

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
April 8, 2018
The Second Sunday of Easter
Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35 + 1 John 5:1-6 + John 20:19-31



Reflection by: Sister Patricia Wormann, O.P.

“Thomas, Jesus was here. He is alive!” “I don’t believe you. I saw how he suffered and died. I saw the violence and cruelty with my very eyes! Unless I can see his wounds, put my finger into the place of the nails – into his side I won’t believe you.” Thomas was so distraught by the experience of Good Friday that he found the words and experience of the disciples unbelievable! The broken-hearted Thomas made a decision though that allowed him to experience the joy and peace of the Risen One – He stayed with the group! Why he wasn’t there when Jesus appeared to the frightened community we don’t know. What we do know is that he stayed with this community of believers even when he wasn’t sure what he believed. When Jesus came again he was there. Jesus who knew and loved Thomas called him. “Thomas, come here. If you need to, touch my wounds, put your hand into my side, come - Believe.” Thomas was overwhelmed. He didn’t need to do anything in fact he was speechless and then declared the words passed down through the community of the Church, “My Lord and my God!” The merciful Jesus loved Thomas and embraced his anger and fear and transformed it into peace and inexpressible joy.

Today the Church includes in this Second Sunday of Easter, the Feast of Divine Mercy. Sometimes we find it hard to truly believe how much God loves us. We have seen for ourselves a wounded world filled with hate, violence and all forms of pain and turmoil. We ourselves at times have been absent from the community of believers. Jesus invites us to touch those wounds and know that he is the source of true joy. He is the peace that the world cannot give. He invites us to immerse ourselves in his mercy and compassion and be the signs of his love. “My Lord and my God.” Will we embrace his invitation?