

2nd Sunday of Easter Time - Year B

1. Today's Gospel has 2 appearances of Jesus
1st, without Thomas is Evening of Easter Day **2nd**, with Thomas is a week later

WHAT WAS THIS FIRST APPEARANCE LIKE FOR DISCIPLES?

Easter morning, while still dark, **Mary Magdeline had gone to the tomb**

Mary had seen Jesus, and thought him the gardener

Jesus had told her to go tell the disciples – so she runs to tell them

Now let's look at the *EXPERIENCE OF THE DISCIPLES* –

Three years with him – left everything

Cana Healings Cast out demons

Miracles – Sermon on the Mount – Feeding the 5,000 – Crowds “Hosanna”

THEN THE ARREST IN THE GARDEN - CRUCIFIXION

- **AND NOW HIDING IN THE UPPER ROOM – In bursts Mary!**

o Last week (Easter Day liturgy) we heard of Peter & John running to the tomb

o But then they return to the Upper Room – still afraid

- **That evening** . . . Jesus – even though the doors are locked!

2. FIRST THING JESUS DOES: *Peace “As the Father sent me, I send you”*

And He breathes on them – Receive the HS –

Sins you forgive are forgiven

Sins you retain are retained

THE 1st THING HE DOES – Receive the HS and power to forgive sin.

M E R C Y → Jesus knew our sin. Jesus knows our need for forgiveness

Today is Mercy Sunday - 1931 Jesus appears to Sr. Faustina in Poland & asks her to promote devotion to His Divine Mercy

Lent was about REPENTANCE

Easter is about FORGIVENESS and MERCY

3. Forgiveness was important to Early Church

- Some converts had shouted for Jesus' death

- Others had taken part in the proceedings of the Sanhedrin

- Others had to deal with family and friends as they became Christians

- Need for forgiveness and mercy was everywhere – So JC Empowers Apostles.

NOW THEN -

- Look at Doubting Thomas – one of the 12! – But so HUMAN!

Almost immediately, forgiveness has to confront disbelief

Where was Thomas at the 1st appearance of JC? GRIEF

NB – Alone → Doubt

In community → belief

Thomas doesn't need to touch JC anymore

- The more we encounter Jesus the stronger our faith will be

- So how do we encounter JC? How did Thomas? – in community (even hermits)

Jesus was ready – Jesus meets him where he is, in his disbelief.

If he needed to put his finger in the hole – here it is

So too with us – He meets us where we are and says:

Peace “As the Father sent me, I send you”

PEACE ALWAYS PRESUMES FORGIVENESS

Matt @ school - Where do letters go on a chalk board? Disappear – to where? Vanish – where?

Our sins are forgiven **and Forgotten** – Thomas receives forgiveness and mercy – SO CAN WE