**Children’s liturgy – Second Sunday of Easter (Year B)
Divine Mercy Sunday**

**Preparing the worship space**

Colour: white

**Song suggestions:** Do not be afraid (147, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

**Welcome:** Today we are going to hear about how the disciples were hiding and afraid, but Jesus appeared to them and made them feel strong. He brings them peace. We think about how Jesus brings us peace and how we can share that peace with others.

**Opening prayer:** Loving God, you sent your Son Jesus to the disciples when they were scared. Help us to bring hope to other people who are hiding, or afraid, so they may know peace. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Acts 4:32-35

**Psalm:** Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

**Gospel acclamation:** *everyone stands and sings together.*

**Gospel:** John 20:19-31

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

Thomas said to them, “Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then stretch out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!”

Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus said to him, “Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!”

In his disciples' presence Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below\*)*

**Gospel reflection:** What do you remember from today’s reading?

The disciples are frightened and so they have locked themselves away. They have seen the empty tomb and heard that Jesus is alive but they are still afraid.

Who suddenly appears in the room? And what does Jesus say?

Jesus says: “Peace be with you.” How did the disciples feel when they heard this?

Jesus could have been disappointed with the disciples or told them off for hiding but instead he said “Peace.”

Jesus wanted the disciples to know that they could come to him when they felt bad and alone and that he would help them.

But one of the disciples wasn’t there when Jesus appeared. Can you remember who that was?

And does Thomas believe what the other disciples said?

Thomas heard the message of Jesus’ resurrection, but the experience of seeing and the offer to touch the risen Christ helped him fully believe.

Do you have a peaceful place you can go when you are upset or a peaceful person to speak to when you are worried or have questions like Thomas?

Jesus wants to give us his peace, just like he shared it with the disciples. We can go to him when we are afraid or unsure and he will be with us.

Today in many parts of the world there are people who are scared because of wars and violence. How do you think this makes them feel?

What can we do to make the world a more peaceful place ourselves? How will we spread the message of peace that Jesus brings?

We can start with our own family, friends and neighbours. How can we carry on the work of Christ and be peacemakers this week?

**Intercessions:** *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or*

*you can use the suggestions below.*

We are filled with joy that Jesus rose from the dead, bringing peace and hope for the future. Let’s think about this as we pray together:

We pray for the Church all over the world: that it may continue God’s work, reaching out to those who are afraid. Lord, hear us…

We pray for people who are in wars all over the world: that they may feel strong inside and one day find peace and happiness. Lord, hear us…

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may have courage and show our faith in Jesus in all that we do. Lord, hear us…

**Closing prayer:** Loving Jesus, you came to your friends when they had lost hope. Help us always to believe in you and to spread your hope and peace wherever we go. Amen.

**Activity suggestions**

Invite the children to complete the accompanying activity sheet.

Paper cranes, from the Japanese tradition of origami or paper folding, are folded as a wish for peace in many countries around the world. Look up how to fold the paper cranes and make some peace cranes together. You may like to write a short prayer on each one.

Remind the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Encourage them to try and spread Jesus’ message of peace in the way they treat others in the coming week.

\*Gospel passage taken from:

Good News Translation® (Today’s English Version, Second Edition)

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