

## FOR THE WEEKEND OF APR. 11-12, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter

### Gospel Reading

Jn 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

[Jesus] said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit.

Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of [his] disciples that are not written in this book.

But these are written that you may [come to] believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

### **Intercession**

May all those who are locked behind the doors of their own fears and doubts experience the Lord's healing grace and peace, and may we respond with open hearts to be instruments of this consolation, such as supporting the Catholic Ministry Appeal.

### **Copy for Bulletin Announcement**

The pain and violence of the crucifixion is overcome by the peace and forgiveness of Our Lord. The disciples remain locked behind closed doors for fear that the violence Jesus has suffered could be visited upon them. Instead, Christ visits them, greeting them with "Peace be with you," and bestowing on them the gifts of the Holy Spirit so they can forgive sins as Jesus does.

The time for hiding is over. Now is the time to carry on Jesus' mission, to take up his cross and follow him. The disciples, who were once overcome by fear, are now sent out to be instruments of Christ's peace, mercy, and reconciliation. Once witnesses of the Resurrection, they are now bearers of it. As modern-day disciples, we share this mission. In our words, our actions, and our love, we are called to carry the presence of the risen Christ into a world still hungry for peace and healing, and one way to achieve this is through support of the Catholic Ministry Appeal. Our participation is more than financial, though. It is a way of saying, "Yes, Lord, I believe. Send me" like the early disciples did.

### **Copy for Pulpit Announcement**

The fear the disciples have felt since Jesus's crucifixion begins to dissipate in today's Gospel. Our Lord, once again, breaks through the locked doors of the room in which the disciples are hiding, bringing them peace and empowering them with the Holy Spirit. But then there's Thomas – honest, wounded, skeptical Thomas. Jesus is patient with his disciple's doubt, inviting Thomas to believe by placing his fingers in Jesus's wounded hands and side. Then, Thomas believes, proclaiming, "My Lord and my God!"

Thomas's story is our story. We long to believe more deeply and to see Christ in the midst of fear. Jesus's disciples, including us today, encounter the Risen Christ in different ways and at different times. And Our Lord always meets us where we are, coming through our locked doors to offer us peace and forgiveness. When we welcome Christ into our lives it is difficult not to want to share this love with others. We can—through a gift to the Catholic Ministry Appeal. Please prayerfully consider supporting the Church's mission to bringing peace, mercy, and love to those who may still feel closed off or in need.



**Social Media Post/Content**

Photo: Two hands reaching to each other with a sunrise in the background

Header: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."— John 20: 21

Copy: Be Christ for another one time today. When we support the Catholic Ministry Appeal, we can serve as Christ has called us to serve.