

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God, who has called you into the heavenly kingdom, alleluia.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
 Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:
 Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
 Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood:
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
 May almighty God have mercy on us.....

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 2:42 - 47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
 The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple everyday but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps117: 2-4.13-15.22-24

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

- 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.'



[R]

- I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper.

The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour.
 There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just. [R]

- 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. [R]

SECOND READING 1 Peter 1: 3 - 9

A reading from the first letter of St. Peter.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoiled or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold - only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire - and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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.



[R]

[R]

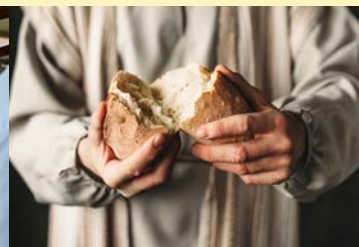


focus on sunday

Easter for Thomas was a rediscovery of his faith in Jesus. The risen power of the Lord is the basis for his people's faith.



Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe



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. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

All bow for following two lines:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters,
 May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.
 When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.



We do not come through suffering and difficult times unscarred. We are changed by them. Often, they bring some sort of growth into our lives and usually it is not a pleasant experience. The Risen Jesus bears the wounds

of his suffering and in today's Gospel invites Thomas to get in touch with this reality. The great mystery of this narrative is that the cross and new life are deeply intertwined. We can be healed, fully transformed, even experience resurrection yet the scars of what has happened remain, almost like a reminder of how far we have come. When we recall times of our own 'wounded-ness' do we also hear Jesus's "peace be with you"? This peace, this Shalom, is more than a wish for a peaceful day. It expresses the desire that the person receiving the blessing might be whole in body, mind and spirit. The Risen Jesus brings a peace that is life-giving.

In difficult times, becoming aware of Christ's presence amongst us can open our hearts, we keep going in confidence that any suffering we are experiencing is not the end of the story. For the disciples this experience moves them from being closed off to the world, to rejoicing, and this in turn opens up the mission for them to be unending witnesses to God's love, to be for others what Jesus has been for them. The Risen Christ is active in all our lives and in the world around us. May we be open to transformation, to growth and to share this life-giving Spirit with others.

"For even if the whole world believed in resurrection, little would change until we began to practice it. We can believe in CPR, but people will remain dead until someone breathes new life into them." - Shane Claiborne

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