

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

April 11, 2021

Second Sunday of Easter
(or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

Acts of the Apostles 4:32–35 † 1 John 5:1–6 † John 20:19–31



Reflection by: Dyann Brown, OPA

The Octave of Easter concludes today as the feast day of Divine Mercy Sunday. Yet the joyous Easter season continues.

In today's gospel John shares that Christ, after His death, appeared in the midst of the disciples much to their disbelief. Oh, how they rejoiced as He displayed the marks of His physical crucifixion. However, His divinity of resurrection was not about Him, but for others. With His breath He gave the disciples the grace of mission to do God's work—just as He was sent. The disciples received the power to forgive or retain the sins of the faithful in the name of God the Father.

John further details that Thomas, one of the Twelve, was absent for Christ's appearance and initially disbelieved what his fellow disciples explained. Like most, Thomas (aka Didymus) would believe only what could be evidenced by his mortal senses. When Christ appeared to the disciples a second time, Christ encouraged Thomas' examination of His body. Yet, Christ extolled those who believed in His resurrection but had not seen Him. That praise serves us all these days.

Here is the poignancy of today's gospel. It is good to make sure *we know what we know* by what our senses dictate. However, how graced are we to believe in Him whom we cannot see, but in whose presence we live every day. Even in tough times like these, continue to believe and be blessed by His embrace and protection.

A continued and blessed Easter Season...