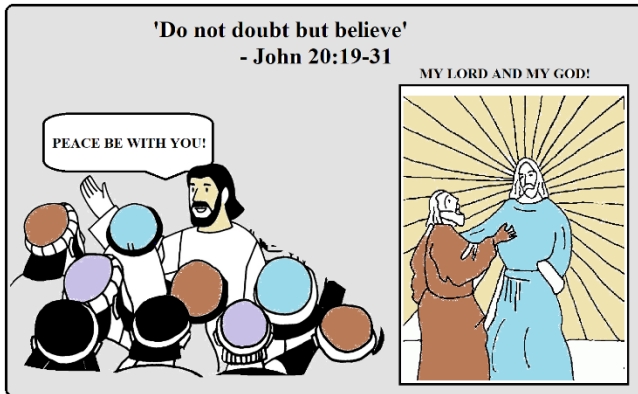


“Do not Doubt but Believe”.

Divine Mercy Sunday

Children’s liturgy activity April 16th, 2023



VERSE OF THE WEEK

Anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith.- 1 John 5:4

Gospel: John 20:19-31

In the Gospel today, we see Jesus appearing amidst the disciples who are locked up in fear of Jews. Jesus gave them Peace and presented himself living. He showed them his wounds and side. On seeing Jesus, the disciples were filled in Joy. Strengthening them in faith, Jesus commissioned the disciples saying, ‘As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.’ As he said, he breathed Holy Spirit on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit, for those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven, for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.’

Thomas, the disciple was not with them when Jesus appeared. He refused to believe the testimony of his friends regarding the appearance of Jesus. Thomas demanded a personal experience to believe in resurrected Jesus. Jesus appeared again just for strengthening Thomas’ faith. He asked Thomas to put his fingers on hands and to put his hands on Jesus’ side and said not to doubt anymore but to believe. Thomas believed in resurrected Jesus. Jesus said, ‘you believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen, but yet believe.’ Everything is recorded in the Bible so that all may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and by believing all may have eternal life.

Are we locked up in doubts and fears like the disciples? Are we struggling like Thomas to believe in Resurrected Jesus?

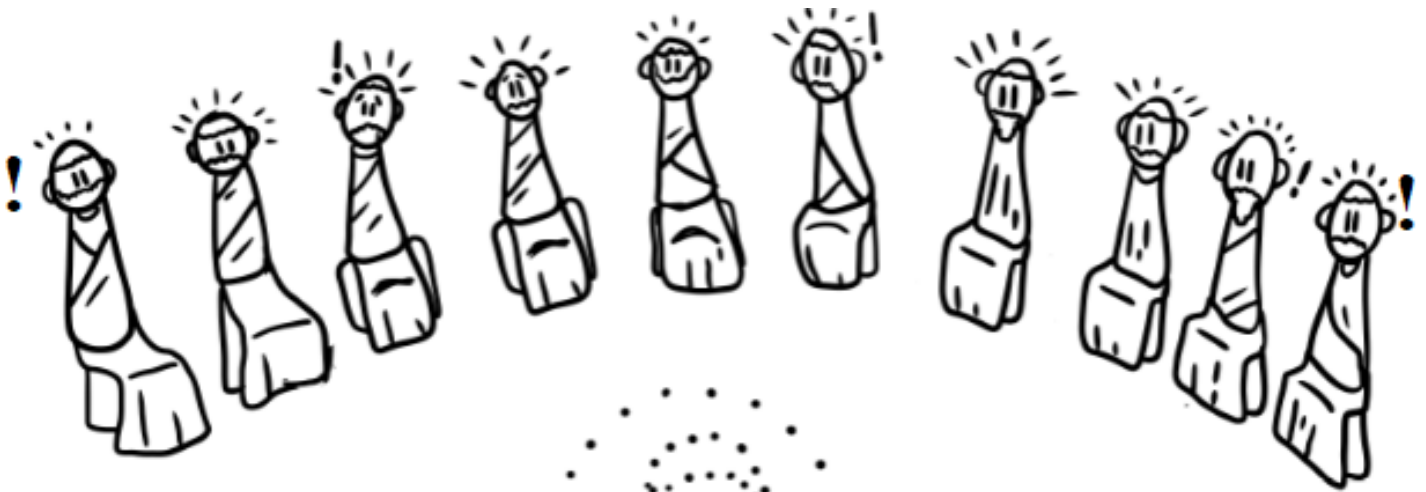
If so, let us offer all our fears, doubts, and weaknesses to our Lord. Amidst all our fears and lockdowns, Jesus is able to enter and fill us with his peace. Let us gaze to His wounds and pierced side and reach towards his great mercy, then the Joy of the resurrected Jesus will fill our hearts and His grace will fill our weaknesses. Jesus asks us not to doubt but to believe.

How can we increase in faith in Jesus? Faith increases through the living word. It is said in the Gospel, ‘everything is recorded in this book so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and that believing this you may have life through His name.’

We also see Jesus commissioning his disciples for same mission as He was sent by His father in heaven. Jesus gives strength for the mission by breathing Holy Spirit on them. He entrusts them with the mission of that ‘whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.’

Jesus is calling us too for carrying on His mission. So, let us fix our eyes on resurrected Christ and offer ourselves, all our doubts fears and weaknesses to him and pray to be filled in His peace, Joy and to be strengthened in faith by the power of Holy Spirit.

