



2nd Sunday of Easter, Yr C

Lectio Divina

Lectio: Our texts for the gospels after Easter Sunday in Year C are not taken from this year's gospel of Luke. This is because Luke only recounts a few events after Jesus' resurrection. The remaining Easter Season gospels this year, except for the Ascension, are taken from John's gospel. This Gospel was last written when there was an established believing community. John reflects extensively on Jesus' identity even before the resurrection. This tallies with reflections on the Risen Lord that is central to Easter Season reflections.

So, leading into our text, Mary Magdala had found the stone rolled from the tomb entrance. Mary told Peter and John who came and found the tomb empty except for the linen cloths. They still did not understand that Jesus was to rise from the dead. Mary stayed and wept by the tomb. She eventually recognized the Risen Jesus after first thinking him to be the gardener. She then went and told the disciples.

► So, in our text, it is now the evening on the day of resurrection. They have Mary's news and Peter and John's discovery of the empty tomb. Still the apostles are locked away not knowing what to do. They are fearful of what the Jews might do to them; they could be treated as tomb robbers putting out 'fake news' about Jesus! So, Jesus must change this fear and doubt into peace and confidence. The apostles will need sure proof of his resurrection and a guarantee of empowerment. This is what Jesus does in his appearance to the apostles in our text.

Read: John 20: 19 – 31

Meditatio: Of what, or of whom, am I fearful? Have I hidden from people who were 'out to get me'? Do I know how to live my life with the Risen Lord? Do I refrain from speaking about my faith in Jesus out of fear of how others might react? Is the Lord present to me everywhere despite walls and doors or other barriers? Is my first wish for others – peace? Jesus showed his wounded hands and side – am I afraid to show that I have wounds? Do I think wounds or disabilities are things to be hidden because they might be perceived as signs of weakness or failure? Am I proud of how I am living with my weaknesses? Have I experienced the release after being forgiven – the gifts of the Holy Spirit? Do I rely on the Holy Spirit to empower me as a follower of, and a witness to, Jesus? Do I believe in Jesus? Do I sometimes doubt my faith in Jesus? Do I only believe in what I can see and touch? How has Jesus shown himself to me? What blessings have I received through believing in Jesus?

Oratio: Pray for those who live in fear. Pray for peace and tolerance. Pray for the Lord's direction in your life. Pray that we will live up to our vocation. Pray that we will be proud witnesses to the Risen Lord. Pray that the sick or disabled may be respected and helped to live their lives to the full. Pray for courage to tell of your faith. Pray for trust in God's mercy no matter how we may stray. Pray that we will continue to follow Jesus through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Pray for the Holy Spirit's gift of contrition. Thank the Lord for the Sacrament of Reconciliation which breaks the power of sin. Pray that all will see the truth of Jesus' resurrection. Pray for deeper faith. Pray for belief in real things that can't be seen or touched, e.g. relationships, love, peace, forgiveness, life, joy, happiness, eternal life, etc.. Pray that we will recognise Jesus in our lives, especially in the poor and needy. Pray that the texts of the Gospels, may inspire and guide our lives. Pray for the joys and blessings of Easter. Pray for world peace and peacemakers. Pray in thanks for the four Gospels.

Contemplatio – Dwell in stillness, simply aware of the boundless expanse of mercy that surrounds you.

After your prayer – Support those wounded/or disabled.

✠ Fr Joe

John 20: 19 – 31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.