

[39]

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

C

### FIRST READING

The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord  
increased steadily.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

5:12-16

**T**he apostles worked many miracles and wonders among the people.  
All of the Lord's followers  
often met in the part of the temple known as Solomon's Porch.  
No one outside their group dared join them,  
even though everyone liked them very much.

Many men and women started having faith in the Lord.  
Then sick people were brought out to the road  
and placed on cots and mats.  
It was hoped that Peter would walk by,  
and his shadow would fall on them and heal them.  
A lot of people living in the towns near Jerusalem  
brought those who were sick or troubled by evil spirits,  
and they were all healed.

The word of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

118:2 and 4, 13-14

*R. (1) Give thanks, for the Lord is good.  
God's love is everlasting.*

*or:*

*R. Alleluia.*

Let Israel shout,  
"God is always merciful!"  
Let every true worshiper  
of the Lord shout,  
"God is always merciful!"

*R. Give thanks, for the Lord is good.  
God's love is everlasting.*

*or:*

*R. Alleluia.*

The nations attacks were so fierce  
that I nearly fell,

but the Lord helped me.  
My power and my strength  
come from the Lord,  
and he has saved me.

*R. Give thanks, for the Lord is good.  
God's love is everlasting.*

*or:  
R. Alleluia.*

## **ALLELUIA**

John 20:29

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;  
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

## **GOSPEL**

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to John 20:19-29

**T**he disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders,  
and on the evening of that same Sunday  
they locked themselves in a room.  
Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group.  
He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side.  
When the disciples saw the Lord,  
they became very happy.

After Jesus had greeted them again, he said,  
"I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me."  
Then he breathed on them and said,  
"Receive the Holy Spirit.  
If you forgive anyone's sin,  
they will be forgiven.  
But if you don't forgive their sins,  
they will not be forgiven."

Although Thomas the Twin was one of the twelve disciples,  
he was not with the others when Jesus appeared to them.  
So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But Thomas said, "First, I must see the nail scars in his hands  
and touch them with my finger.  
I must put my hand where the spear went into his side.  
I won't believe unless I do this!"

A week later the disciples were together again.  
This time Thomas was with them.  
Jesus came in while the doors were still locked.  
and stood in the middle of the group.  
He greeted his disciples and said to Thomas,  
"Put your finger here and look at my hands!  
Put your hand into my side.  
Stop doubting and have faith!"

Thomas replied, "You are my Lord and my God!"

Jesus said, "Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me?  
The people who have faith in me without seeing me  
are the ones who are really blessed!"

The gospel of the Lord.