



# Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)**

April 12, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

### ***“Peace Through the Wounds of Mercy”***

On this Octave of Easter, as we celebrate the Second Sunday known as Divine Mercy Sunday, we once again encounter the familiar and deeply human story of Thomas. Many remember him as “Doubting Thomas,” not because he lacked love, but because he longed for certainty in a moment of fear and confusion. When the disciples told him they had seen the Lord, he responded, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, I will not believe.”

A week later, Jesus returned not to rebuke Thomas, but to meet him in his doubt. With tenderness, He invited Thomas to touch His wounds and to believe. Overwhelmed, Thomas proclaimed, “My Lord and my God.” And Jesus, with a gaze that reaches across centuries to each of us, said, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

Throughout this Easter season, we hear the testimonies of those first disciples, witnesses to the Risen Lord whose faith became the foundation of the Church. We are blessed to receive their testimony, and we are called to believe, even when our own lives echo with Thomas’s uncertainty.

Because the truth is, doubt is not foreign to us. In a world shaken by war, violence, and division, in families burdened by illness, grief, or financial strain, in communities recovering from natural disasters, we, too, can feel overwhelmed. We, too, can wonder where God is in the midst of so much suffering. And like Thomas, we may long for a sign that God has not abandoned us.

Yet the Risen Christ comes to us just as He came to Thomas, through locked doors, into fearful hearts, and into the very places where peace seems impossible. He shows us His wounds not to frighten us, but to remind us that He understands every human pain. He knows the wounds of our world. He knows the wounds we carry quietly within. And He meets us there with mercy.

This is why Divine Mercy Sunday is such a gift. Today, Jesus pours out His mercy upon the whole world, upon nations torn by conflict, upon families longing for reconciliation, upon hearts weighed down by fear or doubt. His mercy is not limited, not conditional, not reserved for the perfect. It is abundant, overflowing, and meant to bring peace where peace seems out of reach.

Just as He breathed peace upon His disciples, He breathes peace upon us. His peace is not the fragile peace the world offers, but a peace rooted in trust, forgiveness, and the unshakable truth that God is with us.

So let us draw deeply from the well of His Divine Mercy. Let His mercy strengthen us when we are weary. Let His mercy calm our fears and quiet our doubts. Let His mercy inspire us to be instruments of peace, in our homes, in our communities, and in a world that desperately longs for healing.

May the Risen Lord, rich in mercy and compassion, keep our hope alive in Him, through Him, and with Him. And may His peace, stronger than any darkness, take root in our hearts and radiate outward to a world in need.

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual