

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:
 Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
 Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:
 Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
 Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood:
 Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
 May almighty God have mercy on us.....

THE 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.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 4:32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
 The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common. The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect. None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24

R. 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 Lord's right hand has triumphed;
 his right hand raised me up.
 I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds.
 I was punished, I was punished by the Lord,
 but not doomed to die. (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)

SECOND READING 1 John 5:1 - 6

A reading from the first letter of St. John.
 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is - keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world - our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness - since the Spirit is the truth.

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 John 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:

focus on sunday



Easter for Thomas was a rediscovery of his faith in Jesus. The risen power of the Lord is the basis for his people's faith.

'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.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, All bow for following two lines: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith. When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

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.



Thomas was a man who wanted to see before he would believe, and you would not blame him for that. He would want to see the wounds of Christ and touch them, and then he would believe in the risen Lord. He had left the apostles, gone away from the group. Where he went, we do not know but wherever he went he did not find what he wanted, so he came home. He returned to Mary and the apostles, probably still grumpy and unbelieving.

Like many of us when we stray from faith, we find it weaker, and look for a fulness of life elsewhere.

Somehow Jesus came among the apostles. Afraid as they were, they were faithful enough to wait. They believed he had been raised from death. After all he had told them that this would happen.

When he came among them, he sought out Thomas, and he showed him his hands and his side.

It is interesting that nowhere does the gospel say that Thomas actually touched the wounds. He was coming to realise that even though he could see the wounds of Jesus, faith was something more than seeing or touching, and the end of the story was very much directed to him. 'happy are they who have not seen and yet believed'. Those words are not a rebuke but a promise and a grace, that he would know more and more of this man whom he followed and loved as his life went on.

Lord I believe, strengthen my belief.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger.