

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (a)

( Mercy Sunday )

### Introduction

*leader: Greet the people and name the Sunday of the Year (see above)  
Acknowledge visitors and welcome them.  
Remind everyone that there will be refreshments ???  
Announce the theme of today's liturgy (see next)*

### Theme – KEEPING AND MULTIPLYING 'SHALOM' (peace)

*leader: The light of the Easter Candle symbolises the risen Christ lighting our autumn darkness. The light is small. It images Christ's resurrection at the beginning of the meantime. Easter is the seed-time for GOD's realm. The realm of GOD is planted in a tomb! In faith's darkness we sense, rather than see, GOD's newness. In this meantime, growth in faith, is possible.  
( Announce the opening hymn: . . . . . )*

### Greeting

*presider: Ki te ingoa o te Matua, ✠ o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu:  
The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, whose table we share,  
be with us.*

*all: **And with your spirit***

### Penitential Rite *Invitation to Repentance*

*leader: Friends in Christ, we gather to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Along with Thomas, the doubter, may our hearts be purified in the presence of the risen Jesus:*

- *The first Christian community was of one heart and one soul in their believing. For our dissensions and disputes in the church today; LORD, have mercy: - ( pause ) - **LORD, have mercy:***
- *The apostles bore witness to the resurrection of Jesus with great power. For our slowness to assimilate the spirit of Jesus: Christ, have mercy: - ( pause ) - **CHRIST, have mercy:***
- *The Risen Jesus breathed a spirit of peace on his failing disciples; but we give up hope on a future peaceful world by our failing to forgive others. LORD, have mercy: - ( pause ) - **LORD, have mercy:***

*May almighty GOD, cleanse us of our sins and through the celebration of this Eucharist make us worthy to sit at the table of the kingdom.*

*all: **Amen***

### GLORIA *invitation*

*leader: With all the voices of heaven, let us sing praise, honour & glory to GOD.*

### Opening Prayer

*leader: ( Kia inoi tatou: ... / Let us pray, . . . . ) Friends, let us pray as Christians thirsting for the risen life. GOD of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the LORD of life. From the waters of death You raise us with him and renew Your gift of life within us. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ and help us to grow as Your people toward the fullness of lasting life with You. We make this prayer in Jesus' name: all: **Amen.***

### Introduction to the first reading: ( Acts 2 : 42 – 47 )

*leader: The reading from Acts, witnesses to the central belief and identity of the Christian community. It is a community energized to live in new inclusive ways. The new life-style is practised in the midst of the world, through living faithfully in Jesus' Spirit.*

### Introduction to the second reading: ( 1 Peter 1 : 3 – 9 )

*leader: In the Letter the author reveals the energy which characterises practice in the Spirit. The text underline the Spirit that inspired the first generation of disciples to adopt Jesus' instincts and skills to perform the requirements of the living Torah.*

### Gospel Acclamation:

*all: **Alleluia! The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone, this is the work of the LORD, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the LORD, we rejoice and are glad. Alleluia!***

### Introduction to the gospel reading: ( John 20 : 19 - 31 )

*leader: On the evening, of the same day that Jesus had appeared to Mary with a message to, 'Go and tell the others'; Jesus came and stood among his disciples and announced a new reality of peace.*

### Homily Notes (presider)

- *The Easter season is a time for a transformed consciousness. The victory over death of the risen Christ offers Jesus' disciples a profoundly different perception of world, neighbour and themselves and an authorisation to live differently in that world.*
- *The good news on the threshold between the old shape of reality and the new reality that is to come into being, must be hosted with awe, respect and patience. It is a precious moment when the world-transforming, promise-keeping, justice-demanding GOD, makes serious change in our lives, possible. We have gathered to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, along with Thomas, the doubter.*
- *We have prayed that our hearts be purified in the presence of the risen Jesus. Just as the first Christian community was of one heart and one*

*soul in believing, we must acknowledge that we often fall into dissent and dispute with the church today.*

- *The apostles bore witness to the resurrection of Jesus with great power. We, on the other hand are full of reservations and reluctance to assimilate the spirit of Jesus. The Risen Jesus breathed a spirit of peace on his failing disciples. We, on our part, give up hope on a future peaceful world by failing to forgive others. May GOD who raised Jesus, show us mercy, fill our hearts with peace and bring us to life that lasts, through the victory over death of the risen Christ.*
- *Christ offers disciples like us, a profoundly different understanding of our world, our neighbours and ourselves. And this new understanding authorises us to live differently in this new world of ours. The good news, on the threshold between our old failing world and the new reality that has come into being, is that we can host this new world with awe, respect and patience. It is a precious moment when the world-transforming, promise-keeping, mercy-offering, justice-demanding GOD, makes serious change in our lives, possible.*

## **Creed**

**Intercessions - 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter** [ Sun 12<sup>th</sup> – Sat 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026 ]

