Liturgy and Music Planning Overview

For April 8, 2018
Which is the 2nd Sunday of Easter, Year B
Divine Mercy Sunday

Lectionary # 44

Readings: 2nd Sunday of Easter
II: 1 John 5:1-6
G: John 20:19-31

For reflection

The Feast of Easter takes such prominence in our faith and in our Church calendar that we celebrate it for eight days! This is called the “Octave of Easter,” and all the days in this octave are considered one great Easter day. That’s why you will hear in this Sunday’s prayers phrases like, “This is the day,” and “On this Easter day.” The Gospel readings during these days have all been about Jesus’ appearances to the disciples, and today is no exception. It’s one of the most famous “appearance” stories in the Gospels: Jesus appears to Thomas and invites him to “put your finger here and see my hands … do not be unbelieving, but believe.”

“The Second Sunday of Easter bears the additional title of Sunday of Divine Mercy (established by Pope John Paul II in 2000). This is not a new solemnity or feast, nor does it celebrate a new or separate mystery of redemption, but rather, it leads into the continuing celebration of God’s mercy during Easter time … the Lectionary readings and prayer texts highlight the mystery of divine compassion that underlies the Church’s Easter faith.”


When have we doubted the might of God’s power, a power so strong it can triumph over death? Have we doubted the overwhelming mercy of God? How can we continue to live in the hope and joy of the Resurrection during the Easter Season?

Lord, help us to remain in the hope of Easter, and live joyfully in the Resurrection.

Planning your Music

Mass Setting: _______________________

Opening Song suggestions (for Masses without a Sprinkling Rite):
Note: These songs could be used for either the entrance or recessional processions at Mass this week.
This Is The Feast #502
Alleluia! Alleluia! Let The Holy Anthem Rise #505
Christ The Lord Is Risen Today #507
Jesus Christ Is Risen Today #513
Gloria? Yes, every week during the Easter Season.

Psalm: The psalm for this week is Psalm 118. See arrangements at #327-331 in the Newman Hymnal. #328 and #330 contain the most appropriate refrains for today. You can use either the refrain or “Alleluia.”

Optional Easter Sequence: Today, as we are still within the octave of Easter, the Easter Sequence (which is obligatory on Easter Sunday) is optional. Should you choose to use it, it falls immediately between the second reading and the Alleluia. Arrangements are found at #525 (English) or #526 (Latin) in the Newman Hymnal. The Sequence is often sung by two cantors, alternating stanzas as indicated where you see the double bar line: ll. You may also choose to use just one cantor.

Alleluia (from your chosen Mass setting)

Alleluia Verse:
You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord;
Blessed are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Preparation of the Altar and Gifts – Song Suggestions:
We Walk By Faith  #643
We Have Been Told  #127
Now the Green Blade Rises  #515
You Are The Way  #717

Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamation; Amen (from your chosen Mass setting)

Lord’s Prayer (spoken or sung)

Lamb of God (Agnus Dei) (from your chosen Mass setting)

Communion Song Suggestions:
I Come with Joy  #142
I Received The Living God  #143
I Am The Bread Of Life  #144
You Satisfy The Hungry Heart  #134

Closing Song Suggestions:
See suggestions above for the Opening Song.