



**Third Sunday of Easter**  
**April 19, 2015**

## **Sunday Liturgy Guide for the Church of the Poor in the Spirit of the New Evangelization**

**The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, proclaims the living faith in the Risen Lord through her physical and material encounter with the people.**

On this Third Sunday of Easter, the Church invites us to proclaim our faith in the Risen Lord through physical and material encounter with people, especially the poor and the needy. In this spirit let us continue to reflect on the Church as Discipleship in Community, this time as Church of the Poor, articulated by the PCP-II. Listen to what PCP-II has to say:

“C.5 The Church of the Poor

What then is the ‘Church of the Poor’?

(125) It means a Church that embraces and practices the

evangelical spirit of poverty, which combines detachment from possessions with a profound trust in the Lord as the sole source of salvation. While the Lord does not want anyone to be materially poor, he wants all his followers to be ‘poor in spirit’.

(126) The ‘Church of the Poor’ is one whose members and leaders have a special love for the poor. The Second Vatican Council tells bishops of their obligation to form the faithful ‘in a love of the whole Mystical Body of Christ and, in a special way, of the poor, the suffering, and those who are undergoing persecution for the sake of justice’.”

What is your understanding of “evangelical spirit of poverty”? Compare the biblical characters of Lazarus and of Zacchaeus. In what sense are they similar in being poor? In what sense are they different? Is Jesus a model of being poor, materially and in spirit? How so? ■

## **Entrance Antiphon** (Cf. Ps 66(65):1-2)

*Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;  
O sing to the glory of his name. O  
render him glorious praise, alleluia.*

### **Introductory Rites**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*C: Amen*

P. The Peace of the Risen Lord be with you.

*C: And with your spirit.*

### **Introduction and Welcome**

P: Dear brothers and sisters, let us continue to relish our Easter joy and peace which only the Risen Lord can give. Let us ask God in this Holy Eucharist to help us cultivate a profound conviction that genuine peace and security can only come from God's love that is self-giving and builds a new community of equals, and not from power and military might, wealth and money.

### **Penitential Act**

P: Brethren (brothers and sisters), to prepare ourselves to celebrate worthily these great sacred mysteries, let us now acknowledge our sins, and ask God for pardon and strength:

P: I confess...

*C: to almighty God...to pray for me to the Lord our God.*

P: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

*C: Amen.*

P: Lord, have mercy.

*C: Lord, have mercy.*

P: Christ, have mercy.

*C: Christ, have mercy.*

P: Lord, have mercy.

*C: Lord, have mercy*

### **Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest 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.

### **Collect**

P: Let us pray: May your people exult forever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

*C: Amen.*

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

#### **First Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19**

L: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter said to the people: "The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and denied in Pilate's presence when he had decided to release him. You denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. The author of life you put to death, but God raised him from the dead; of this we are witnesses. Now I know, brothers, that you acted out of ignorance, just as your leaders did; but God has thus brought

to fulfillment what he had announced beforehand through the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

**Commentary on Acts 3:13-15, 17-19:**

This is part of the second speech which Peter gave, this time explaining the reason behind the miracle of healing that they, the apostles, were now doing: in the name of Jesus, they have the authority and the power to do that which Jesus did. Indeed, the Jews caused the death of the author of life; but God the creator of life raised him from the dead. But those responsible for the death of Jesus did not know that this was part of God's design. It had been all God's initiative. Thus Luke put to a more positive light the act and guilt of the Jews and their leaders. This is to be part of the Church's proclamation and ministry all the time: every experience of liberation from evil and negativity is ultimately a proclamation of the power of the Risen Christ; the denunciation of evil even if intentionally done by anyone who doesn't know anything better is always an invitation to conversion and a radical change of living towards a new community of the new life in the Resurrection.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9**

*R: Lord, let your face shine on us. or: R. Alleluia.*

When I call, answer me, O my just God, you who relieve me when I am in distress; have pity on me, and hear my prayer!

