

April 19 2nd Easter Divine Mercy

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

All who believed were together and had ***all things in common**; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need.

No doubt early Xtians were full of zeal; But, with human nature, *'sharing' caused Gentile converts to complain as much as the Hebrew Xtians!.

Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together ***in the temple area** and to breaking bread in their homes.

The First Xtians *thought they were still Jews.

It seems they (1) had a meal with the Eucharist and (2) in homes, in 'house churches', as Paul did in his travels.

They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people.

And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

[Note we continue w Psalm 118, from Easter]

PSALM 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

R. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Or: R. Alleluia.

Let the house of Israel say,
"His mercy endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say,
"His mercy endures forever."

Let those who fear the LORD say,
"His mercy endures forever."

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.

I was hard pressed and was falling,
but the LORD helped me.
My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.

The joyful shout of victory
in the tents of the just:

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.
This is the day the LORD has made;
let us be glad and rejoice in it.

{*Xt is the **cornerstone** of His New Temple,
The Church.*}



Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1st Letter of PETER 1:3-9

Peter encourages the early Xtians to **HOPE**. Hope in Xt, in His Resurrection, through all the trials of Persecution. Your **FAITH + HOPE** will bring “the salvation of your souls”.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an **inheritance** that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, **kept in heaven** for you who by the power of God are safeguarded **through faith**, to a **salvation** *that is ready to be revealed in the final time.

In this you rejoice, although now for a little while/

you may have to suffer through various trials,

so that the genuineness of your **faith**,

more precious than gold that is perishable

even though tested by fire,

may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor

t the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Although you have not seen him you love him;

even though you do not see him now yet **believe in him**,

you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,

as you attain the goal of your faith, the **salvation of your souls**.

Your **inheritance** is HERE,
ready to be revealed.

So be **PATIENT**.

Remember most Early Xtians—and WE—
have not **SEEN XT**—yet.

We walk with **FAITH** in **HOPE** of His Promise.

Alleluia JOHN 20:29

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord;

blessed are they **who have not seen me, but still believe!** {This is for US!}

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL JOHN 20:19-31

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**.

Holy ***BREATH**, Greek: **πνεῦμα** “**pneuma**” [like pneumonia]

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 nailmarks

and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

***hands**, Xairos in Greek means: hand, forearm.
more than your ‘hand’.

John recounts this (1) for US, who have not seen,
and do believe,

and (2) to show the corporeal reality
of the Resurrected Christ.

He was not the same XT as before; but

He was NOT just a *Ghost* or Spirit.

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. {THIS is for US today!}

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**.

* remember "**name**" means PERSON, Power of that PERSON. The NAME is the PERSON.

A Jewish dad names a son, making the son HIS! He 'owns up' that this is MY son.

So NO Jew says יהוה out loud! No ONE can own Yahweh!

Jews say 'Adonai' / *Lord*, when they see יהוה. They never say "*Yahweh*".

The "picture" of Jesus, and his teaching, which started in Acts with the Apostles, continues today,
and is found in the Church, because: XT **breathed on them** and said to them, "Receive **the Holy Spirit**. = The Holy **BREATH**, Greek: **πνεῦμα**,"

that same "**breath**" that moved over the waters in Genesis, {creating the World}

is NOW creating a NEW Creation, is RE-NEWING the Face of the Earth.

***the Spirit of Truth**, resides in the assembly, the ekklesia. (In *Greek*: ἐκκλησία).

{3rd Person}

* for. . . "when He, **the Spirit of truth**, has come, **He** will guide you to all truth" (John 16:12-13)