

April 22-23, 2017

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-27

First Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

Last week, on Easter Sunday, we heard that Jesus' tomb was empty...but we did not have any RISEN experiences of Jesus. Certainly, there were the apostles Peter and John racing to the tomb after being alerted by Mary of Magdala that the tomb had been opened but all they found were the burial cloths. Today, finally, the GATHERED early Church, experiences the RISEN JESUS appearing in their midst...despite being in a locked/sealed room. Not to be mistaken for just a hallucination, Jesus affirms it is really himself by showing them the wounds in his hands and side. Well, MOST of the early Church was there...everyone except Thomas, who expresses GREAT DOUBT that what the other disciples are telling him is true. Who can blame him? Outside the eyes of faith, the story sounds ludicrous: Thomas knows what he saw...Jesus was crucified, pierced for good measure, buried and most certainly dead. Keep in mind this is the same Thomas who once responded to Jesus' statement about knowing where he was going...that 'we do not know where you are going, how can we know the way?' Thomas apparently does not like having to ponder things, read between the lines or try to see out of the corner of his eyes, he is a man of certainty. Dismissing the 'delusional' statements of the other apostles, Thomas throws down his challenge: 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.' This week's Gospel jumps an additional week to when the disciples were AGAIN gathered together, this time inclusive of Thomas...and surprise, surprise, Jesus again appears in their midst, with Thomas on his mind. The wounds again become instruments of identity and faith as Jesus encourages Thomas to touch and believe. As people striving to be disciples of Jesus, many of OUR lives are scarred with reminders of the wounds, which have afflicted our lives. These scars, these tombs of old wounds, are not embarrassments but rather signposts of where and when Jesus has been powerfully present to us. That we have survived, grown and passed through whatever struggles once afflicted us is our own personal testimony that Jesus is real; places where WE can TOUCH and believe.

Thank you for sharing this first post-Easter weekend with our Santa Clara community. No sooner has Easter Sunday come and gone than our calendar becomes even fuller, our High School Confirmation is next Friday (the 28th) with the Ladies Tea on the 29th with First Communion just around the corner in May. Mother's Day approaching on May 14th, special cards are available at the entrances by which you may enroll your Moms, living or deceased in the special May-Mothers Masses. The Bulletin has more complete info, please take one with you...and as you try to stay focused on the EASTER SEASON, please know that you are loved. FKB