



The *Incredulity of Saint Thomas* by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio.

St. Gertrude Chicago E-Bulletin

Second Sunday of Easter

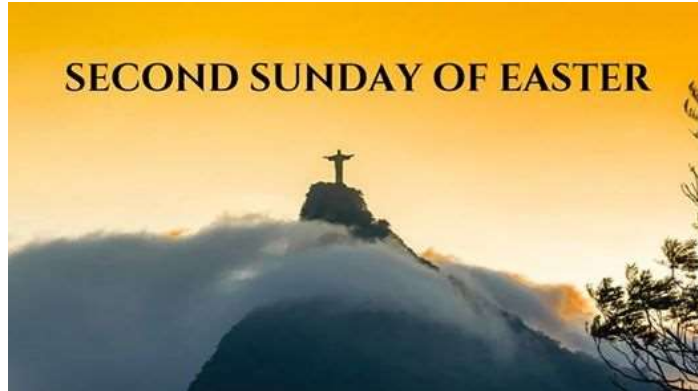
Once again this Sunday, April 19, we will live-stream Mass from St. Gertrude Church at 10:30 am, using Facebook Live! Please click [HERE](#) to be connected to our parish Facebook page. After Mass, we will upload the video to [our YouTube channel](#) and post the link [on our website](#).

Mary Clare Barker, our Music Minister, has created a song sheet with lyrics for music for the Mass [HERE](#). All the lyrics are also available at the bottom of this e-mail.

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From Father Rich

This second Sunday of Easter is also Divine Mercy Sunday. And always we hear the gospel passage of the man forever identified as “doubting” Thomas. Perhaps our current pandemic is a good cure for labeling anyone as identifiable for a moment’s pause and consideration. After all, this is the same Thomas who would spend the rest of his life spreading the gospel, literally, to the ends of the known

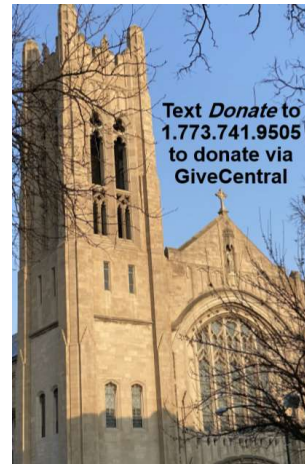
*Bulletin for the
Second Sunday of
Easter*

4/19

world. Even if doubt was considered sinful -- and it is NOT! -- is not Easter the assurance our sins are forgiven, so great is God's mercy? Then how can, why do we, continue to identify anyone by one modifier that was no truer than hundreds of others that may have equally been applied to them? So, let Divine Mercy rub off on each one of us by freeing each other of the limiting classifications that we think make life easier, but actually limits others and ourselves to the richness surrounding us.

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, which we will continue reading throughout the Easter Season, we hear today of an almost idealized community of believers. In this community, everything was shared. So trusting were these early believers, they even sold their property and possessions the proceeds of which were then redistributed according to need. What a great reminder to us as we consider what has been going on in our own world preceding this time of pandemic! We can tell something is horribly wrong when too many impatiently and too easily advocate trading human lives for financial well-being by acting to reengage commerce against the wishes of the medical and scientific community.

That initial disconnect then quickly leads us to consider the state of our national health care and the profound inequality this crisis has pulled into the light. And now our own city, Chicago, has become the "poster child" for the gross inequality of health care, of physical health itself, and related services all dependent upon the color of a person's skin or their racial identity. We know a very different Chicago -- one we love. But rather than becoming defensive, as so many did when we were identified as the city of gun violence, what is much more appropriate is that we refuse to look away from our problems, our injustices, our destructive biases, and prejudices and begin to address the underlying issues that allowed this inequality to



**Click to visit
our COVID-19
Spiritual Help
page.**



**Click [here](#) for a
list of online and
televised
Masses.**

become normalized.

The promise of Easter is the fullest expression of God fulfilling what God has said for millennia, "See, I make all things new." As we begin to seriously consider how we will be -- as a city, as a nation, as a world -- once this pandemic begins to allow us to re-start our "normal" lives, it would be so wasteful and foolish to not use what this pandemic has exposed as a call to arms to treat one another with more mercy, more kindness, more justice. We cannot continue to discount others because they do not look or act or believe as I do. We cannot continue to abuse our holy Mother Earth as we have been doing for centuries simply because we want more stuff. Industry can no longer be considered an isolated-from-the-rules-of-humanity undertaking whose primary focus is to guarantee more wealth for a few while the many are sickened by pollution and garbage and new, destructive patterns of weather caused by the polluting by-products of this strategy. Perhaps it may have been okay two hundred years ago for people to be able to say they did not know this level and type of production would lead to so much sickness and death and severe global harm. But we can no longer say that. Nor can we afford one more year or even one more month or one more hour of allowing those who refuse to face facts about our situation make decisions for all of us that will only cause more damage and destruction because they find facts inconvenient! Shame on us all if we tolerate this and allow for the destruction of God's holy creation!

