

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God,  
who has called you into the heavenly kingdom, alleluia.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

God of everlasting mercy,  
who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast  
kindle the faith of the people you have made  
your own,  
increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed,  
that all may grasp and rightly understand  
in what font they have been washed,  
by whose Spirit they have been reborn,  
by whose Blood they have been redeemed.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Acts 5:12-16

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Ps 117 (118):2-4, 22-27

Response:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Or: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- Let the sons of Israel say:  
'His love has no end.'  
Let the sons of Aaron say:  
'His love has no end.'  
Let those who fear the Lord say:  
'His love has no end.' (R.)

- The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.  
This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad. (R.)
- O Lord, grant us salvation;  
O Lord grant success.  
Blessed in the name of the Lord  
is he who comes.  
We bless you from the house of the Lord;  
the Lord God is our light. (R.)

**SECOND READING**

Apoc 1:9-13, 17-19

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me.  
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Jn 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;

through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under

Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Accept, O Lord, we pray,  
the oblations of your people  
(and of those you have brought to new birth),  
that, renewed by confession of your name and  
by Baptism,  
they may attain unending happiness.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,  
and do not be unbelieving but believing,  
alleluia.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that our reception of this paschal Sacrament  
may have a continuing effect  
in our minds and hearts.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Sunday Message

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE WORD

Year C • 27th April 2025 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 2



## JESUS APPEARS TO HIS DISCIPLES

JN 20: 19-31

In today's Gospel the disciples are gathered in a locked room. You can imagine how scared they are, and the recent violence has made them security conscious. They have run away from society and are left pondering the question, 'what happens next?'

The atmosphere is charged with fear and yet, for all their defensiveness, they cannot keep out the love of the risen Christ. Jesus seeks them out and he appears in their midst. The encounter is framed by Christ's offer of peace and love. The response of the disciples is of joy. For the evangelist John, Easter Sunday is Pentecost and the gift of the Spirit is the breath of the risen Christ. The disciples breath in and the Spirit becomes part of their lives. But Thomas is missing and when he arrives to hear the story, he refuses to believe. Thomas is an interesting character. He is part of the group but he is also very independent. He can think for himself. Scripture scholar Denis McBride states that for Thomas, honesty is more important than loyalty. His doubt cannot be transformed into faith by willing it. The other disciples only come to believe in the risen Jesus when they see him. Thomas comes to believe in the risen Christ in the same way the disciples do. He stands for all those who have not seen the Lord but are asked to believe in him. ■

## REFLECT

Everybody has some kind of faith. Think about the countless people who pass through airports on an annual basis. They journey through the web of passages that eventually brings them to a cigar shaped aluminium tube, also known as an airplane. With its engines and travelling at incredible speeds 35,000 feet above the earth, passengers don't really understand much of what's happening, but are content to have faith that it will all work!!

The main character in today's Gospel is the famous Doubting Thomas. The admirable quality he brings to the gathering is his questioning mind. He's not casual about his faith and belief in Jesus. Everybody in the locked room is called to believe in the risen Christ and witness the wounds of Christ and his greeting, 'peace be with you.' For Thomas, the signs and miracles of Jesus during his public ministry are one thing, but it's quite another to encounter Jesus risen from the dead. Like Thomas, we are all free to question and to react to God's works in our own way. Thomas was broken-hearted when Jesus was crucified and buried. He possibly wanted to be alone in his grief, needing time to process the events that unfolded. But there is something admirable about Thomas. Remember, it had been Thomas' wish for himself and the other apostles to go to die with Jesus. In today's encounter, he professes his faith once again with the words, 'My Lord and my God.' ■

## DO

The Church must constantly be in appreciation of the missionary work that has gone before us. Take the opportunity this week to read about the missionary life of a lay person or religious. What inspiration can you gather from their stories?

## LEARN

'Only the certainty that the Crucified Christ lives on as the Risen Christ, glorified by God, gives us the solution to the riddle of Jesus as a person and makes the Church possible and real.'  
(Fr. Hans Kung)



## SAY

'Sweetest Jesus,  
Body and Blood most Holy,  
be the delight and pleasure of my soul,  
my strength and salvation in all temptations,  
my joy and peace in every trial,  
my light and guide in every word and deed,  
and my final protection in death.  
Amen'

St. Thomas Aquinas  
(The Aquinas Prayer Book)