*invitation to pray:*

*leader: Friends, like the community of the first Christians, with one heart and with one soul, let us pray with confidence to GOD-with-us in the risen Jesus, for our world and its needs:*

*1: For world leaders. May the peace of Jesus, help them to work untiringly, in the search for peace among nations. - (pause) - LORD, hear our prayer:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

*2: For the leaders of the church. May the peace of Jesus, help them to discern their mission of reconciliation: - (pause) - LORD, hear our prayer:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

*3: For the children who were baptised at Easter; and for ourselves who have renewed the promises of our baptism. May we remain in GOD's love by keeping the commandments of the risen Christ:*

*- (pause) - LORD, hear our prayer:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

*4: Let us pray, in the silence of our hearts for our own personal intentions: . . - (pause) - LORD, hear our prayer:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

*5: For the sick. May the peace of Jesus, help them in their suffering, and touch them with a healing presence.*

*We pray to you for: . . (see parish newsletter)*

*- (pause) - LORD, hear our prayer:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

*6: O GOD, whose mercy is never withheld from those who call upon you in hope, look kindly on your servants who have died confessing your name, including those who have died recently . . . and those whose anniversaries occur about now: . . . (see parish newsletter)*

*Number them among your saints:*

*- (pause) - LORD, hear our prayer:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

*Concluding Prayer:*

*leader: Holy GOD, dwell in our midst, bringing us the peace of Your presence. May Your joy invade our hearts and then with the words of Thomas we will be able to acclaim Your Son's presence by crying with joy: 'My LORD and my GOD':*

*all: **Amen***

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST****Prayer over the offerings**

*presider: Receive, LORD, the gifts of Your people  
( and of those newly born in Christ ),  
that, having confessed your name  
and been cleansed in the waters of baptism,  
we may come to eternal happiness.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our LORD. all: **Amen***

**Preface ( theme )**

*presider: GOD be with you.*

*all: **And also with you.***

*presider: Lift up your hearts.*

*all: **We lift them up to the LORD.***

*presider: Let us give thanks to our GOD.*

*all: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*presider: It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
that we should always sing Your glory, LORD;  
but we praise You with greater joy than ever  
in this Easter season, when Christ became our Paschal sacrifice.  
He is the true Lamb who took away the sins of the world.  
By dying he destroyed our death;  
by rising he restored our life.  
Therefore, the universe resounds with Easter joy,  
and the choirs of angels sing the endless hymn of your glory:*

*all: **Holy holy holy!***

**EUCHARISTIC PRAYER III****Memorial Acclamation****Introduction to the LORD's Prayer**

*leader: Let us pray for the coming of GOD's realm as Jesus taught us:*

*all: **Our Father, . . .***

*presider: Deliver us, LORD, we pray, from every evil;  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that by the help of Your mercy,  
we may be always freed from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

*all: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.***

**Sign of Peace**

*presider: LORD Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:*

*'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you'.  
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church  
and grant us the peace and unity of your Realm,  
where you live, now and always:*

*all: **Amen.***

*presider: The peace of the LORD be with you:*

*all: **And with your spirit.***

*presider: Let us offer each other an appropriate sign of peace:*

### **Lamb of GOD**

*all: **Lamb of GOD, You take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us (x2)***

***Lamb of GOD, You take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.***

*presider: LORD Jesus Christ, Son of the living GOD,  
who by the will of the Father  
and the work of the Holy Spirit,  
through your death you gave life to the world;  
free us by this your most holy Body and Blood  
from all our sins and from every evil:  
keep us always faithful to your commandments  
and never let us be parted from you.*

*all: **Amen***

*presider: 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.*

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

### **Holy Communion**

*presider: Ko te Tinana o te Karaiti:  
( Ko nga Toto o te Karaiti: )*

### **Prayer after Communion**

*leader: ( Kia inoi tatou: ... / Let us pray, ... ) Grant, all-powerful GOD,  
that the paschal mystery we have shared  
may never cease to touch our hearts  
with the force of its saving grace.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ:*

*all: **Amen.***

*( an opportunity for announcements/notices etc. ... )*

### **Dismissal**

*leader: We are sent; in the name of the GOD,  
Father of peace-makers;  
we are sent in the name of Jesus,  
Arm of the Father's peace-making;*

*we are sent in the name of the holy Spirit,  
the Unity of all working for peace;  
to bring peace, unity, justice,  
friendship and joy to our world  
through the practice  
of the works of Mercy,  
until we gather again:*

*all: **Amen***

**The Blessing**

*presider: Kia whakapaingia tatou e te Atua kaha rawa,  
e te Matua, e te Tamaiti ✠ e te Wairua Tapu.*

*all: **Amene***

*commentator: Go in peace, to love and serve our GOD: **Alleluia! Alleluia!***

*all: **Thanks be to GOD. Alleluia! Alleluia!***