

FIRST READING

All those who believed were equal and held everything in common.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

2:42-47

The followers of Jesus spent their time learning from the apostles,
and they were like family to each other.
They also broke bread and prayed together.

Everyone was amazed at the many miracles and wonders
that the apostles worked.

All the Lord's followers often met together,
and they shared everything they had.
They would sell their property and possessions
and give the money to whoever needed it.
Day after day they met together in the temple.
They broke bread together in different homes
and shared their food happily and freely,
while praising God.
Everyone liked them,
and each day the Lord added to their group
others who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5b-6c

R. (1) Give thanks, for the Lord is good, God's love is everlasting.

Let Israel shout,
"God is always merciful!"
Let the family of Aaron
the priest shout,
"God is always merciful!"
Let every true worshiper
of the Lord shout,
"God is always merciful!"

R. Give thanks, for the Lord is good, God's love is everlasting.

The stone that the builders
tossed aside
has now become
the most important stone.
The Lord has done this,
and it is amazing to us.
This day belongs to the Lord!
Let's celebrate and be glad today.

R. Give thanks, for the Lord is good, God's love is everlasting.

SECOND READING

God has given us a new birth as his children,
by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

A reading from the first letter of Peter

1:3-4

Brothers and sisters:

Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
God is so good,
and by raising Jesus from death,
he has given us new life and a hope that lives on.
God has something stored up for you in heaven,
where it will never decay or be ruined or disappear.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

John 20:29

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to John 20:19-29

The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders,
and on the evening of that same Sunday
they locked themselves in a room.
Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group.
He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side.
When the disciples saw the Lord,
they became very happy.

After Jesus had greeted them again, he said,
"I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me."
Then he breathed on them and said,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.
If you forgive anyone's sins,
they will be forgiven.
But if you don't forgive their sins,
they will not be forgiven."

Although Thomas the Twin was one of the twelve disciples,
he was not with the others when Jesus appeared to them.
So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!"
But Thomas said, "First, I must see the nail scars in his hands
and touch them with my finger.
I must put my hand where the spear went into his side.
I won't believe unless I do this!"

A week later the disciples were together again.
This time Thomas was with them.
Jesus came in while the doors were still locked
and stood in the middle of the group.
He greeted his disciples and said to Thomas,
"Put your finger here and look at my hands!
Put your hand into my side.
Stop doubting and have faith!"

Thomas replied, "You are my Lord and my God!"
Jesus said, "Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me?
The people who have faith in me without seeing me
are the ones who are really blessed!"

The gospel of the Lord.

Activity:

Draw a map.

Begin by drawing your house on the far left side of the paper. Make a road going to several different places. Think about places that Jesus could send you like a retirement home where you could keep a lonely elderly person company, or a friend's house where your kindness is needed, or to school where your leadership is needed to show what is right or to a park to pick up trash that harms the animals and the earth. Also draw some places where Jesus would not want you to go like the playground where a group of kids are saying unkind things about someone, or a store where you take something without paying for it or to a park when you told your Mom you were going to school. Make road signs from Jesus that tell you which way you should and shouldn't go. Highlight the path that you choose to take.