



**Easter Sunday of the
Lord's Resurrection
April 5, 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, is realized when she works for total integral transformation in the light of the Gospel message.

As we celebrate this Easter Sunday of our Lord's Resurrection, 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

(122) In the Philippines today, God calls us most urgently to serve the poor and the needy. The poverty of at least half of the population is a clear sign that sin has penetrated our social structures. Poverty in the sense of destitution is not God's will for anyone. Vatican II teaches

that ‘every man has the right to possess a sufficient amount of the earth's goods for himself and his family.’ To the shanty dwellers of Favela dos Alagados, Pope John Paul II forcefully asserted: ‘Do not say that it is God's will that you remain in a condition of poverty, disease, unhealthy housing, that is contrary in many ways to your dignity as human persons. Do not say ‘it is God who wills it’.”

If God did not will that the poor are poor, then, who willed it? Who or what has caused the poverty, deprivation and destitutions of peoples?

This needs a scientific analysis of the dynamics of society: its economic operations, exercise of political power, and its cultural underpinnings and social reproduction. Pope Francis has proposed that this be done in the light of evangelical discernment, that is to say, looking for truth in the light of the Gospel message.■

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, this is the greatest feast of the Church and of our Christian life! It marks Christ's victory over the ultimate enemy of life that is death! It is our celebration of the victory of God's love, forgiveness, compassion and justice over sin and its consequences! We rejoice because our Lord Jesus has saved us and has made us partakers of this new life. Let us live up to this expectation of new life. Let us support each other and greet each other now: Happy Easter!

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: O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life. 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 10:34, 37-43

L: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter proceeded to speak and said: "You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned

us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Commentary on Acts 10:34, 37-43:

Cornelius was a Roman, god-fearing and devout. In the eyes of the Jews, he was a gentile, a pagan. Peter was a Jew, but now a focused follower of Jesus Christ. God has called Cornelius to faith in Jesus Christ. Peter was the instrument of his conversion, by proclaiming to him the event concerning Jesus of Nazareth: what he did, what he spoke, what happened to him: his suffering, death and resurrection. God does not discriminate: he welcomes everyone to become a member of his Church, notwithstanding one's class origin, race and ethnicity, gender and religion, or lack of it. The essential thing is to believe in Jesus Christ, preached and given witness to by the Church. Then one receives forgiveness of sins.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

R: *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. or: // Alleluia.*

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. Let the house of Israel say, “His mercy endures forever.”

R: *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. or: // Alleluia.*

“The right hand of the LORD has struck with power; the right hand of the LORD is exalted. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.”

R: *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. or: // Alleluia.*

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our

eyes.

R: *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. or: // Alleluia.*

Commentary on Ps 118:

Though this is an individual hymn of thanksgiving, the psalm is really composed of two songs. The first is in the first person singular: vv. 1-21; and the second is in the first person plural, vv. 23-27. The transition is v. 22. Vv. 28-29 go back to the individual who repeats the opening verse. On the other hand, it can be said that the psalm has two parts, for another reason: the first part takes place in the tents of the people in Jerusalem (vv. 5-18); the second occurs in the temple (vv. 19-29). The reason for thanksgiving is the individual's experience of God's mercy that has liberated him. But the individual experience is also a community experience. He who had suffered, the stone rejected by the builders, God has made into a cornerstone: a strong foundation of faith, in the temple.

Second Reading: Col 3:1-4

L: The second reading is taken from the Letter to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters: If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Commentary on Col 3:1-4:

By baptism in Christ, the believer has become a new person: raised with Christ, he leaves behind the old ways of life, mired in sin and egoism, in selfishness and injustice. Now he instead seeks the values of heaven, the values of God's

kingdom, the values that Jesus died and rose for: love, compassion, forgiveness, justice, truth, freedom, peace. Thus, one who is baptized in Christ lives firmly in the world. His task is to transform it, according to the realities of heaven, where Christ lives. It is the way of living Christ on earth. Then, when Christ appears, he who lives him will be with him in glory.

SEQUENCE - VICTIMÆ PASCHALI LAUDES

Christians, to the Paschal Victim Offer your thankful praises! A Lamb the sheep redeems; Christ, who only is sinless, reconciles sinners to the Father. Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous: The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal. Speak, Mary, declaring what you saw, wayfaring. “The tomb of Christ, who is living, the glory of Jesus’ resurrection; bright angels attesting, the shroud and napkin resting. Yes, Christ my hope is arisen; to Galilee he goes before you.” Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining. Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning! Amen. Alleluia.

