

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

## 7th April 2024 Readings

### FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35

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

*Psalm 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24. R/. v.1*

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

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 is 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

A reading from the first letter of St John 5:1-6

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

John 20:29

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

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

### GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.  
*Glory to you, O Lord.*

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.*



## 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY of EASTER

Lectionary Year B

### The Word of God

### Poem of the Week

*“You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.”*

Last week’s Gospel told the story of the first three disciples who found the empty tomb and how each one reacted to the event. Today, the evangelist introduces a new character: Thomas.

Thomas refused to believe unless he saw and touched the wounds of the crucified Jesus. This statement appears to be a contradiction, for once we “see and touch” faith is not needed and unbelief is impossible. Yet, with this story the evangelist is trying to tell us that even among the first followers of Jesus, there was doubt, unbelief, and fear. Jesus is patient with Thomas and allows him to put his fingers and his hand into his wounds which causes Thomas to make his familiar act of faith: “My Lord and my God.”

Jesus uses the event to give a ninth beatitude: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”



#### An Easter Carol

Spring bursts to-day,  
For Christ is risen and all the earth's at play.

Flash forth, thou Sun,  
The rain is over and gone, its work is done.

Winter is past,  
Sweet Spring is come at last, is come at last.

Bud, Fig and Vine,  
Bud, Olive, fat with fruit and oil and wine.

Break forth this morn  
In roses, thou but yesterday a Thorn.

Uplift thy head,  
O pure white Lily through the Winter dead.

Beside your dams  
Leap and rejoice, you merry-making Lambs.

All Herds and Flocks  
Rejoice, all Beasts of thickets and of rocks.

Sing, Creatures, sing,  
Angels and Men and Birds and everything.

All notes of Doves  
Fill all our world: this is the time of loves.

Christina Rosetti

### Prayer of the Week

#### Lord Jesus, give me Your Peace

Give me confidence in the depths of danger.  
Give me hope when I am surrounded by fear.  
Still my worries, calm the anxieties pressing in on  
me from the world I live in.

Lord Jesus, give me Your peace.

Reassure me that You are with me when I seem  
alone.

Ease my doubting, as You did Thomas's.  
Lord Jesus, give me Your peace.

Guide my searching for peace,  
so that I may not seek it where it is not to be found,  
but I may seek it in You.

Lord Jesus, live in me and give me Your peace.  
Amen.

