

Divine Mercy Sunday – (Year A)

Readings: Acts 2:42–47 | 1 Peter 1:3–9 | Gospel of John 20:19–31

Theme: Divine Mercy

Introduction:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Today the Church celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday, a feast that reveals the very heart of God. Mercy is not simply one quality among many in God—it is the way God chooses to love humanity. The Polish mystic Saint Faustina Kowalska heard Jesus say: “The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy.” Through her, the Church was reminded that mercy is the deepest expression of God’s love.

Today’s readings invite us to contemplate Divine Mercy through four movements of salvation history: Mercy in Creation, Mercy in the Cross, Mercy in the Church, and Mercy in Our Mission.

1. Mercy in Creation

The first act of God toward humanity was mercy. In creation, God created humanity in His own image. As it says in Book of Genesis 1:27: “God created mankind in His image.” This is a profound act of mercy. Among all creatures, human beings receive dignity, freedom, intelligence, and the ability to love. God shares His life with us. Mercy Even After Sin: When the first humans, Adam and Eve, sinned, God did not destroy them. Instead, He showed mercy. God searched for them: “Where are you?” (Genesis 3:9) God clothed them with garments (Genesis 3:21). God promised a future Savior (Genesis 3:15). Even in the moment of sin, God’s mercy begins the plan of salvation. Creation Continues to Show Mercy: Every day we experience God’s mercy through creation. 🙌 The sun that gives light, 🙌 The rain that nourishes the earth, 🙌 The air we breathe, 🙌 The food that sustains life. As Psalm 145 says: “The Lord is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made.” Creation is therefore a constant sign that God cares for His people. Creation reveals the merciful heart of God. Before humanity even existed, God prepared a beautiful world for us. Even when humanity sinned, His mercy continued. Creation tells us a powerful truth: We exist because of God’s mercy, we live because of His mercy, and we are saved through His mercy.

2. Mercy in the Cross

The greatest revelation of God’s mercy is seen on the Cross of Jesus Christ. The Cross is not only a symbol of suffering; it is the throne of divine mercy, where God’s love is poured out for humanity.

Mercy in the Words of Jesus: Even while suffering on the Cross, Jesus Christ Spoke the words of mercy: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34) Here we see the heart of God. Instead of anger or revenge, Jesus offers forgiveness to those who crucified Him. This shows that God’s mercy reaches even those who reject Him.

Mercy for the Sinner: Next to Jesus were two criminals. One of them turned to Him and said: “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” (Luke 23:42) Jesus answered: “Today you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:43) At the last moment of his life, the sinner receives mercy. This teaches us that

God's mercy is always greater than our sins.

Mercy Through Sacrifice: The Cross is the place where love conquers sin. Jesus willingly offered His life for humanity. As St. Paul says: "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) The Cross shows that God does not save us by power but by sacrificial love. Through the Cross, Jesus transforms suffering into salvation.

When we look at the Cross, we do not see defeat; we see the victory of mercy. The Cross is God saying to the world: "I love you; I forgive you, and I want to save you." That is why Christians do not fear the Cross. We embrace it, because on the Cross mercy triumphed over sin.

3. Mercy in the Church

In today's Gospel from the Gospel of John, the risen Jesus appears to His disciples. They are afraid and hiding behind closed doors. But Jesus does not rebuke them. Instead He says: "Peace be with you." Then He breathes on them and says: "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven."

The Church becomes the place where humanity continues to encounter the mercy of God. The first Christian community described in the Acts of the Apostles lived in unity, prayer, and sharing. This was a community transformed by divine mercy.

God's mercy especially through the Sacraments. Baptism – washes away sin and gives new life. Reconciliation (Confession) – restores us when we fall into sin. Eucharist – nourishes our spiritual life and unites us with Christ.

Mercy Through the Word of God, The Church proclaims the Word of God, which calls people to conversion and hope. Through preaching, teaching, and evangelization, the Church reminds the world that God is always ready to forgive.

The Church also practices mercy through acts of love and service—helping the poor, caring for the sick, comforting the suffering, and supporting those in need. In this way, the Church becomes the visible sign of God's compassionate love in the world.

The Church as a Home for Sinners, The Church is not only for the perfect; it is a home for sinners seeking mercy. As often taught by Pope Francis, the Church should be like a "field hospital" that heals the wounds of humanity. The Church exists to continue the mission of Christ's mercy. Through the sacraments, the Word of God, and acts of charity, the Church brings God's forgiveness and love to the world.

Therefore, the Church is not merely an institution—it is the living sanctuary of God's mercy, where every person can encounter the saving love of Christ.

4. Mercy in Our Mission

Divine Mercy is not something we only receive. It is something we must become. In the Gospel we see

Thomas the Apostle struggling with doubt. He says: Our mission is to bring them to Christ not by judgment, but by mercy.

Pope Francis often said: "The Church must be a field hospital."

The world is wounded. And mercy is the medicine.

Practically, this means:

Mercy in family life – forgiving each other quickly.

Mercy in parish life – welcoming people without judgment.

Mercy in society – helping the poor, the lonely, the forgotten.

When Christians live mercy, the world begins to see the face of Christ.

Conclusion: Dear brothers and sisters, Divine Mercy Sunday reminds us of three powerful truths:

1. No sin is greater than God's mercy.
2. Christ's wounds are the source of our healing.
3. We are called to become instruments of mercy.

Message of Lord to Saint Faustina Kowalska is very simple but profound: "Jesus, I trust in You." Trust means believing that: God forgives us, God heals us, God never abandons us.

Today let us open our hearts to the merciful heart of Christ. And when we leave this church, let us become messengers of mercy in the world. Amen.