



SECOND SUNDAY OF

Easter

(OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)

APRIL 19, 2020

Jesus said to Thomas,
“Have you come to believe because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

John 20:29

BELIEVING IN THE RESURRECTION

The readings today describe how life was lived in communities formed not long after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Their focus is on communal life and the teachings of those who knew Jesus best, his apostles. The readings from First Peter and John both remind us that even among the apostles there is a tension between believing and seeing the reality of the resurrection. John tells of an apostle, Thomas, who refused to believe in the risen Christ until he had seen and touched his wounds. Jesus offers him the chance to do just that. Most of us are not in a position to demand such tangible proof from Jesus. But these stories are written so that we, who cannot see Jesus as his apostles did, can still come to believe and through that belief have life.

SEEING IS BELIEVING

In today's passage from Acts we read of an idealized version of what the first communities were like. People are devoted to the community, to teaching, breaking bread, and sacrifice. Many signs and wonders were done. First Peter offers a more realistic picture because time has passed and believers are still waiting. Faith is being tested by the passage of time and the suffering that is a part of life. In the Gospel, the disciples are consumed with recent events. That is all they can talk about. Poor Thomas misses the latest revelation, that is, the visit by the risen Jesus to the disciples in the locked room. He is angry and refuses to share in the excitement or even to believe it happened. So Jesus appears again, this time when Thomas is present. Jesus tells him to touch and feel the wounds so that Thomas can believe. Jesus then reminds Thomas and us that there is something more to believing than just the physical reality.

OR IS IT?

Too often we are more like Thomas than we might like to think. We are disturbed when we can't directly see or experience the results of our faith. We want some evidence for all the years of faith and struggle when there seems so little to show for our faith. The mistake that Thomas made and that we make is thinking that if we could just see some evidence that our faith makes a difference, then it would be easier to have faith. But it is not the evidence that makes faith possible. Thomas does not gain his faith because he puts his hands in Jesus' wounds. Thomas gains faith because Jesus comes back. Jesus comes back again and again and again. Jesus returns every time we ask for his presence in our life because Jesus never really leaves. Thomas had only to ask. We need only ask.

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 2:42–47

Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24

1 Peter 1:3–9

John 20:19–31

Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co. Inc.

Photos:

© Adam Ján Figeľ / Adobe Stock,
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
(c) 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD.

ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH

303 West Main Street, Springfield, KY 40069

Parish Office: (859) 336-3569 Email: stdom@bellsouth.net Fax: (859) 336-3549

Church Website: stdomparish.org School Website: www.stdominicelementary.org

Rev. David J. Farrell, Pastor

Bulletin for Sunday, April 19, 2020 ~ Second Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday

TODAY'S READINGS:

First Reading Acts 2:42–47

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

R. (1) Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.

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.

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.

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.

Reading 2 1 Pt 1:3–9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time. In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel 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 nail marks 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.

GET REAL!

Those of us who flatter ourselves that we have a “realistic” view of the world may listen to the first reading today and say, “Get real!” when we hear Luke’s account of the early, Elysian days of the Christian movement. All seems to be rosy, lots of wonders are performed, everyone shares selflessly, they eat together in “exultation,” and the Lord added to their numbers? Well, who wouldn’t be attracted to a group like this? From the wind that swept through the upper room at Pentecost as the Spirit of God blew over the face of the waters in Genesis, and the fire that appeared over each disciple as the light appeared at the dawn of creation, Luke’s intent in Acts is to show a new creation, a restoration of creation’s original goodness through the working of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who continues to make us into the Body of Christ. We may occasionally, like Thomas in the Gospel, say, “Get real!” but our ultimate reality in the Spirit is to work continually to make our Christian community a new creation, one in which others will find God’s joy and beauty. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Divine Mercy Prayer

You expired, O Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls and an ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us. O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You. Amen.

Tithing Contributions for the week (includes contributions during the week &/or ACH contributions, etc.): \$3,870.00

***Fr. David will offer Masses privately in the coming weeks, on his own time, and with no congregation.**

MASS INTENTIONS for April 20-26, 2020 are as follows:

Monday: Kenny & Barbara Corbett, Flo Cambron

Tuesday: Nell “Yeti” Bootes

Wednesday: NO MASS

Thursday: Rita & Eric Riley

Friday: T.F. Smith, Clarine Carrico

Saturday: Casey Jones, Woody & Sharon Dean, Marsha Daugherty

Sunday: For the Parish, Joey & Tommy Taylor, Presider’s Intention

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-9; Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20

Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

St. D Prayer List: Coronavirus Pandemic, Healthcare Workers, Victims of Abuse, U.S. Military, Unborn & Elderly, Addictions, Joseph E. Kurtz, Jane Rudd Volz, Brenda Mackin, Roberta Williams, Jared Mudd, Jerry Craig, Ann Cieslik, Larry Smith, Margaret Faye Martin, Charlotte Disponett, Carolyn Greene, Marian & Wade Elliott, Sue Carter, Michael & Jennifer Jarboe, Debbie Hamilton, Buddy & Charlotte Smith, Wheatley Hamilton, Frank Peters, Lisa Hill (of Loretto), John Arnold, Corbin Noel, Geraldine Spalding, Dorothy Mattingly, Colin Walker, Cassie Robinson, Olivia Montgomery, Audrey Edelen, Marilyn Watkins, Sueanna Graves, Helen Parrot, Christy Caldwell & Nancy Hardin. Our church always prays for and cares for our sick sisters and brothers at home, in hospitals, and in nursing homes. If any who are sick want to ask in faith for the church’s prayers, please do not hesitate to contact our parish office at 336-3569. You are always in our hearts, minds and prayers as we celebrate the Eucharist at St. Dominic.

A message from SVDP: If your income, or someone you may know, has been impacted by layoff due to the coronavirus, and you are not eligible for unemployment, St. Vincent de Paul may be able to help by calling 859-805-0964.

Create a family Prayer Space at Home: In the coming weeks, families will be spending more time together at home. One good use of this time would be to pray together on a regular basis. This prayer time together can be enhanced by creating a place in your home dedicated to prayer. Making a place for prayer in our home can help us do what the Gospel tells us, to go into an “inner room” to pray (Matthew 6:6). Make your prayer place as quiet, uncluttered, and “desert-like” as possible. It can be the corner of a room or any unused space. Furnish your prayer place with a Bible, prayer books, cross, rosary, icons, and a candle. Encourage family members to use the prayer place for personal as well as family prayer. You can bless your place of prayer, saying: Come, Holy God. Dwell in this place of prayer, and bless it with your peace and presence. Bless all who seek you here. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Rescheduled Dates: First Communion, Sun., June 14, 2020, 10:30 a.m. & Confirmation, Sat., August 8, 2020, 4:30 p.m.