

Ata Marie ki a koutou. Welcome everyone. Jesus words to the terrified disciples were 'Peace be with you.' So, peace be to all today. Peace to the children, peace to the teens, to mums and dads, aunts and uncles, grandmas and grandads, friends and neighbours. Peace! It's ANZAC weekend, it's also Divine Mercy Sunday, and we remember Earth Day, which was celebrated on Friday. Let's begin by singing our National Anthem.

**The National Anthem:** God Defend New Zealand - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwlvpNFKetk>

**READER:** E te Atua, God of mercy, having been washed by the lamb, we turn to you in expectant hope, knowing that all which is good, we receive from you.

Unfathomable Divine Mercy, you are merciful in all your ways

Lord have mercy

Unfathomable Divine Mercy, you are the fount of life

**(All)** Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

Unfathomable Divine Mercy, you wipe away our sins

**(All)** Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy

**All)** Lord have mercy

Divine Mercy Chaplet, available here - <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/divine-mercy-chaplet>

**OPENING PRAYER:** Ka inoi tatou – let us pray. In this time of silence, we bring to mind all the things we want to pray for. *(Allow silence, 1 minute)*

God of everlasting mercy, increase our understanding of your saving action, that we too might be instruments of your mercy and saving action. Through Jesus our Lord and in the unity of the Holy Spirit we pray. **ALL: Amen**

**FIRST READING Acts 5:12-16**

A reading from the book of Acts

Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles.

They were all together in Solomon's portico.

None of the others dared to join them, but the people esteemed them.

Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord,

great numbers of men and women, were added to them.

Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets

and laid them on cots and mats

so that when Peter came by,

at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them.

A large number of people from the towns

in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered,

bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits,

and they were all cured

Ko te kupu a te Ariki - The Word of the Lord

**ALL:** Whakamoemiti ki te Atua - Thanks be to God

**Silence** – *Let's be quiet for a few moments and let God's Word find a place to rest inside us.*

**Discuss** - Describe the scene in the streets captured in this reading.

**PSALM:**        *Psalm 118*        *Give thanks to the Lord who is good. God's love is everlasting*  
                    *Children*            <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-gJvoWlwN8>  
                    *Youth*                [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7XEoGxJC\\_E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7XEoGxJC_E)  
                    *Adults*               <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O89s3ccbdDg>

**Second Reading** Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

A reading from the book of Revelation

I, John, your brother, who share with you  
the distress, the kingdom, and the endurance we have in Jesus,  
found myself on the island called Patmos  
because I proclaimed God's word and gave testimony to Jesus.  
I was caught up in spirit on the Lord's day  
and heard behind me a voice as loud as a trumpet, which said,  
"Write on a scroll what you see."  
Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me,  
and when I turned, I saw seven gold lampstands  
and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man,  
wearing an ankle-length robe, with a gold sash around his chest.

When I caught sight of him, I fell down at his feet as though dead.  
He touched me with his right hand and said, "Do not be afraid.  
I am the first and the last, the one who lives.  
Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever.  
I hold the keys to death and the netherworld.  
Write down, therefore, what you have seen,  
and what is happening, and what will happen afterwards."  
Ko te kupu a te Ariki - The Word of the Lord

**ALL:** Whakamoemiti ki te Atua - Thanks be to God

**Silence** - *Follow the reading with quiet thinking time.*

**Discuss** – What might this experience have felt like for John.

**GOSPEL:**        *John 20:19-31*

**Reader** Kia noho te Ariki - The Lord be with you

**All**        Ki tōu wairua anō hoki – And also with you

**Reader** A reading from the Gospel of John

On the evening of that first day of the week,  
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,  
for fear of the Jews,  
Jesus came and stood in their midst  
and said to them, "Peace be with you."  
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.  
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.  
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.  
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."  
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,  
"Receive the Holy Spirit.  
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,  
and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve,  
was not with them when Jesus came.  
So the other disciples said to 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 into the nail-marks  
and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside  
and Thomas was with them.  
Jesus came, although the doors were locked,  
and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."  
Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands,  
and bring your hand and put it into my side,  
and do not be unbelieving, but believe."  
Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"  
Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me?  
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

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

But these are written that you may come to believe  
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

**Reader** Ko te rongopai a te Ariki – The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL:** Kia whakanuia rā koe, e te Ariki, e Hēhu Karaiti –  
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

*After the reading - Silence.*

→ **Children's Reflection on the Gospel** – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqxfRBYQUPA>

→ **Adults / Youth - Reflection / Discussion** – Why do you think the greeting 'peace be with you,' was so important?

