

APRIL 3, 2016



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 5:12–16

PSALM 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24

REVELATION 1:9–11A, 12–13, 17–19

JOHN 20:19–31

REFLECTION

You've been up all night studying for an honors course final. The teacher is a stickler for being on time, and unless you are in the hospital, all assignments will go as planned. So imagine getting to school and hearing classmates in the hallway tell you the final was cancelled. You know this teacher. You know it can't be true. While you want to believe your friends, do you dare to not show up for the final?

Jesus says to not be afraid and to Thomas, "Do not doubt, but believe." Yet we each have a part of Thomas within us. We need proof because what we are told is just too good to be true. Our faith is an internal thing, and outward signs can sometimes lead us astray. Proof that your friends aren't joking with you is necessary so you don't fail the final. Proof to build our faith is helpful, too, but what kind of proof is needed? We don't have the benefit of being able to touch Jesus and talk with him. We need to believe without seeing.

ACTION

There are bold ways to change the world and speak about your faith (like John's dreams and actions in Revelations) and quiet ways (like a shadow healing the sick). Discover ways in which you can bring about the presence of the Risen Christ this week. Raise the dead through the smiles you give to a lonely person and the laughter you bring to a frown. Heal the sick by encouraging someone who has been put down by their peers or giving a loving touch to a family member who is discouraged. Let the shadow of your love be felt this week.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- At what times in your life do you most doubt God's presence?
- What is the proof in your life that helps you know God is real?