



Liturgy Cycle A

Second Sunday Of Easter **Cease Doubting And Believe**

Introduction

In today's Gospel we meet Doubting Thomas. Each of us has something in common with him, for at times our minds are darkened by doubt. The risen Jesus is with us now, and he says to us what he said to Thomas: 'Cease doubting and believe in me.'

First Reading (Acts 2:42-47)

Jesus said: 'By their fruits you shall know them'. The first Christians showed the depth of their faith by the fruits they produced in their lives.

Second Reading (1 Peter 1:3-9)

We base our hope of eternal glory on the resurrection of Christ from the dead. This hope helps us to bear patiently the trials of life.

Gospel (John 20:19-31)

By touching the wounds of the risen Jesus, Thomas' doubt was turned into faith.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray that we may cease doubting and believe, as Jesus commanded Thomas.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For Christians: that they may see the face of Christ in the faces of their brothers and sisters, especially those in pain and need. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For all government leaders: that they may have more faith in one another, and so help to spread understand and cooperation among peoples. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.



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For those who right now are going through a difficult time, and who are finding it hard to believe in God. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

That we may be able to see Christ in the signs that he left for us: giving us life in Baptism, forgiving us in Penance, and nourishing us in the Eucharist. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

Communion Reflection

Some people think that if you have enough faith life will be plain sailing for you.

This of course is not so.

The fact that you can swim doesn't give you control over the sea. It doesn't prevent you from getting knocked about.

In the same way faith doesn't shield us from the hard knocks of life or death. What then does faith do?

It enables us to live in a topsy-turvy world without getting lost or giving into despair. It gives us bearings.

Just as swimmers trust that if they don't panic, and if they do a few simple things, then the power of the sea will uphold them; so believers entrust their lives to a power greater than themselves, a power greater than us all.

This power is the care of our heavenly Father, who brought his Son Jesus back from the dead.