Alleluia Verse:

R: Alleluia, alleluia. Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed; let us then feast with joy in the Lord.**R: Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel: John 20:1-9

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And with your spirit.*

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

C: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord

from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.”

So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Commentary on John 20:1-9

The resurrection of Jesus is narrated to us through the finding of the empty tomb. In this regard, John is telling us that the empty tomb proclaims that Jesus is alive. We do not seek him among the dead but we will find him among the living. We note that these three persons who discover the empty tomb are the closest disciples of Jesus. Mary Magdalene stands out in her devotion to Jesus; Peter is the recognized leader who dares to enter the tomb; and the beloved disciple of Jesus after hesitating eventually follows Peter. It was he who saw the empty tomb and believed. By returning home, they will find Jesus alive in the hearts of those who believe.

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, is realized when she works for total integral transformation in the light of the Gospel message.

Summary of the Sunday Reading Message	Concrete description of the poor people and their situation	Reflection/ Points for reflection/ Call/ Challenge
<p>The Church of the Poor, through the Basic Ecclesial Communities, is realized when she works for total integral transformation in the light of the Gospel message.</p>	<p>In your BEC or small faith communities, try to analyze together the reasons for the existence of poverty. What are the different faces of poverty in your community? What are you doing to address poverty at its roots?</p>	<p>God welcomes everyone to his Church, without discrimination. Baptism in Christ tasks us to transform the world according to the realities of heaven. For the Resurrected Lord is found among the living on earth.</p>

Profession of Faith: Renewal of Baptismal Promises

P: Dear sisters and brothers, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so I ask you:

P: Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?

C: *I do.*

P: Do you renounce the lure of evil so that sin may have no mastery over you?

C: *I do.*

P: Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin?

C: *I do.*

P: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

C: *I do.*

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

C: *I do.*

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and live everlasting?

C: *I do.*

P: And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.

C: *Amen.*

(The priest sprinkles the people with the blessed water.)

Prayers of the Faithful:

P: Dear sisters and brothers, let us humbly and joyfully present to our Father in heaven our prayers as his adopted children. For every prayer let our response be: Lord, strengthen our new life as citizens of your kingdom.

R: Lord, strengthen our new life as citizens of your kingdom.

L: Let us pray for the Church: that being a Church of the Poor spread all over the world, she may continue to proclaim our new life in the Risen Christ by working for the liberation of the poor, reconciliation of humanity, the transformation of the world, and for the protection of the environment and the restoration of the

integrity of creation. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, strengthen our new life as citizens of your kingdom.

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 stand by the side of the periphery while accepting all people as children of God, regardless of race and ethnicity, gender and sexual preference, class origin and class orientation as they sow and water the seeds of faith with new ardor, new methods and new expressions, especially in the Year of the Poor. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, strengthen our new life as citizens of your kingdom.

L: For world leaders and all those entrusted with governance and administration of the goods of the earth: that they may promote the rights of women and the elderly, of children and the unborn, of the infirm, the developmentally challenged and the dying, of migrants and victims of human trafficking, of families, single parents and partners of love and life and defend and repair the integrity of creation in our common world that is God's gift for us all. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, strengthen our new life as citizens of your kingdom.

L: For all of us, inhabitants of the earth: that we may live our lives according to the values of the new life in the Kingdom of God: loving and just, compassionate and forgiving, generous and attentive to the needs of others, ready to share without limits, and willing to work together for the integral transformation of society and for the integrity of creation, because the world and its resources are all ours to share. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, strengthen our new life as citizens of your kingdom.

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 new life as citizens of your kingdom.

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

R: Lord, strengthen our new life as citizens of your kingdom.

P: Lord, these are our petitions as your adopted children. Inspire us always by your Spirit to promote the newness of life and the integral transformation of our world and society guided by the Gospel values of love, justice, peace and integrity of creation. We ask this through Christ our Risen Lord.

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: Exultant with paschal gladness, O Lord, we offer the sacrifice by which your Church is wondrously reborn and nourished. 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.

For he is the true lamb who has taken away the sins of the world; by dying he has destroyed death, and by rising, restored life.

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.*

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray: Look upon you Church, O God, with unfailing love and favor, so that, renewed by the paschal mysteries, she may come to the 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 almighty God bless you through today's Easter Solemnity and, in his compassion, defend you from every assault of sin.

C: *Amen.*

P: And may he, who restores you to eternal life in the Resurrection of his

Only Begotten, endow you with the prize of immortality.

C: Amen.

P: Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close, may you who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit, to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy.

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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