We know God is merciful and forgiving. But Creation is nowhere near that allowing and forgiving! God has given us this great gift to treasure and enjoy. God has given us each other to treasure and enjoy. It is way past time for each of us to begin asking, as individuals, as families, as local communities (including parishes), as nations what we can do today to begin to correct this situation. Together, what can we do with our neighbors and our friends and our enemies to stop the destruction of our planet and change the way we treat one another?

For as long as Christianity has been around, those who have focused on getting wealthy instead of caring for one another, have cynically insisted that religion is okay for the weak and the poor. But actually living out those values Jesus taught cannot be taken seriously. We have to live "in the real world", is their battle cry. And now we know -- it is a lie. It is a huge lie! Caring for one another and for our home planet is not a secondary priority after I have taken all I want. It must be our top priority. And it is the only way we can

guarantee not only caring for all those who are our sisters and brothers today, but for all those who will be our grandchildren and greatgrandchildren in the years to come. If we do what we need to do today so, in fact, there will be a tomorrow.

This is a huge agenda. Actually, it is more than that, it is a radical (“root”) call to embrace what the Lord has taught us and called us to. We must change our way of looking at each other and our world. We must care for each other -- especially the weakest and most vulnerable among us. The weak and the vulnerable are not our enemies, preventing us from being all we can be. Rather, it is in our care of them that we find the way to live fully the life with which we have been graced.

This is a special and blessed time. Even as it is a time of fear and illness and death. It is up to each of us to choose how we will go forward. But this we know for certain, what we were doing before this has failed us. And that failure has exposed the danger to us all if we insist on continuing to do things the way we have been doing them. We might consider this pandemic an invitation to new life. The life we knew is over. It is never coming back. Efforts to eke out a little more wealth and comfort and privilege for the already-wealthy and comfortable and privileged will only continue the path of death and destruction. It is time to stop listening to the vain-glorious self-promoters and instead seek out and carefully listen to the people of wisdom and faith. Pope Francis is such a leader. And there are plenty more. We need to stop giving the foolish and selfish who delivered us to this moment any more exposure. It is time to listen to the wise and the faithful. That is the only sane path for finding our way to a much better tomorrow.

It is perhaps a coincidence that our time of sheltering-at-home coincides with the highest holy days of the three great Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in the celebrations of Passover, Easter, and Ramadan. But as a person of faith, I suspect it is actually a gentle poke in the side by God --a reminder that we are all brothers and sisters. A microscopic virus has re-awakened the awareness that what binds us together is far stronger than any one border or holy book or tribe or nation. We are all sisters and brothers. We will either embrace that truth, or we will condemn ourselves to violence and death and destruction.

J. Rich

Readings for Sunday, April 19

Reading 1: 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. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. 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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24

R. (1) Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.

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.”

R. 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:

R. 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.

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

Reading 2: 1 Pt 1:3–9

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 at 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.

Gospel: Jn 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. 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.”

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.



PDF of Music for This Sunday's Mass

Mary Clare Barker, our Music Minister, has created a song sheet with lyrics for music for our live-streamed Mass this Sunday at 10:30 am. A PDF is available [HERE](#). All the lyrics are also available at the bottom of this e-mail.



Growing in Faith Reflection

Jesus says to Thomas, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." And this is the Lord's blessing to us for, without his actual physical presence, we do believe in him and his promises, and we experience his life in our hearts.

And we see this belief in the Lord of life all around us, in the self-sacrifice of the medical teams, even to giving their very lives; in the volunteers who feed the hungry; in the generosity of those who place packaged food outside the doors of those sheltering inside; in the faithful keeping of distance; in the sheltering at home and the kind and caring phone calls to check on those alone; in the use of media to cheer and support as we wait through these days; and in the many donations to so many charities that are relying on help.

This is the way we not only express our faith but also make the hands and heart of the Lord actively present. This is the way we make his embrace of this world a reality. We do believe, Lord, and know you are with us in every way!

