

Readings: 2nd Sunday of Easter

First Reading Introduction: Many Came to Believe in the Lord

Because Jesus was alive in the apostles, he continued his work of healing through them. Because he was alive in the Christian community, many came to believe in Jesus.

First Reading: Acts 5:12-16

Many signs and wonders were done among the people
at the hands of the apostles.
They were all together in Solomon's portico.
None of the others dared to join them, but the people esteemed them.
Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord,
great numbers of men and women, were added to them.
Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets
and laid them on cots and mats
so that when Peter came by,
at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them.
A large number of people from the towns
in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered,
bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits,

and they were all cured.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

**R/ Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.**

or: **R/ Alleluia.**

Let the house of Israel say,
"His mercy endures forever."
Let the house of Aaron say,
"His mercy endures forever."
Let those who fear the LORD say,
"His mercy endures forever."
**R/ Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.**

or: **R/ Alleluia.**

Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call;
have pity on me, and answer me.
Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks.
**R/ Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.**

or: **R/ Alleluia.**

I was hard pressed and was falling,
but the LORD helped me.
My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.
The joyful shout of victory
in the tents of the just:
**R/ Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.**

or: **R/ Alleluia.**

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.
This is the day the LORD has made;

let us be glad and rejoice in it.
**R/ Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.**

or: **R/ Alleluia.**

Second Reading Introduction: Do Not Be Afraid: I Am the Living One

The apostle John was encouraged in his faith by a vision of the risen Lord. In his message to the seven churches, symbolic of the universal Church, he encourages the persecuted Christians to be without fear and to be firm in the faith.

Second Reading: Rev 1:9-13, 17-19

I, John, your brother, who share with you
the distress, the kingdom, and the endurance we have in Jesus,
found myself on the island called Patmos
because I proclaimed God's word and gave testimony to Jesus.
I was caught up in spirit on the Lord's day
and heard behind me a voice as loud as a trumpet, which said,
"Write on a scroll what you see."

Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me,
and when I turned, I saw seven gold lampstands
and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man,

wearing an ankle-length robe, with a gold sash around his chest.

When I caught sight of him, I fell down at his feet as though dead.
He touched me with his right hand and said, "Do not be afraid.
I am the first and the last, the one who lives.
Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever.
I hold the keys to death and the netherworld.
Write down, therefore, what you have seen,

and what is happening, and what will happen afterwards."

Gospel Introduction: Doubt No Longer But Believe Without Seeing

Like Thomas before the Lord appeared to him, we have not seen Jesus in the flesh. Happy are we if we have enough faith to recognize the Lord in our lives and in our neighbor.

Gospel Reading: Jn 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you."
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve,
was not with them when Jesus came.
So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord."
But he said to them,
"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands
and put my finger into the nailmarks
and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside
and Thomas was with them.
Jesus came, although the doors were locked,
and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."
Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands,
and bring your hand and put it into my side,
and do not be unbelieving, but believe."
Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"
Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me?"

Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples
that are not written in this book.
But these are written that you may come to believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,

and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

