



Liturgy Cycle C

Second Sunday Of Easter **Touching Is Believing**

Introduction

It is not always easy to believe that Christ is present in our world. Like Doubting Thomas, we all experience moments of doubt and uncertainty. But as we assemble here each Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist we ought to experience a great strengthening of our faith. Let us not try to hide our doubts. Let us bring them to Christ, and he will do for us what he did for Thomas.

First Reading (Acts 5:12-16)

This tells of the high regard in which the apostles were held by the ordinary people, and of the cures they worked on behalf of those sick in body or in spirit.

Second Reading (Rev. 1:9-13, 17-19)

John is the spokesman of the risen Christ who lives on among the congregations of believers. John is bidden to write a message, a message that has meaning for the Church until the end of time.

Gospel (John 20:19-31)

By seeing and touching the wounds of their risen Lord, the apostles, and especially Thomas the doubter, are cured of their unbelief.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray to Christ that he may renew the faith of all those who believe in him, and that he may awaken faith in those who do not believe.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church: may the Holy Spirit make of it a community of brothers and sisters where all will find understanding, acceptance and pardon. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those in high positions: that they may show special concern for the poorer and more disadvantaged members of our society. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those with weak faith or no faith: that the Lord may touch their minds and hearts through the lives of committed Christians. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



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That our faith in Christ and in his love for us may continue to grow in spite of doubts and difficulties. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Communion Reflection

**Jesus says to us what he said to Thomas:
'See my wounded hands and side.
See the proof of my love for you.
So cease doubting and believe.'**

**Those who care about others
pick up a lot of wounds as they go through life.
Perhaps there are no great wounds,
but only a multiplicity of little ones —
a host of scratches, wrinkles and welts.
Yet these are only the visible wounds.
What about the myriad of invisible wounds:
the furrows left on the mind and the soul
by hardships, worries and anxieties?
And those piercing ones which affect
that most sensitive part of us — the heart —
things like disappointments, loneliness and ingratitude.**

**These wounds are not things we should be ashamed of.
They are the proof of our love.
Will anyone see these wounds
and come to believe in our love because of them?
Even if no one else sees them,
the heavenly Father sees them,
and he is proud of us,
for he sees that we are becoming like his Son.**