~ Dr. Wendy Cotter CSJ for *Growing in Faith*



Links for Online Kids Word, Youth Group, and Religious Ed Zoom Meetings

Jim Potthast, our Youth & Family Minister, is hosting a series of Zoom meetings this month. The list includes a Religious Ed meeting for all students, parents, and catechists, Kids Word, and a virtual WOW youth group. Links are below:

Religious Ed Meeting for all students, parents, and catechists

Sunday, April 19 at 9:00 am

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/516540754?pwd=N3FFcXV1cmxHUmRMbHlxak5ld3Y4UT09>

Kids Word

Sunday, April 19 at 10:00 am

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/179821682?pwd=bHBEUnlQSmVxSnpJMXdpWFI1UWNDUT09>

Meeting ID: 179 821 682

Password: 010877

WOW Youth Group Meeting

Sunday, April 19 at 7:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74095480106?pwd=SjQweTNNeE5YVvdZUnY1bjdtOGF0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 740 9548 0106

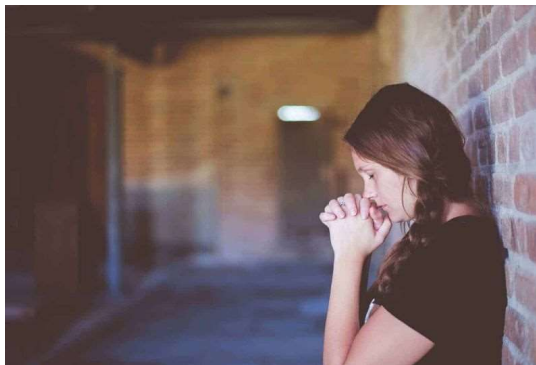
Password: 023767

Kids Word

Sunday, April 26 at 10:00 am

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/538315826?pwd=clpDK0JIL0IQY0F4Q2VkVDIDOHUyQT09>

If you would like to receive a weekly Religious Ed newsletter for more activities and resources, please email Jim at jpotthast@stgertrudechicago.org to be added to the list.



Faith & Coping

We have compiled a list of ways to ease stress and anxiety during these unsettling times [on our website](#). They include tips from parishioner KC Conway, a psychotherapist at The Center for Grief Recovery, suggestions of music from Mary Clare Barker, our Minister of Music, and much more!

We'd love to hear from you if you have suggestions for prayers, articles, and music! Email stgerbulletin@yahoo.com to share your thoughts.



Domestic Violence Resources Available

Since the stay at home order was issued in Illinois, calls to local agencies that help those in abusive relationships have sharply increased to record highs. Data from other areas that have been on lockdown longer than Illinois indicate that these numbers of domestic violence incidents will continue to grow.

Where to Call

The Department of Family and Support Services is the lead agency for the [Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline](#) and works exclusively with [The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence](#), a local nonprofit, to ensure residents have access to domestic violence support resources 24/7/365 – especially during this time of crisis. **The [Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline \(1.877.863.6338\)](#) is available 24/7 via call or text in over 240 languages.**

Uber/Lyft Rides Offer Free, Safe Transportation

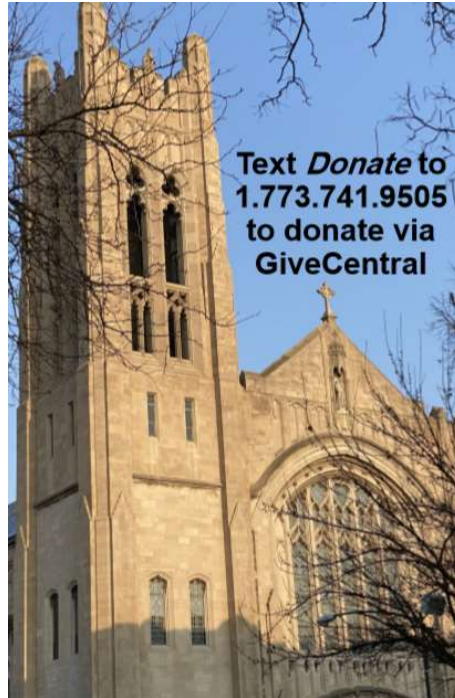
The City of Chicago partnered with Lyft and Uber to offer free rides to people who have contacted the Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline at 1.877.863.6338 in need of safe transportation. Ride requester's privacy will be protected by personnel at the hotline.

