

**FIRST READING**

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

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

2:42-47

**T**he 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

**B**rothers 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

**T**he 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.

## Second Sunday of Easter

### **Prayer:**

Dear Jesus,  
Help me to believe in you even though I have never seen you so I can clearly hear your voice sending me out to do your work.  
In your name we pray.  
Amen

### **Readings:**

Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47  
1 Peter 1:3-4  
John 20:19-29

### **Reflection:**

I can understand how Thomas felt in today's gospel. Try to imagine that you are Thomas. One of your best friends has been arrested, hurt and killed because he wanted everyone to love each other and treat each other fairly. You are so sad and so hurt. You are also afraid that you might also be arrested for being a friend of Jesus so you are hiding in a tiny house with your friends trying to figure out what to do next. One day you go out for a while. When you return your friends say that Jesus suddenly appeared but has left. What would you think? Would YOU believe them? You might think that it was only someone pretending to be Jesus or that your friends wanted to see Him so badly that they made it up.

Sometimes it is so hard to believe in things that we don't see especially during times when we are sad or angry. Today's gospel tells us that we must believe not only because we must have faith but also because there is work for us to do. In order to do the work that Jesus wants us to do we must believe that He is the one sending us, He is with us and He is helping us. When Jesus appeared to the disciples He said that He was sending them out to continue His work. That is where he wants our attention and our energies instead of trying to figure out if He was really there. If we believe we can move on to the real work at hand.

### **Discussion Questions:**

Why do you think Thomas wanted to touch Jesus' hands and sides?  
Do you think you would have been like Thomas? Why or why not?  
Can you believe that Jesus is God without ever seeing Him? Why or why not?  
What do you think Jesus is sending you out to do?

*(continued on page 2)*

**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.