

John 20: 19-31

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.'

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord'. But he said to them, 'Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.'

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

We should take heart from today's gospel. We see, how like us, the disciples are initially filled with hesitation and doubt, until they go beyond immediate experience, moving from 'seeing' to 'believing'. We are being called to follow their example of faith.

Prayer after Communion

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that our reception of this paschal Sacrament may have a continuing effect in our minds and hearts.

Second Sunday of Easter Yr C ***Divine Mercy Sunday*** **27th April 2025**



The portion of John's Gospel which is read today is absolutely indispensable. It tells of two appearances of Jesus, the first taking place in the evening of Easter Sunday and the second a week later. The two accounts are really one, for the first appearance took place when Thomas was absent, the second when he was present. But this is not an insignificant detail. Thomas' twofold reaction, first disbelief in his companions' testimony: "We have seen the Lord!," then a personal avowal of faith: "My Lord and my God!," connect these two stories of the only "official," so to speak, appearances of the risen Christ to the apostles. They end with a saying of the Lord that holds true for all believers: "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." And finally, this passage is the conclusion of the Fourth Gospel, written so that we might believe and, through faith, that we might have eternal life.

(Days of the Lord - Easter)

Opening Prayer

God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed.

Acts 5: 12-6

Many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the Apostles. And they were all together in the Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns round Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

Throughout Eastertide we will listen to the Acts of the Apostles, Luke's account of the growth of the early Church. The miracle in today's reading teaches us that the life of the Church is the continuance of the life of Christ whose Body the Church is. The miracle worked by Peter and the other disciples, mirror the miracles worked by Jesus during his ministry. The Church today, has to continue Christ's work in the world, bringing his message and healing to all.

Psalm 118(117):2-4. 22-24. 25-27a.

Let the house of Israel say, 'His mercy endures for ever.' Let the house of Aaron say, 'His mercy endures for ever.' Let those who fear the LORD say, 'His mercy endures for ever.'

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the LORD has this been done, a marvel in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.

We beseech you, O LORD, grant salvation; we beseech you, O LORD, grant success. Blest is he who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD; the LORD is God, and has given us light.

Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, 'Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches.' Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash round his chest. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, 'Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.'

The Second Reading throughout Easter comes from the Book of the Apocalypse (Revelation) attributed to John the apostle. It was composed around AD 95 when the young Church was living under persecution. John writes to encourage the faithful to remain firm, confident that the Lord will return to reward the faithful and to judge the wicked. Today we hear of John's vision of the risen Lord, whilst he was living in exile on the Island of Patmos, for having preached God's word.

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord.

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

Alleluia!

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the oblations of your people and of those you have brought to new birth, that, renewed by confession of your name and by Baptism, they may attain unending happiness.