*R: Lord, let your face shine on us. or: R. Alleluia.*

Know that the LORD does wonders for his faithful one; the LORD will hear me when I call upon him.

*R: Lord, let your face shine on us. or: R. Alleluia.*

O LORD, let the light of your countenance shine upon us! You put gladness into my

heart.

*R: Lord, let your face shine on us. or: R. Alleluia.*

As soon as I lie down, I fall peacefully asleep, for you alone, O LORD, bring security to my dwelling.

*R: Lord, let your face shine on us. or: R. Alleluia.*

**Commentary on Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9:**

This is a hymn of confidence and trust in the Lord. First, the psalmist cries out to the Lord for help. Then confidently he turns towards others and testifies that which the Lord has done for him. He asks God to shine his face to them as a collective community. For the psalmist, God is his peace and security.

**Second Reading: 1 John 2:1-5a**

L: The second reading is taken from the First Letter of John

My children, I am writing this to you so that you may not commit sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. He is expiation for our sins, and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world. The way we may be sure that we know him is to keep his commandments. Those who say, "I know him," but do not keep his commandments are liars, and the truth is not in them. But whoever keeps his word, the love of God is truly perfected in him.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

**Commentary on 1 John 2:1-5a:**

God is love. To believe that Jesus is His Jesus is the advocate for sinners in the world before the Father. The followers of Christ must avoid sin by being in the light, Jesus Christ, who has broken every sin; but if it is unavoidable, the followers of Christ are assured of an advocate in heaven who will repair sinners, past,

contemporary and future, before the Father. To know Jesus Christ is to do the command of love that comes from God. It is this command of love, and obedience to it that keeps humanity's communion with Jesus and with the Christian community.

**Alleluia Verse: Cf. Luke 24:32**

**R: Alleluia, alleluia.** Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us; make our hearts burn while you speak to us! **R: Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel: Luke 24:35-48**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And with your spirit.*

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

C: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way, and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread. While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have."

And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them. He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Praise be to you, O Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Commentary on Luke 24:35-48**

These are the ingredients of the education to faith in Jesus: the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus and the disciples' encounters with him, the risen one. From unbelief, to fear, to doubt and to a true encounter – these are the slow steps to the development of faith in Jesus, the resurrected one. The encounter itself is physical and material, leading them to a lesson in history and to the Scriptures. By going to the past, they understand the present and the future is now opened for them. But the process of encountering Jesus – from his life of suffering, death and resurrection – will now be replicated by his apostles and by the Church: they will start to preach the Kingdom of God, with all its consequences, starting from Jerusalem, that is to say, all over again.

Join Fr. Ben Alforque, MSC of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in **GOSPEL BREAK**, a short yet entertaining and insightful discussion of this Sunday's Gospel on YouTube.

Visit **gospelbreak.wordpress.com**. Or scan this QR code with your Smartphone or tablet.



**Homily: The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, proclaims the living faith in the Risen Lord through her physical and material encounter with the people.**

Summary of the Sunday Reading Message	Concrete description of the poor people and their situation	Reflection/ Points for reflection/ Call/ Challenge
The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, proclaims the living faith in the Risen Lord through her physical and material encounter with the people.	Who are the materially poor in your community? Who are the “poor in spirit” in your community? Who are materially and spiritually rich in your community? How do these relate to one another?	The Lord does not want anyone to be materially poor; he wants his followers to be ‘poor in spirit’. He calls us to liberation, conversion, radical change and to new community life.

**Profession of Faith:**

**General Intercessions**

P: Dear sisters and brothers, let us humbly and confidently raise our voices in prayer to our heavenly Father. For every prayer let our response be: Lord, strengthen our living faith.

