

April 19, 2020-Second Sunday of Easter

Orthodox liturgical colors

Today is Orthodox Easter.

There are four liturgical colors in the Roman Catholic Church: green (Ordinary Time), red (martyrs and Pentecost), purple (Advent and Lent), and white (Easter).

But in the Orthodox Church, liturgical colors are different: white (Resurrection), red (Advent season and feasts of martyrs), purple (Lent), blue (feasts of the Blessed Mother).

On the feast of Pentecost, the liturgical color is green to symbolize that God gives life to all creation, as a life-giving Spirit.

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### ***Today is Divine Mercy Sunday***

#### **What is means to be a disciple**

The Gospels were preached long before they were written, and Peter would have heard the story of his repeated denial of Jesus.

I wonder how he felt? Imagine him sitting there when it was one of the other apostles' turn to preach, and he hears the apostle say: "Whoever disowns me before men, I will disown before my Father in heaven."

I wonder how the other disciples felt? Every single one of them fled when Jesus was arrested. They must have heard this preached too, and they must have felt bad.

Probably Peter would have stood up for Jesus had he been hauled before the magistrate (rather than before a maid servant in the courtyard) and called upon to accept or reject Christ publicly. Probably I would do the same if I were called up before some pagan tribunal to accept or reject Christ. It would be difficult, but the adrenalin would flow, and I would summon up all my spiritual strength, and I could do it.

But the problem is in the courtyards of my life where I am often called upon, or at least given the opportunity, to say whether or not I am a follower of Christ. The people are just ordinary people who want to know what kind of life I really live. And lots of times I may hedge in my response.

It's not a question of whether or not I believe in God. It's whether or not I am a follower of Jesus, much as the maid servant asked Peter. People want to know what value system I follow in my life.

Jesus said: "Do not let them intimidate you. What I tell you in darkness, speak in the light. What you hear in private, proclaim from the housetops."

Something to think about.