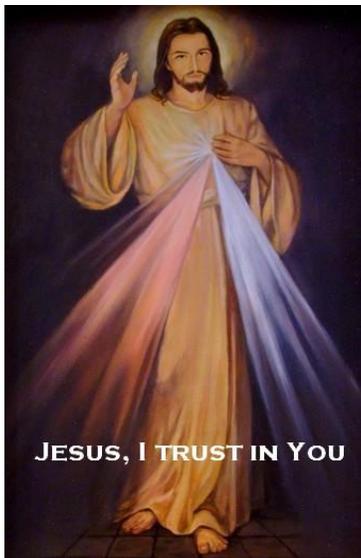


Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Alleluia! The Lord is Risen Indeed, Alleluia! Alleluia!

This weekend we near the end of Easter's Octave with Divine Mercy Sunday, this Second Sunday of Easter. The messages of God's profound mercy given to St. Faustina continue to be relevant today. Recorded in her Diary, Jesus told her:

"Encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given you" (Diary, no. 1541). "Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. ... Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. I desire that the whole world know My infinite mercy" (Diary, no. 687).



The two rays of light emanating from Jesus' heart are his love and mercy: his blood and water which flowed from his crucified body when the lance pierced his side. Today – especially these liturgical days after Easter – the risen Christ meets us bearing the wounds of the cross; the glorified body of Jesus, who is fully God and fully man, giving tangible proof that sin and death are not the final end but that the fullness of life *exists fully* in him beyond the grave.

In the image of Divine Mercy,
Jesus' Blood is red, and the Water from his side is bluish-white.

Next time you are stuck in traffic (especially caught in I-5's construction), check out the lights ahead of you: red and white – and let them remind you of God's Divine Mercy, his blood and water which flowed from the heart of Jesus as a fountain of mercy for us, for his fountain is an ocean of mercy! Let yourself be immersed in that fountain, and pray that those in traffic (or in your heart as you travel) be immersed in his mercy as well.

Let us pray also for each other; immersing our parish communities in his ocean of mercy for together we are His Body. The path of discipleship is never easy, for it means picking up our cross and following Our Lord to Calvary. While we never get to choose the cross or suffering we are to bear, he continually reminds us through scripture and the lives of the saints that he is always present to us – the challenge is to be present to *HIM* and to say with faith and hope, "Jesus, I trust in you."

May the fasting of this past Lent cause our hearts and lives to drink deep the gift of his divine mercy these 50 Glorious Days of the Easter Season, for He is Risen indeed, ALLELUIA!

In the Joy of the Risen Christ,

Kristen Abbananto

Pastoral Assistant for Faith Formation
Visitation and Holy Rosary Parishes, Tacoma WA
Archdiocese of Seattle

