



Jesus knows the sinfulness and doubt of his friends and gives to them after the resurrection his own forgiveness and certainty of his presence.



They were talking about how late Easter is this year. 'Couldn't be much later', said one. 'At least the evenings are brighter', said another. 'We won't have the Easter fire in the dark', another added.

You'd wonder what it's all about – empty tombs and weeping women and despairing friends. I wondered too.

It's about hope that never fades, that the most lifeless thing in creation is not dead. That means that there's life everywhere. In failures, in shame and guilt, in illness. The life may lead to good health or to peace of mind and heart. It's about God in Jesus taking care of everyone I worry about; And worries about children and grandchildren and even the great-grandchildren. Something that keeps me praying for people whose lives are really troubled. It's about prayer that's always answered and the God that forgives us all, and helps us forgive each other. And much more besides which will unify us in the weeks to come. Easter began with creation in a garden and the garden has been replanted as a place for refreshment and peace.

Yes, couldn't be much later and when you think of it, isn't it worth waiting for?

Risen Lord, bring your peace and joy to the lives of everyone dear to me.

Donal Neary SJ (Editor, Sacred Heart Messenger)

was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED
I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

All bow for following two lines: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION
The mystery of faith.
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God, who has called you into the heavenly kingdom, alleluia.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
May almighty God have mercy on us.....**Amen.**

THE GLORIA

Glorify to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us; For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 5:12-16
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 117:2-4.22-27

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

- Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' **[R]**
- The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **[R]**
- O Lord, grant us salvation;
O Lord, grant success.
Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord; the Lord God is our light. **[R]**

SECOND READING Apocalypse 1:9-13. 17-19.
A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained. Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve,