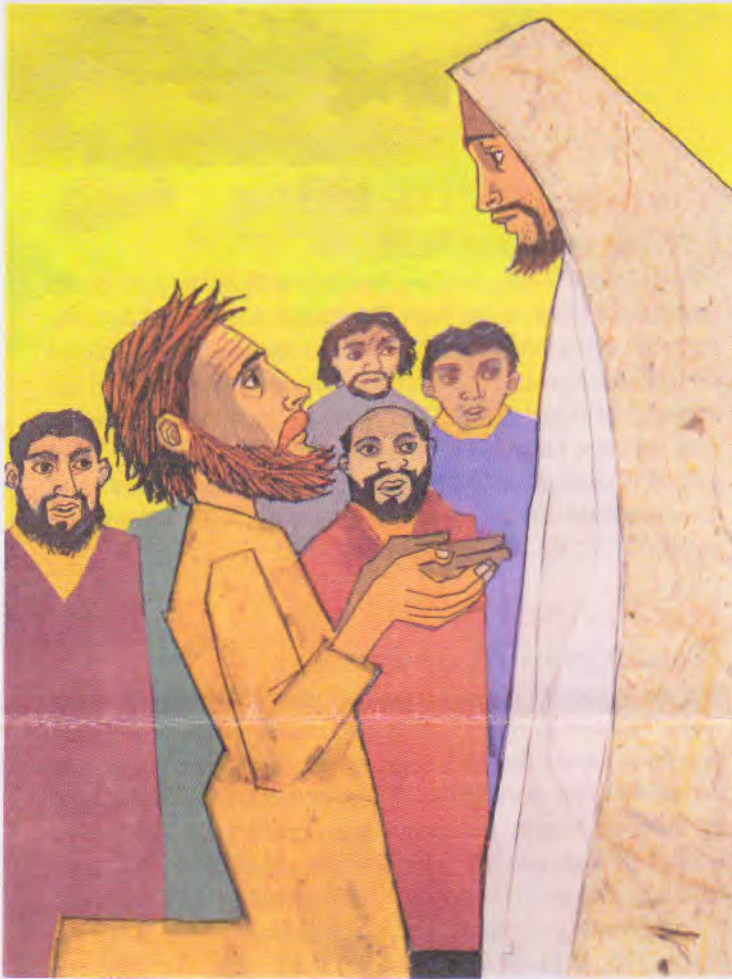


SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY



Gift of peace

O Risen Lord,
you came that we might believe.
With Thomas, we proclaim your
sovereignty.

Acclaiming, "my Lord and my God,"
we announce our faith in you.
Help us during those times
when we suffer trials and doubts
tempt us.

You offer us peace,
providing us with the serenity to offer
such peace to others.

Guide us as we go forth
to wherever you send us.

Be at our side as we bring your Word
to family, friends, and coworkers.

You live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, April 12, 2015

My Lord and My God

Today's Readings: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1); 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31. By the end of today's Liturgy of the Word, we might ask ourselves about the difference our faith has made in our lives. From the Acts of the Apostles, we see how the disciples' lives changed because of their belief. Now, they were of "one heart and soul," living with everything in common. They witnessed to the Resurrection and shared all they had.

Throughout the First Letter of John, it is evident that belief in Jesus Christ is key to our lives. Faith, we hear, is the victory that conquers the world. How can we be afraid if we live with such faith?

The story of Thomas in today's Gospel may resonate with many, for some doubt often accompanies belief.

Thomas does not believe when the disciples say, "We have seen the Lord." He is hesitant until the Lord appears before him. Often, we would like to be Thomas and have that solid proof. Instead, we need to rest in Jesus' proclamation, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Though we have not seen with our physical eyes, we have seen with the eyes of faith and have believed. The question is whether that belief has made a difference in our lives and the lives of others. Is it obvious that we are the children of God because we love God and have kept his commandments? Have we been willing to let others know by the way we live that we follow Christ?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 13, 2015

Being Born from Above

The conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus went to the very heart of Mosaic Law—how can one get right with God and enter into God’s Kingdom? Jesus’ answer was brief and startling, “no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born from above.” This new birth of which Jesus spoke was the beginning of a spiritual birth, a new and radical birth in the Holy Spirit. How is the Spirit the active transforming agent at work in your life? Today’s Readings: Acts 4:23–31; Psalm 2:1–3, 4–7a, 7b–9 (11d); John 3:1–8.

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Relying on the Holy Spirit

The Hebrew word for “spirit” means both “wind” and “breath.” We often hear and feel the wind, but we don’t often know where it comes from. Likewise, we see the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of people. The Spirit is our guide who gives us strength to witness, spread, and defend the Gospel by word and action. Often, though, we do not seek the counsel of the Spirit. How can you make reliance on the Spirit part of your life? Today’s Readings: Acts 4:32–37; Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd–2, 5 (1a); John 3:7b–15.

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Seeing God in Others

In today’s Gospel, we hear that God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it but to save it. As we seek to bring the Gospel to others, we must remember that it is not our job to condemn. We are rather, Pope Francis states in *The Joy of the Gospel*, “to see God in others and to go forth from ourselves to seek the good of others” (39). We need to be aware that our love for others radiates God’s love. Today’s Readings: Acts 5:17–26; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9 (7a); John 3:16–21.

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Living without Fear

During Easter Time, the First Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, a book of the New Testament that tells of how the Apostles spread the Gospel. In today’s reading, the Sanhedrin remind the Apostles that they already have been warned not to speak of Jesus’ works. The Apostles’ response shows that they will not back down, even though their lives may be at risk. It is obvious that they have heeded Christ’s words and are not afraid. Today’s Readings: Acts 5:27–33; Psalm 34:2 and 9, 17–18, 19–20 (7a); John 3:31–36.

Friday, April 17, 2015

Blessings in Abundance

We see in today’s Gospel how God nourishes us in so many ways. The crowd that has followed him is bound to be hungry. Jesus knows that they want to hear from him, but he also knows that they need physical nourishment, too. He does not let them go hungry but provides so much food that twelve wicker baskets are left over. Do we sometimes think that God will give us only enough or do we realize the abundance of our blessings in him? Today’s Readings: Acts 5:34–42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14 (4abc); John 6:1–15.

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Do Not Be Afraid

Today’s Gospel account tells of the Apostles being alone at sea in a storm and describes the situation as “dark.” The Apostles were not only experiencing physical darkness but spiritual darkness as well. When Jesus appears to them, John tells us that the disciples were “terrified.” But Jesus reassures them and calms the sea, saying, “It is I. Do not be afraid.” When calamities or trials threaten to overwhelm us, how do we respond? Can we remember Christ’s caution to the Apostles? Today’s Readings: Acts 6:1–7; Psalm 33:1–2, 4–5, 18–19 (22); John 6:16–21.



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Keeping the Seasons

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