**READER: World Earth Day World Earth Day is celebrated annually.** This year it is celebrated on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. All people are encouraged to consider the state of our Common Home, take action to protect it and continue in prayer for the well-being of the Earth and all that depends on it. Pope Francis on world Earth Day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YBJ7Rh4OrOs>

(Visit this site to learn more about Earth Day <https://www.earthday.org/>)

### **World Earth Day Prayer**

We pray for the whole of Creation, for the Earth, and for unity and peace among all people.

E te Atua, Creator God, we thank you for the gift of creation. We ask your forgiveness where we have failed in our responsibility to be kaitiaki, guardians of the natural world. We ask for your guidance in restoring the face of the Earth. May we learn to live in harmony, safety and just sharing of resources among all so that we achieve the kingdom of God. Through Christ we pray. **All: Amen**

**Prayer of the Faithful: As God's people we pray for the needs of the whole world.**

**For the Church** – that all God's people throughout the world will be instruments of healing and peace.

(Silence)

**Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia. Let us rejoice!

**For leaders of nations** – that the desire to seek peace on earth for all people will be ardent and enduring.

(Silence)

**Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia. Let us rejoice!

**For people whose nation is torn by violence** – that a strong desire for peace will rise in all hearts, a desire which will not be dampened by greed or aggressive misuse of power.

(Silence)

**Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia. Let us rejoice!

**For refugees** – that people forced to flee their homes will be safe from slavery and human trafficking, that they will be made sincerely welcome, and cared for.

(Silence) **Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia. Let us rejoice!

**For children who suffer violence or abuse** – that their pain will be heard and healed.

(Silence) **Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia. Let us rejoice!

**For our Common Home** – that people but strive for simple lifestyles, showing compassion for all life.

(Silence) **Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia, Let us rejoice!

**Reader: ANZAC - Litany of Remembrance.** In New Zealand and Australia each year, we commemorate, especially, those who lost their lives while fighting for their country. It is good also to remember others impacted by war. And so we pray this litany.

**Reader:** For all who have died while serving their country in armed combat.

**All:** Lord be merciful

**Reader:** For families who have lost loved ones in war.

**All:** Lord be merciful

**Reader:** For those who have returned from war wounded, either mentally or physically.

**All:** Lord be merciful

**Reader:** For those whose community or country has been devastated by war.

**All:** Lord be merciful

**Reader:** For the physical and natural destruction caused by war.

**All:** Lord be merciful

**Reader:** For

**All:** Lord be merciful

**Reader:** For peace we pray

**All:** Lord be merciful.

**Concluding Prayer**

God who has sought to console people with peace, enliven our faith with confidence in the risen Christ. Listen to the prayers we bring to you and look kindly on all whose lives are bereft of peace, whose nights are wracked with fear and days with turmoil. Bless all who have not seen and yet have come to believe. We pray in the name of Jesus the risen one. **Amen.**

**READER:** The Lord's Prayer in Te Reo Māori. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUj1GNEVohYY>  
*Or the Lord's Prayer in English.*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

**READER:** May the God of all mercy be with you and bless you.  
May the doubts of your heart be reborn as hope in the living God.  
May the joy of the resurrection stay with you.  
May it touch and shape all you do and all you are.  
Through Christ our risen and merciful lord we pray.

**All: Amen**

**READER:** Thank you for your participation in this Liturgy of the Word, thank you for your kindness and presence. We rejoice always, because we do not walk alone, God who forgives readily, is with us always. May we be messengers of God's love, peace and forgiveness in the world today.

Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou – Peace be with you.

Let us go in peace, loving and serving God in all we do.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Song - Sons of Gallipoli* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N19p71z5iVI>