

Introduction and First Prayer for Lectio Divina (3rd Sunday of Easter -B- April 17, 2021)

The warmest welcome to all of you, coming from so many places of our world to this encounter with the word of God, around the table where our Lord Jesus Christ wants to be with us, sharing our lives,

Our holy Mother, Teresa of Jesus, says in her book *The Way of Perfection*: “If you are joyful (or you want to be so) look at the Lord as risen. Just imagining how He rose from the tomb will bring you joy. The brilliance! The beauty! How victorious! How joyful! Indeed, like one coming forth from a battle where he has gained a great kingdom! And all of that, plus Himself, He desires for you.”

In this Sunday, let us these words resound in our hearts... Jesus, risen from the death, coming to us, bringing his peace!

Jesus Christ, our joy and longing, give us your peace when so much turmoil threatens our lives. Give us the courage to become for one another a source of hope, a refuge of peace and understanding, a sure harbor. Make us faithful to your word, and sacraments of your love for all people in this time of trouble.

Your victory over sin and death gives us the joy and strength we need. May your word guard us and help us to go toward you in confidence and trust.

And we ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord.