



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY April 16 & BEYOND

From Fear to Faith: The Power of the Resurrection



According to John's Gospel, the evening of the resurrection was not filled with joy and wonder. Instead, the disciples were gathered together in an upper room with the doors locked for fear. The brutal death of their Master had left them desolate.

I imagine the questions on their lips: "What do we do now?" and "What does this mean?" They had come to know and love Jesus with great intensity. They believed in him. They'd seen the healing

and miracles, they'd heard him teach with authority and power. But, the events of the last days have turned everything upside down. "Where do we go from here?"

Yes, they'd heard stories from the women who had come from the tomb. Mary Magdalen told them "I have seen the Lord!" (John 20:18) But, her words seemed like idle talk, the disciples didn't trust the testimony of Mary and the other women. The disciples were not yet convinced.

That's when it happened. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus was suddenly in their midst. "Peace be with you," (v. 19) he said. He showed them his hands and his side, the identifying wounds that would prove to the disciples that it was Jesus and he was alive. This turned everything around and the disciples rejoiced with Jesus. The room could not contain their joy, as they celebrated the resurrection of Jesus.

However, Thomas was not with them. We don't know where he was, but we can imagine that the crucifixion left him with a sense of hopelessness.

I imagine the other disciples made haste to find him and tell him of the Easter miracle. We all know his reaction: "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe," (v. 25). Doubting Thomas. He was given this unfortunate nickname, and still carries it today. Anyone who refuses to believe, or needs extra evidence to have faith is called a Doubting Thomas. It's helpful to remember that his feelings were no different than the other disciples hiding in fear. They did not take the words of Mary Magdalene or the testimony of the other women. They needed to see Jesus to believe.

One week later, Thomas received the proof he needed. He had rejoined the disciples and gathered with them. Again, Jesus stood among the disciples and spoke immediately to Thomas. “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” (vv. 27-28). This is not a moment of doubt, but of great faith. Thomas’ words to Jesus are among the most powerful declarations of faith in the New Testament.

In this reading the disciples made a dramatic move from fear to faith. They moved from doubt to absolute conviction in the resurrection of Jesus. The resurrection of Jesus gave them the power and purpose to proclaim the gospel and make disciples of all nations.

We all have times of doubt and despair, but the faith of Thomas and the other disciples can call us forward from fear to faith in the power of the resurrection of Jesus.

Father Steven L. Schuneman

Readings for this Sunday – The Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalm 118:19-24, 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)

10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY 7:00p (AA) Doctors’ Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary’s Chapel)

THURSDAY 6:30p Evening Prayer (St. Mary’s Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary’s Chapel)

9:30a Mass (St. Mary’s Chapel)

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies’ Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men’s Group (Parish Hall)

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
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