

**FOR THE WEEKEND OF APR 23-24, 2022**

Second Sunday of Easter

**Gospel reading (Lectionary 45)**

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 Christ, the Son of God,
and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

**Intercession**

For our Annual Diocesan Appeal, that each of us might receive the peace of the Risen Lord, allowing us to discern how Christ is asking us to give in a spirit of openness, freedom, and tranquility.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

It’s easy to have doubts about the Christian life. Doubts that God’s ways will lead to our happiness.

Doubts that He will really take care of us if we’re generous with our lives. Doubts that we’re really worthy of His love and mercy.

Jesus wants to take away those doubts, because they hold us back from experiencing fullness of life with Him. Instead, he wants to give us peace. Thomas experienced peace when he encountered the Risen Lord. And while we can’t necessarily place our finger into the nail marks Christ’s hands nor put our hand into his side, we do take the time this Easter season to celebrate the truth of Christ’s resurrection, to encounter Him once more in Scripture and the Sacraments, and to receive the peace He offers.

This peace can change the way we live. Let’s consider an example: giving to our Annual Diocesan Appeal. There can be all kinds of doubts that arises when it comes to supporting our local Church. All types of “what ifs?” But Christ wants to take away those doubts, and allow you to discern how much to give in a spirit of freedom and tranquility. Ask for His gift of peace today, and see how he moves you to give.

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

Christ desires to remove our doubts and to give us His peace. His peace helps us to follow Him more fully and freely in all areas of life—including our support of the Church and of our Annual Diocesan Appeal. Ask for Christ’s peace and see how He moves you to give today.

**Social media post/content**

Photo: Peaceful scenery

Text: “Peace be with you.”

Copy: Jesus gives us peace! His peace helps us to follow Him more fully and freely in all areas of life—including our support of the Church. Ask for Christ’s peace and see how He moves you to generously support our Annual Diocesan Appeal today!