

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

THEME: Jesus moves us from doubt to faith.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

WE CONFESS OUR SINS.....

P: It is good for us to confess our sins, admit our doubts and fears. The disciple Thomas was the one who said, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe". During this moment of silence we reflect upon our own doubts about God's promises, His salvific work through Jesus, and His plans for our eternal life.

Silence for Reflection

P: We confess.....

C: We have to face it Lord.....we're sinners in need of your grace. We go against your loving will in our thoughts, words and actions. We also admit that we sometimes doubt your love, your involvement in our lives, your very existence.....So we come to you now, confessing our sin, asking for your forgiveness, and grace to cover our doubts and fears.

.....AND RECEIVE GOD'S FORGIVENESS

P: Jesus brings Thomas from doubt to faith. By offering Thomas his peace, Jesus was forgiving Thomas and moving him forward to active service for his kingdom. Jesus does this too for us. God sent His Son Jesus to forgive us of our sins. By the command of Jesus, your sins are forgiven.....in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE "Red Book" 172 Praise to the Lord

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him for he is thy health and salvation;
All ye who hear, Now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustain eth:
Hast thou not see How thy desires have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper they work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee:
Ponder a new What the Almighty can do
Who with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the amen Sound from his people a gain:
Gladly for ever adore him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with You!

C: And also with you!

P: We pray together:

C: O Lord, we thank you for your gracious love that accepts us just as we are.....with our doubts and fears. Give us your Spirit of humility and strength, so that we can be honest about our doubts and weaknesses, and so draw more and more strength from you.....through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament: Acts 4:32-35

The special community of those who followed Jesus

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Epistle: I John 1:1-2:2

Hearing, seeing and touching Jesus, John now testifies

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and

indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN

Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, Open the eyes of my heart,
I want to see you, I want to see you.**

(repeat)

See you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.

Pour out your power and love, as we sing holy, holy, holy,

Holy, holy, holy.....holy, holy, holy.....holy, holy, holy,

I want to see you.

(repeat)

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

Jesus comes and meets Thomas, the one doubting his resurrection

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON

Rethinking Acts

APOSTLE'S CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And was born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate.
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy Christian Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING

(We offer our thanksgiving for what God has first given us—our selves, our time, our possessions)

OFFERING SONG

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

**Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks, because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.
(repeat)
And now, let the weak say "I am strong"
Let the poor say "I am rich, because of what the Lord has done for me."
Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks, because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son,
Give thanks.....give thanks.....give thanks.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each portion of the prayers, these words are spoken:

P: Lord, in your mercy

C: hear our prayer)

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING BLESSING

CLOSING SONG Blest Are They

Blest are they, the poor in spirit,
Theirs is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they, full of sorrow,
They shall be consoled.

Rejoice and be glad!

Blessed are you, holy are you!

Rejoice and be glad!

Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they, the lowly ones,
They shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst,
They shall have their fill.

Rejoice and be glad!

Blessed are you, holy are you!

Rejoice and be glad!

Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they, who show mercy,
Mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart,
They shall see God!

Rejoice and be glad!

Blessed are you, holy are you!

Rejoice and be glad!

Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are you who suffer hate,
All because of me.
Rejoice and be glad,
Yours is the kingdom;
Shine for all to see.

*Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POST-SERVICE MUSIC