

April 27, 2025

# Daily Reflections

*Journeying through Easter*



Center for Spiritual Development

## With Mercy

By Julie Mussché

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## Today's Gospel

*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.*

**JOHN 20:29**

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## Reflection

Have you ever read a scripture passage many times and missed something very significant? I suppose when it comes to the Gospel of John, that is understandable. The unique and interlacing and symbolic narrative calls for perusal. Presumably, we have all, at some point, read the "doubting Thomas" passage; it is a familiar story. I do wonder, did Thomas get a bad rap? Here is why there is a question.

In today's reading, as some of the disciples wait, fearful and in hiding, Jesus appears. The part I somehow brushed over before: Jesus wishes his followers peace and immediately shows them his wounds. There was no need to see to believe, the proof was offered. Thomas missed out on the moment. When he does reunite with his community and hears of Jesus's visit, not unexpectedly, he wants to see for himself. Very soon Thomas too has the opportunity and touches the wounds of Jesus. "Jesus said to him, 'Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.'" While the narrative context would imply this message was for Thomas, I am given pause to discern a broader teaching.

Do not we all have times where we struggle with faith and belief? Yet, God abides through thick and thin. Today is Divine Mercy Sunday, a day for recognizing and receiving Jesus's mercy. Does it not seem appropriate, as followers of Jesus, to do the same with others as well as self? Blessings of Divine Mercy to all.

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**For Pondering**

If you have a moment, spend some time with today's Gospel reading.

- What speaks to you?
  - How do moments of doubt and uncertainty help to grow your faith?
  - Where do you find God during these times?
  - If Thomas was in the room, what would you share with him?
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## For Prayer

*Merciful One,  
blessed are you.*

*Thank you for the gifts of compassion and understanding.*

*Help me to extend your mercy to all I encounter.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen.*

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