

Lectio Divina
Second Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday
Sunday April 12, 2026

Lectio Divina is prayer with the Sacred Scriptures. We read, we seek to understand with the help of a commentary, we ponder, we take time for stillness and we respond.

It is a way of life, not a method of prayer.

(Sr Hildegard Ryan, OSB)

Readings

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 117 (118):2-4,13-15,22-24

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

Meditatio

“Jesus came and stood among them.” (John 20: 19, 26)

The doors are closed. Fear has sealed the room. Jesus meets the disciples not in certainty but in their fear and doubt. Jesus does not wait for courage or clarity. He stands among them.

We live in a world where humanity’s capacity for brilliance and violence exist side by side. Threats of destruction, even genocide, sit alongside astonishing human achievement. Global conflicts abound and peace talks hang in the balance while four human beings return to earth in a space capsule named *Integrity*, having travelled further from earth than any before. The contrast in this Easter week is jarring, unsettling. It mirrors the inner world of those first disciples and perhaps us too: fear and hope, disbelief and longing, forgiveness given or withheld.

The Risen Christ enters this space now, as then. He breathes. He speaks peace because the Resurrection is not an escape from suffering but its transformation. Peace is breathed into fear, unlocking closed hearts. “Peace be with you” is spoken twice because peace is fragile and must be received again and again. It is the first gift of Easter.

Thomas speaks honestly from the place many of us inhabit. He refuses borrowed faith. He will not pretend he believes. He seeks certainty. Jesus does not shame him for this. Instead, the Lord meets Thomas at the very depth of his bold doubt. The invitation is intimate, physical: *Touch. Look. Doubt no longer but believe.* And Thomas’ response one of the greatest declarations of unrestrained faith and love: *My Lord and my God.*

And then comes the task entrusted to those who receive the Spirit: forgiveness. Divine mercy is never simply a private matter. It moves outward, restoring communion, healing what fear has closed. The Spirit given is the Spirit that carries peace, summons love and sends us out.

Prayer is listening. Today we listen for the Christ who still comes into the locked rooms of our world and our own hearts. He stands among us still, breathing peace, inviting trust.

Evangelisatio

Christ Jesus, I trust in you.

Teach me to receive your mercy

and to live it, gently, in a fearful world.