

APRIL 8, 2018



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY



ACTS 4:32-35

PSALM 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

1 JOHN 5:1-6

JOHN 20:19-31

REFLECTION

This Sunday, we hear about “doubting Thomas.” Poor Thomas—he tends to be remembered this way, which seems a little unfair. When Peter and John first heard that Christ had risen, they had to run to the tomb to see for themselves. We don’t call them “doubting” for that, do we? According to the Gospel account, a full week had passed between Thomas hearing about the Resurrection and actually seeing the Risen Christ for himself. What was he still doing hanging around? If people told you something so unbelievable, how long would you wait in order to see if it were true? I find part of the doubting Thomas story to be really challenging. Jesus Christ says, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed” (v. 29). This makes it sound like we are meant to never doubt or seek evidence. But there is a tension between a faith that follows blindly, and a faith that follows while still questioning. Sometimes our Christian faith tells us things that seem too good to be true. It is natural to be suspicious; to doubt what we can’t see or hear or touch. But that is what is so powerful about faith. Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed. The ability to believe, to trust something that we can’t verify ourselves, is very hard.

ACTION

Can you recall a time when somebody told you something that was too good to be true? When you find yourself doubting or asking questions of faith, ask yourself: How these questions could be leading me more deeply into the mystery of God? If you stay with your questions and pray your questions, then like Thomas, you will touch the wounds of Christ. Your questions may lead you to doubt and pain. However, in the end, faith tells us that like Thomas, we will proclaim, “My Lord and my God” (John 20:28). Alleluia!



JOURNALING QUESTIONS



- What sort of doubts or questions do you have when it comes to faith?
- To whom could you bring these questions? Do you really want to hear their answers?