St. Gertrude's Domestic Violence Resource Page

The St. Gertrude website also has a [Domestic Violence information page](#) and a click-away button in the event someone is monitoring computer use. It lists specific information on abusive relationships, including:

- Where to Start
- Organizations that Provide Housing
- Legal Help
- Spanish-Speaking Assistance
- Asian, Arabic, & Korean Assistance

- LGBTQ Help
 - Help for Teens & Young Adults
 - Help Securing the Safety of Pets
 - What Does Abuse Look Like?
 - How to Help a Friend or Family Member
 - Emotional Abuse
 - Why Do People Stay in Abusive Relationships?
-



St. Gertrude Parish Stewardship and GiveCentral - Now You Can Text to Give

During this time of COVID-19, many parishioners are asking how to continue their regular contributions to St. Gertrude. Please consider signing up for GiveCentral.

GiveCentral is a completely secure online giving system that allows you to plan your giving as you wish. GiveCentral provides the opportunity to continue our stewardship of St. Gertrude by contributing to the parish as we stand together in faith and solidarity.

We have set up a "Text to Give" option through GiveCentral. Parishioners are welcome to text the word ***Donate*** to 1.773.741.9505 to make a donation via their phone.

The Archdiocese has [an online giving option via the Archdiocesan website](#). You simply click on the link, it takes you to the website. Once there, you determine if you want to contribute via a credit card or a checking account. You fill out the form, including selecting the parish to which the contribution is going, and the money will be electronically debited. The site offers options for amounts and the frequency of the contribution.

For more information on text to give or to sign up for online giving, please email Art Blumberg at ablumberg@stgertrudechicago.org. He will be happy to help in any way he can.

[Click here to go to GiveCentral](#)

[Donate via the Archdiocese website](#)

[Amazon Smile donates back to St. Gertrude Parish](#)

Visit smile.amazon.com and select St Gertrude Parish as your charity of choice. From then on, connect to Amazon through smile.amazon.com and St. Gertrude will automatically benefit as your charity of choice.



[Info on Grab and Go Meals for Children and Families](#)

NCA is distributing free prepackaged breakfast and lunches from our lunch provider Aramark. These lunches are for our free and reduced lunch students, but also for any family with children between the ages of 2 - 18 in

our community who could use some extra assistance in getting food for their children. We also provide milk with each of these meals.

Please let Fr. Rich know at rprendergast@stgertrudechicago.org if this would be helpful for your family and we will figure out the details.

Chicago Public Schools changed its pick-up sites as of Monday, April 13. Please click [HERE](#) to find the closest pick-up location near you or someone you know.



Daily Scripture Readings

Our website has links to the daily readings for Masses [HERE](#).

Here is the list of readings for this for parishioners that prefer to look them up:

Monday, April 20: Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-9; Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday, April 21: Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday, April 22: Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21

Thursday, April 23: Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36

Friday, April 24: Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15

Saturday, April 25: 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17;
Mk 16:15-20

Sunday, April 26: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11;
1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35



Mass Intentions

Mass intentions for scheduled mass will be transferred to the private masses the parish priests (Fr. Mike Bradley, Fr. Mike Gabriel, and Fr. Rich Prendergast) will say during this time.

If those who requested/scheduled these Masses would prefer to have them moved to a different date, please leave a message at the Rectory at 773.764.3621 or email stgertrude1420@stgertrudechicago.org. Sr. Judith will re-schedule them.

- Monday, April 20 - Dr. James Lowry +
- Tuesday, April 21 - Living & deceased mothers and fathers of St. Gertrude parishioners
- Wednesday, April 22 - George Heintz +
- Thursday, April 23 - Lorraine Camper +
- Friday, April 24 - Antoinette G. Linke +
- Saturday, April 25 - Purgatorial Society, Josephine and Nick Kamp +
- Sunday, April 26 - Frances Perkins +, John Resch +, Francesco and Angela Emanuele +, Giulia and Matteo Nicole +

(+ indicates the person is deceased)



[Ways to Help/If You Need Help](#)

Call4Calm, a new hotline from the State of Illinois to connect residents to Mental Health and other resources, was launched. Text "TALK" or "HABLAR" to 552020 and a mental health professional will call you back. There are other keywords that can be texted to this number for access to other resources, including "UNEMPLOYMENT", "FOOD", or "SHELTER". This is a time of uncertainty, stress, and anxiety. Please do not keep your feelings bottled up, there is plenty of help available for neighbors who need it.

Looking for something to do? [Care for Real](#) is always in need of volunteers! Please reach out to Karen at volunteer@careforreal.org. She is overseeing scheduling and shifts available.

Our Heart to Heart Director, Jane Callahan-Moore, is also helping coordinate outreach to the elderly and shut-ins, including shopping and bringing food to those unable to get to the store. You can contact Jane by emailing her at jcallahanmoore@gmail.com.

