

[39]

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

C

FIRST READING

The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord
increased steadily.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

5:12-16

The apostles worked many miracles and wonders among the people.
All of the Lord's followers
often met in the part of the temple known as Solomon's Porch.
No one outside their group dared join them,
even though everyone liked them very much.

Many men and women started having faith in the Lord.
Then sick people were brought out to the road
and placed on cots and mats.
It was hoped that Peter would walk by,
and his shadow would fall on them and heal them.
A lot of people living in the towns near Jerusalem
brought those who were sick or troubled by evil spirits,
and they were all healed.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

118:2 and 4, 13-14

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

or:

R. Alleluia.

Let Israel 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.*

or:

R. Alleluia.

The nations attacks were so fierce
that I nearly fell,

but the Lord helped me.
My power and my strength
come from the Lord,
and he has saved me.

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

*or:
R. Alleluia.*

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 sin,
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.

Second Sunday of Easter Cycle C

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, help us to love others as you love us.

Readings:

Acts 5: 12-16, Psalm 118: 2 and 4, 13-14, John 20: 19-29

Reflection/Discussion:

Have you ever been afraid of someone?

Has anyone ever made fun of you or call you names?

Did anyone come to your rescue and help you when this happened?

What do you think you would do if Jesus was to appear in front of you?

Could you forgive and also ask Jesus to forgive the people who picked on you and called you names?

If yes, Why? — If not, Why?

After Jesus was put to death the disciples were sad and worried, they knew that they wanted to continue living as Jesus taught them and to carry on His work of teaching others about God. They knew they had a big job on their hands and gathered together to pray and talk about what to do. They also knew that they were in danger because they were followers of Jesus.

1. Why were the disciples so afraid that they locked their selves in a room to hide?
2. Jesus had told them that he would always be with them so why did the fear the Jewish leaders?
3. The Jewish Leaders hated Jesus and the disciples, why do you think they would hate some one that was so good and that we love?
4. Jesus told Thomas to put his finger into the holes in His hands and His side, why?
5. What would do if Jesus asked you to do the same thing?
6. Jesus told Thomas that the ones who are blessed are those who believe without seeing; do you love Jesus and do you believe?

Activity:

With a paper and pencil make a drawing of the disciples praying in the room where Jesus appeared to them.

Make a drawing of yourself in prayer asking Jesus to forgive you of your sins and telling Him that you love Him.

Take a pencil and write a short prayer thanking Jesus for all the love He has given you.