

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



Peace Be with You

Lord Jesus,
you come to us,
offering peace,
despite the locked doors
of our hearts.
Help us to join with Thomas
in saying, “my Lord and my God.”
May we live out our faith
through words and deeds
so that others will know
that you live in us.
You live and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, April 28, 2019

From Doubt to Faith



Today's Readings: Acts 5:12–16; Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24; Revelation 1:9–11a, 12–13, 17–19; John 20:19–31. Have you ever heard a story that seemed too good to be true? Often people respond to those stories with skepticism and disbelief. Today's Gospel offers two appearances of the Risen Christ. Thomas is not present for the first appearance, and when he returns, he doubts the account told by the other disciples. A week later, Jesus again comes to the disciples, including Thomas. Jesus invites Thomas to touch his hands and side, and Thomas is healed of his disbelief.

But Thomas' doubt leads him to make a declaration of faith, “My Lord and my God!” Just as Jesus met Thomas in

this moment of disbelief, so he encounters us in our times of fear and doubts. In the locked room, Jesus offers his wounded body for Thomas' examination. At the liturgy, Christ's Body and Blood are offered to believers. Through them, we can be healed and transformed. In a culture where wounds are equated with weakness, the sacrifice of Jesus strengthens and nourishes believers.

Thomas can be looked to as a model of faith. May we seek to overcome our doubts to embrace belief. How will you proclaim the healing peace of Jesus Christ to those in your family and community this week?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 29

St. Catherine of Siena

Even as a young woman, St. Catherine of Siena was known for her holiness. She was a mystic, a spiritual writer, and one of the four women declared a doctor of the Church. This woman of prayer was a mediator and peacemaker for the Church. She settled family disputes and arguments among Italian city-states. She was instrumental in bringing the papacy back to Rome from France. Pray to St. Catherine this week for help in restoring peace in our homes and our world. *Today's Readings: Acts 4:23–31; Psalm 2:1–3, 4–6, 7–9; John 3:1–8.*

Tuesday, April 30

One Heart and One Mind

The community of believers were of one heart and one mind. None of them claimed possessions, but instead they held their belongings in common. Today's First Reading from Acts provides a beautiful image of people laying their donations at the feet of the Apostles. This is a total surrender, giving all they have for the Church. Is there anything you can do in your home to live a simpler lifestyle? *Today's Readings: Acts 4:32–37; Psalm 93:1, 1–2, 5; John 3:7–15.*

Wednesday, May 1

St. Joseph the Worker

The Church honors St. Joseph on March 19 for his role as Mary's spouse and today for his role as a worker. No words are attributed to St. Joseph in Scripture, yet his silent witness serves as a model for all who labor. This week honor St. Joseph by embracing a chore that you do not enjoy. You might also write a thank-you note to someone in your house for doing a chore that makes your life easier. *Today's Readings: Genesis 1:26–2:3 or Colossians 3:14–15, 17, 23–24; Psalm 90:2, 3–4, 12–13, 14, 16; Matthew 13:54–58.*

Thursday, May 2

The Name of Jesus

In the First Reading, we hear that the Apostles paid no heed to the admonition not to teach in Jesus' name. During an interrogation, they proclaimed that they needed to obey God and testify to Jesus' being raised from the dead. It can be challenging for us today to witness to the Risen Lord in our lives. How do you live the Gospel in a world that turns a deaf ear to Christ? *Today's Readings: Acts 5:27–33; Psalm 34:2, 9, 17–18, 19–20; John 3:31–36.*

Friday, May 3

Sts. Philip and James, Apostles

Sts. Philip and James share a feast day not only because they are both Apostles of our Lord but because both of their relics were brought to Rome together on the same day in early May. Philip and James were commissioned by Jesus to preach, heal, and baptize. They lived and died proclaiming that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. Would anyone know of the Risen Christ from the witness of your life? How is Jesus asking you to follow him this week? *Today's Readings: 1 Corinthians 15:1–8; Psalm 19:2–3, 4–5; John 14:6–14.*

Saturday, May 4

Walking on Water

The winds are blowing on the Sea of Galilee, but that does not stop the disciples from stepping into a boat and attempting to cross toward Capernaum. It is dark and the winds are increasing. They see Jesus coming toward their boat, walking upon the water. Jesus calms their fears by revealing, "It is I; do not be afraid." There are many circumstances in our lives that cause us to be afraid. Where do you go when you feel worried or anxious? Do you place your trust in the One who can get us safely ashore? *Today's Readings: Acts 6:1–7; Psalm 33:1–2, 4–5, 18–19; John 6:16–21.*

