

Your Resurrection

Easter 2
April 24, 2022

Rev. Emma Chattin, Preaching

First Reading ~ *John 20:19-31*

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the room where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Temple authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Having said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, "Peace be with you. As God has sent me, so I send you." After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone's sins, they are retained."

It happened that Thomas (nicknamed Didymus, or "Twin"), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen the Christ." Thomas' answer was, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later the disciples were again in the room, and Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood among them, saying, "Peace be with you." Then to Thomas, Jesus said, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas said in response, "My Savior and my God!" Jesus then said, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Holy One of God, and that through believing you may have newness of life.

Second Reading ~ *adapted from A.J. Swoboda in "Messy: God Likes It That Way"*

So.. if Jesus, in his all-powerfulness can do anything, why didn't he come out of the grave without scars? Why leave the scars? What is so important about the healed wounds? In regard to the community Jesus created, he chose to minister in his woundedness. Not without it. That is, out of his pain and anguish came his love. Jesus embraces us with wounded hands. It is a lie to believe that church and community will make us better people. They won't. Church and community will hurt us. Truth be told, I have been more hurt by Christians than by any other group in the world. Church and community won't make us better people; they will make us crucified people. The key is the realization and the reality that crucified and resurrected people are able to love like Christ did. If we have been crucified, hurt by others in the church and community, and have not resurrected, then we are not being Christ-like. And some of us simply refuse to resurrect.