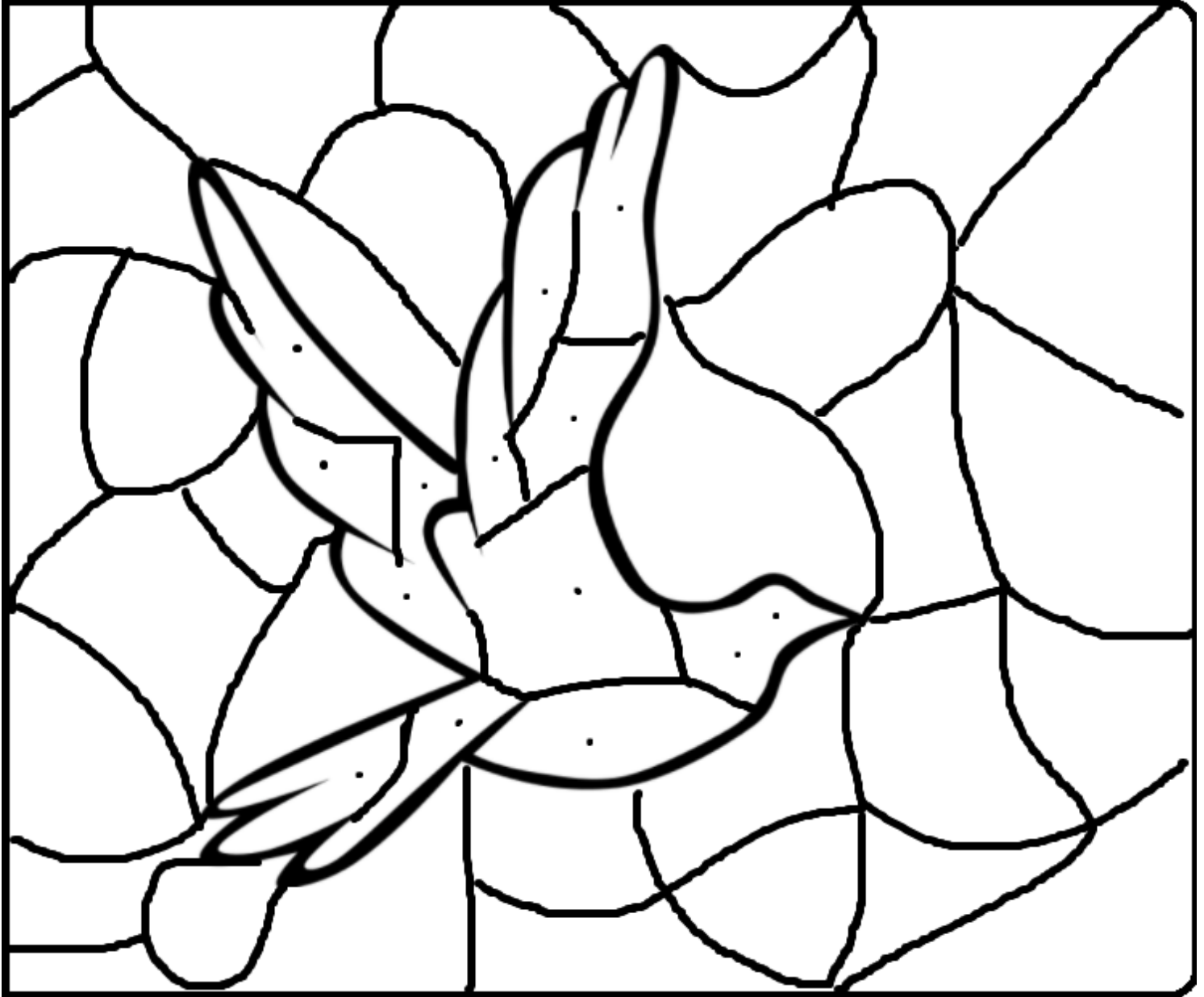
Join the dots and find out who appeared amidst the scaredy disciples. Fill in the speech bubble, what He said to the disciples.



Can you find out which disciples are missing from among them?

'Jesus breathed on the disciples'

Colour the dotted pieces to find out what did the disciples receive when Jesus breathed on them.



Complete the following verses from the Bible.

**'Receive the ----- . For those whose -----
you -----, they are -----; for those whose -----
you -----, they are -----.'** John 20:22-23

Feast of Divine Mercy: First Sunday after Easter

Jesus said to St. Faustina: "Humanity will never find peace until it turns with trust to Divine Mercy...The graces of My mercy are drawn by the means of one vessel only, and that is trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive."

Cut out, colour, and stick the beads in right order. Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and offer the whole world for Lords Mercy.

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

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Begin with sign of the cross

1 our father
1 Hail Mary

1 Apo-stels creed

Repeat it 5 times, and at the end of the fifth time, pray 'Holy God Holy Mighty one, Holy Immortal one, Have mercy on us and on the whole world' 3 times.



Let us Pray

Dear lord Jesus we offer all our fears, doubts, weaknesses, and we ourselves to your abundant mercy. Fill us with the peace and joy of your resurrection. Open our eyes to your living word to know you more and increase our faith. Fill us with your holy spirit and strengthen us to forgive and proclaim forgiveness to the world. In Jesus' name we pray amen. Jesus, I Trust in You.