

SUNDAY: 11 April 2010

2nd Sunday of Easter

1st reading: Acts 5:12-16

Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

2nd reading: Revelation 1:9-11, 12-13, 17-19

Gospel reading: Jn 20:19-31

Scripture: *Jn 20:19-31*

¹⁹ In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' ²⁰ and, after saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord, ²¹ and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' ²² After saying this he breathed on them and said: Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone's sins, they are retained. ²⁴ Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples said to him, 'We have seen the Lord,' but he answered, 'Unless I can see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' ²⁶ Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. ²⁷ Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Do not be unbelieving any more but believe.' ²⁸ Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ Jesus said to him: You believe because you can see me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe. ³⁰ There were many other signs that Jesus worked in the sight of the disciples, but they are not recorded in this book. ³¹ These are recorded 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.

Meditation:

If we are honest with ourselves, we may admit that we're like doubting Thomas. Our faith in the resurrection may not be strong. For instance, in our funeral homes and funeral Masses do we proclaim the resurrection? Are we so taken up with Jesus' resurrection that we center our lives on celebrating it each Sunday? Do we see our bodies differently because we know these bodies will rise to live eternally? Do we devote much of our finances and energies to proclaiming the resurrection? Our lives speak louder than our words. We may believe in the resurrection theoretically, but also have a lack of faith (see Mk 9:24) to live it out in practical ways.

We need the Holy Spirit to confirm us, to renew the sacrament of Confirmation in our lives. Jesus is breathing on us and saying: "Receive the Holy Spirit" (Jn 20:22). He's giving us the grace to respond: "My Lord and my God!" (Jn 20:28) By the power of the Spirit, this Easter can be a new act of faith rather than a continuation of doubt.

Jesus offered Thomas the opportunity to receive mercy, to atone for his fearfulness, his absence, his doubt. Jesus invites us who also fear, absent ourselves, and doubt, to come out of the tomb of doubt into the risen light of faith. Accept Jesus as Lord of your life and receive the Holy Spirit.

Question for Community Faith Sharing:

1. After observing 40-days Lent of fasting, almsgiving and abstinence, how do we continue to live up the joy of Easter in our daily life?
2. Do we really believe in the resurrection, especially when we are faced with the suffering or death of our closed one?
3. Just as the disciples have been sent out by Jesus to proclaim the Good News, how do we, as the followers of Jesus, carry out the duty to spread the resurrected Jesus to others?

Prayer: *Jesus today may I accept the grace to believe so strongly in your resurrection that I will live and even die for you*