**R: Lord, strengthen our living faith.**

L: Let us pray for the Church: that being a Church of the Poor spread all over the world, she may continue to proclaim the living faith in the Risen Lord through her physical and material encounter with the people, especially the poor and the needy. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, strengthen our living faith.**

L: For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for

the bishops, priests, deacons, for those in consecrated life and for all those who are entrusted with the care and administration of the church as People of God: that they may continue to work for the liberation from evil and negativity as ultimately a proclamation of the power of the Risen Christ and for the denunciation of evil even if it is intentionally done by anyone who doesn’t know anything better as always an invitation to conversion and radical change of living towards becoming a new community of the new life in the Resurrection. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, strengthen our living faith.**

L: For world leaders and all those entrusted with governance and administration of the goods of the earth: that they may respect the rights of indigenous peoples, their claims and struggles to reclaim their ancestral lands and domains, develop their customary laws and traditions and to protect them from investors who deceive their innocent sense of sovereignty and exploit the wealth and resources of their lands, forests and rivers for profit and fake development. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, strengthen our living faith.**

L: For all of us, inhabitants of the earth and citizens of heaven: that we may live our lives according to the values of the new life lived in common with the poor and Mother Nature, protect and defend the integrity of creation and work for a stop to ecological destruction, neglectful waste disposal and gas emissions that cause global warming and climate change. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, strengthen our living faith.**

L: For our beloved dead: that in the forgiveness of their sins, they may find eternal rest in the heart of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, strengthen our living faith.**

L: For our special intentions, in the silence of our hearts. (pause)... Let us

pray to the Lord.

**R: Lord, strengthen our living faith.**

P: Lord, these are the prayers we present to you today. By your Spirit enable us to answer your calls to liberation, conversion, radical change, new community life and healthy environment. We ask this through same Christ our Lord. Risen

*R: Amen.*

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### Preparation of the Altar and the Gifts

P: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, ....

*C: Blessed be God forever.*

P: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

*C: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.*

### Prayer over the Offerings

P: Receive, O Lord, we pray, these offerings of your exultant Church, and, as you have given her cause for such great gladness, grant also that the gifts we bring may bear fruit in perpetual happiness. Through Christ our Lord.

*C: Amen.*

### Prayer of the Eucharist

P: The Lord be with you.

*C: And with your spirit.*

P: Lift up your hearts.

*C: We lift them up to the Lord.*

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*C: It is right and just.*

P: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but on this day above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

He never ceases to offer himself for us but defends us and ever pleads our cause before you: he is the sacrificial Victim who dies no more, the Lamb, once slain, who lives forever.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

*A: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

### Acclamation

P: The mystery of faith.

**Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

*(Concluding the Eucharistic Prayer; the priest says:)*

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever.

*C: Amen.*

### Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer

### Doxology

*C: For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever.*

### Sign of Peace

P: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles; Peace ... Who live and reign for ever and ever.

*C: Amen.*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *And with your spirit.*

P: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

### **Breaking of the Bread**

A: *Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world ... grant us peace.*

### **Communion**

P: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

A: *Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.*

### **Communion Antiphon**

(Luke 24:46-47)

*The Christ had to suffer and on the third day rise from the dead; in his name repentance and remission of sins must be preached to all the nations, alleluia.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

P: Let us pray: Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord, and grant, we pray, that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries may attain in their flesh the incorruptible glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord.

C: *Amen.*

### **Final Blessing**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And with your spirit.*

P: Bow down for the blessing: May God, who by the Resurrection of his Only Begotten Son was pleased to confer on you the gift of redemption and of adoption, give you gladness by

his blessing.

C: *Amen.*

P: May he, by whose redeeming work you have received the gift of everlasting freedom, make you heirs to an eternal inheritance.

C: *Amen.*

P: And may you, who have already risen with Christ in Baptism through faith, by living in a right manner on earth, be united with him in the homeland of heaven.

C: *Amen.*

P: And may the blessings of almighty God, + the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you forever.

C: *Amen.*

### **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life, alleluia, alleluia.

C: *Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia. ■*

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no matter how small.

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