

READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Thomas' struggle leads us to think about our faith in Christ Risen. We have not had Christ physically present to us but His presence is real for us through the blessings of our keeping God's commandments, the gifts of our community, and our response to the Word and sacramental signs. We are thankful for a sure hope through the resurrection of Christ.

A READING FROM THE BOOK ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 4:32-35

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common. The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect. None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.



The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 117

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.'

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds.

I was punished, I was punished by the Lord, but not doomed to die.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF ST JOHN 5:1-6

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.



The Word of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' *Jn 20: 29*

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 20:19-31

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,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you,'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'



Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I 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.'

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. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.'

Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!'

Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked, and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. 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.

The Gospel of the Lord

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FYI

The Lectionary gives a certain pride of place to John's gospel in Eastertide; every Sunday gospel is taken from it, except the Seventh to which Ascension has been relocated in Australia. Only the first three Sundays' pericopes are post-resurrection. Today's (John 20:19-31), like that on Easter Sunday morning (John 20:1-9), is read each year, and the two form a natural fit with these two Sundays since they encompass the eight days and together form one story. The first part of today's with the bestowing of the Spirit and the commission to forgive or remit sins or debts (v.19-23), repeats on Pentecost Sunday, thus encompassing and identifying the Eastertide as one unit: the whole of the mystery of the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ and the inbreathing of the Holy Spirit into the community of disciples to commission the Church.