



April 11th, 2010

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

## OPENING PRAYER

God of mercy, you wash away our sins in water, you give us new birth in the Spirit, and redeem us in the blood of Christ. As we celebrate Christ's resurrection increase our awareness of these blessings, and renew your gift of life within us. Grant this...

## FIRST READING

*(The first Christians experienced the presence of the Lord through the ministry of the Apostles. Great numbers were added to their fold daily.)*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (5:12-16)

Many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And the faithful were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high honour. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

*This is the Word of the Lord*

## PSALM (117)

**Response: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.**

Let the sons of Israel say: "His love has no end." Let the sons of Aaron say: "His love has no end." Let those who fear the Lord say: "His love has no end." R./

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. R./

O Lord, grant us salvation; O Lord, grant success, Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes. We bless you from the house of the Lord; the Lord God is our light. R./

## SECOND READING

*(The Lord encourages John in a vision and he reveals himself as the first and the last and the one who lives for ever.)*

### A reading from the Book of the Apocalypse (1:9-13,17-19)

I, John, your brother, who share with you in Jesus the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a Son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden girdle round his breast. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand upon me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one; I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. Now write what you see, what is and what is to take place hereafter."

*This is the Word of the Lord*

### ACCLAMATION (Jn 20:29)

Alleluia, alleluia ! Thomas, you have believed, says the Lord, because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe. Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

*(Jesus gently leads the unbelieving Thomas to faith in his risen presence. Thomas makes the great act of faith. But the Lord says: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe".)*

### A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John (20:19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe." Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you". Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God." Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*