

On the Evening of the First Day of the Week

Second Sunday of Easter- April 23, 2017-John 20: 19-31

When did you believe? When did you believe in Jesus as the Son of God, the Risen Savior of the world? For me, my faith in Jesus has been a journey marked with both belief and with doubt, sometimes apathy. I came to faith as a child immersed in the richness of the Catholic Tradition. I came to faith as one baptized and initiated over a life time. I am still a work in progress. Today I am one of the “disciples” in the upper room **“on the evening of the first day of the week.”** My faith is “new” in the afterglow of this past Holy Week.

Every year Easter gives me this enormous gift of being plunged into the depth of the story of salvation and eternal life. The passion, death and resurrection of Christ, lived out liturgically each Holy Week, allow me to sweep away the cobwebs of doubt and self-importance that have accumulated throughout the year. If I let God into the deepest recesses of my soul, I, like Thomas, have an opportunity to engage the Risen Christ in a deep and profound way.

“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.” Today my fears are not a specific group of people but of the anger, evil and hatred that exists in all of us. The fears that consume me and keep me locked away are my own self-doubt and trust in the power and grace of God to bring forth goodness in this world. I have received the Holy Spirit in baptism, confirmation and at every communion I have celebrated, and yet, I often forget to extend the forgiveness to others that Christ has granted to me. So I am in need of the blessing Jesus grants to those in the upper room this week. **“Peace be with you.”**

I need the renewed peace that comes from the belief that Jesus has been raised from the dead. He has not been raised in his former human state, but in his glorified and resurrected body which is a living presence in the world today. Through the power of God, Christ is alive in the Church and in the world. **“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”** You and I are sent on Mission. We have work to do to bring about this peace to all.

Some days I am Thomas, needing proof and a tangible sign of Christ. Other days I am one of disciples who **“have not seen and have believed.”** What I believe is that it started in the upper room **“on the evening of the first day of the week.”** I desire that renewal of faith each year and a world that might one day embrace the Peace Christ gives.

Happy Easter!


Sue Schettler