

Second Week of Easter

WAIT AND SEE

So many waited and watched for you to come.
They waited and watched.
Many generations passed.
Then you were here with us.
A short lifetime it was.
And you were gone again,
into the tomb.
But you arose!
All fears were gone.
All hopes were realized.
And we rejoice.
Yet we wait again
for you to come at the end,
which will be the beginning,
and joy will be unending.



MARCH 30, 2008

ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER OR DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Easter Alleluias continue. We continue to ponder the Resurrection as we hear in today's Gospel reading (John 20:19–31), the story of Jesus appearing to the disciples who were hiding behind locked doors. Thomas was not with them, and later the disciples told Thomas, "We have seen the Lord."

Believers today can say the same thing: We have seen the Lord. We see him because, through the scriptures, he has told us where to look. And we see him because we have accepted the gift of faith to look with the eyes of believers. Christ is present in the Eucharist we celebrate and share, and he is in our midst—our faith communities, families, friends, and strangers. We are blessed to know

this and to recognize him: in the nursing home resident we visit, in the person lining up outside a shelter, or in the cashier at the supermarket.

We know from Thomas's experience that if we have trouble believing, Christ will have compassion and help us to see. His divine mercy toward us, so dramatically shown in his sacrifice, is also clear in his efforts to help Thomas see and understand him. Today we take special note of that divine mercy and try to enact it toward others. "We have seen the Lord," said the disciples, and they were changed forever. If we look for him today, we will see him, too. And we can let ourselves be changed.

This Week at Home

MONDAY, MARCH 31 THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

It all began with Mary's words at the Annunciation, "May it be done to me according to your word." Mary agreed to let herself be used to bring Jesus into the world. We don't have an angel to tell us what God wants of us, but we know that he wants us to use the talents he has given us, just as Mary did. With your family or close friends, name the God-given talents you see in each other. Describe how you see them used or suggest ways they could be used. Tonight, when you think about those things, like Mary you can pray, "May it be done to me according to your word."

TUESDAY, APRIL 1 EASTER WEEKDAY

This time of year many people do their spring cleaning by going through the house, taking a fresh look at things, organizing, and getting rid of what they don't need. Today the Acts of the Apostles (4:32-37) reports how the community shared more than what they no longer needed. They shared whatever others needed. When you decide to donate unneeded or unused clothes this spring, take care to pass them along, not as though they were being thrown away, but as if they were being given to Christ.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2 EASTER PRAISE

O magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

—Psalm 34:3-4

THURSDAY, APRIL 3 SPEAK WITH COURAGE

In today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles (5:27-33) the apostles are brought into court. They had been forbidden to teach about Christ, but they continued to do so. For this reason, the Sanhedrin wanted them executed. But the apostles were undaunted; they stood up for what they believed was the truth. We can follow their example in our own lives and speak the truth. We especially need to speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves. Who might that be? Is there someone at work or at school who needs help defending himself? Is there a group that could be helped if you wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper about their situation? *O God, who gives us all we need, place courage in our hearts as you did in the hearts of the apostles. Help us to speak up when our voice is needed. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

FRIDAY, APRIL 4 MAKE A HOME

In today's readings, the psalmist asks for one thing: to live in the house of the Lord. Imagine what it would be like to live in the Lord's house. It would be a place where people really love and care for each other. It would be a place where there is joy and comfort, where people help each other in whatever ways they can. When sadness came, they would comfort each other. When someone was afraid, the others would give encouragement. *O God, you created us to love each other as you love us. Show us each day how to make our house a house of the Lord. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

SATURDAY, APRIL 5 A SEASON OF JOY

It is Easter, a time to appreciate the new life that is all around. This weekend, bring a flower from your yard or a plant or flower from the supermarket to someone who would enjoy being reminded that Christ has brought us beauty, hope, and joy.