Our Alderman, Harry Osterman, is coordinating local needs and service opportunities. His [website](#) has information on getting help during this crisis and giving help. Below are quick links to urgent community issues:

- [Community Response Fund](#) - Funds raised will help Care for Real purchase needed food and supplies for our neighbors in need, as well as help purchase medical supplies needed by our residents and care providers.
- [Volunteer to be a part of the 48th Ward Community Response Team](#)
- [Ask for daily check-in calls for yourself or a neighbor](#)
- [How you can receive support from Care for Real](#)
- [Get information on enrolling in emergency unemployment benefits](#)
- [How you can support local businesses during this time](#)

Are you or a loved one unemployed, underemployed, or unfulfilled? [Career Transition Center](#), founded by Catholic parishes, helps people get jobs. They are currently offering virtual training and support, including a virtual career coaching program. CTC is hosting a career info session this Monday, April 20 at 6:00 pm. For registration and more information, visit <http://www.ctcchicago.org/DD2.asp>.



Rest in Peace

Please keep the families and friends of our recently deceased in your prayers:

- Lorraine Camper, long-time parishioner, died on 4/5/20 in St. Joseph Village, Chicago, burial in Wisconsin
 - Maureen Hartnett, sister of Eileen Wicklin
 - Judith Heimer, mother of Matt Heimer
 - Dr. James Lowry, father of Bridget Lowry
 - James Zajakowski, Sr., father of Jim Zajakowski
-



Please Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends

- Walter Bradford
- Ester Bugler
- Aida Calvopina
- Maggie Callaway
- Geraldine Clark
- Connie Cool
- Karey Myers
- Don Piven
- Charley Scantlebury
- David Sierzega
- Richard Seitz
- Peggy Stoffel

- Mary Fitzgerald
- Paul Foley
- Gina Heidkamp
- Maria Hertl
- Bernice Kiedysz
- The Sullivan family
- Elinora E. Tolentino
- Norma E. Viray

The 2020 Census

One of the many items we need to pay attention to during this time is maintaining awareness of other activities that cannot be postponed. Uppermost is the [2020 Census](#). The census plays such a huge role in how representatives are distributed and how funds are allocated. Please be sure to complete the 2020 Census form [online](#) or via the paper form you may have received in the mail.

Poem: When This is Over

When this is over,
may we never again
take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbors
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.

When this ends,
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay
that way—better
for each other
because of the worst.

LAURA KELLY FANUCCI

Lyrics for Sunday, April 19 Mass at 10:30 am

Entrance: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness on his justice which is more than liberty.
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.
For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind,
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
And our lives would be thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

Renewal of Baptismal Vows: O Healing River by Fred Hellerman; arr. by Michael Joncas

O healing river, send down your waters. Send down your waters upon this
land. O healing river, send down your waters, And wash the blood from off
the sand.

Glory to God from Mass of Spirit and Grace by Ricky Manalo

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We
praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks
for your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord
Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the
Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take
away the sins of the world, receive our prayer, you are seated at the right
hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you
alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy
Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Psalm: This is the Day by Tim Schoenbacher

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad.
This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice! Let us rejoice and be
glad.

Offertory: Ye Sons and Daughters

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

5. When Thomas first the tidings heard, How they had seen the risen Lord,
He doubted the disciples' word. Alleluia!

6."My pierced side, O Thomas, see; My hands, my feet, I show to thee;
Not faithless, but believing be." Alleluia!
7. No longer Thomas then denied, He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"Thou are my Lord and God, " he cried. Alleluia!
8. How blest are they who have not seen, and yet whose faith has constant
been,
For they eternal life shall win. Alleluia!

Communion: Eye Has Not Seen by Marty Haugen

Refrain: Eye has not seen, ear has not heard what God has ready for those
who love him;

Spirit of love, come, give us the mind of Jesus, teach us the wisdom of God.

Verse: To those who see with eyes of faith, the Lord is ever near, reflected
in the faces of all the poor and lowly of the world. (Repeat refrain)

Recessional: Let Heaven Rejoice by Bob Dufford, SJ

Refrain: Let heaven rejoice and earth be glad; let all creation sing.

Let children proclaim through ev'ry land: "Hosanna to our King."

Verse 1: Sound the trumpet into the night; the day of the Lord is near.

Wake your people, lift your voice, proclaim it to the world. (to refrain)

Verse 2: Rise in splendor; shake off your sleep; put on your robes of joy.

And in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord. (to refrain)

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Ye Sons and Daughters All rights reserved.

Holy, We Proclaim Your Death, Amen, Lamb of God from Mass of Glory.
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