



Caravaggio, *The Incredulity of Saint Thomas*, 1603

**THE GOSPEL John 20:19-31**

*Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God!”*

Thomas,  
was not at all  
rejoiced and was indignant.

He was  
imperfect.  
In need of mercy,  
as are we.

O Lord,  
you love us  
in our struggles.

Breathe your life into our flawed selves.  
Let us find your grace and mercy  
when we touch the wounds  
in all your children  
everywhere.

**THE FIRST READING Acts 5:12-16**

*They carried their sick out into the street  
so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow  
might fall on one or another of them.*

God,  
even through us  
you try to heal people and bring them  
home.

Use our hands, our feet, our words, our breath,  
our shadows—as you used Peter’s  
—anything you can find in us,  
to help fill the world  
with healing  
and your  
grace.

**THE SECOND READING Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19**

*He touched me with his right hand and said, “Do not be afraid.”*

Dear Lord,  
you know our distress:  
the planet, the injustices, Ukraine,  
all these are desperate for your healing.

You say that because of you, death has no power.  
We fall down before you in worship.  
Please touch us gently,  
and tell us  
“Do not be afraid.”

*Annie Osdieck*

**Reflection:**



**‘Peace be with you!’**

The outpouring of God’s love and mercy flows throughout this Sunday’s liturgy. The joy of resurrection that we celebrate in this Easter season rings out in the words of praise that we repeat with jubilation in today’s **Psalm**: ‘Give Thanks to the Lord for he is good, His love has no end’. It reminds us that in the midst of dark and challenging times, the presence of the risen Christ is a comfort in our distress.

In the **First Reading**, we hear how the early Church, filled with the Holy Spirit, gather together to worship, bringing the risen Lord’s healing to all who seek it. St John, writing from the place where he was imprisoned for his beliefs, describes a vision of God’s endless living love (**Second Reading**). The risen Christ is the Alpha and the Omega: the Eternal One stands with us, encouraging us to not be afraid.

Shortly after the death and resurrection of Jesus, the disciples are hiding, fearful of what might happen to them (**Gospel**). Jesus appears among them in the midst of their fear, his presence bringing them peace. Thomas is not there, and cannot believe what he is told. Eight days later, Jesus stands among them again, and the reality of the resurrection is revealed to Thomas, too.

Today, Jesus stands alongside us, tenderly drawing us out from doubt and disbelief. He has breathed his Holy Spirit upon us. Just as he sent the disciples two thousand years ago, today he sends us out, to bring peace and healing to a fractured, hurting world. Let us pray for that peace that only Christ can bring, in our hearts, in our communities and in our world. At this time, we especially remember the people of Ukraine and eastern Europe.

### **FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY -**



The Sunday after Easter has been kept as the Feast of Divine Mercy by the Roman Catholic Church and some other churches since 2000. On this day we are called to reflect more personally on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the blessings they have received from it. The focus is on God's compassion, reminding us that the risen Lord offers us love that pardons, reconciles, and reopens our own hearts to love. (FROM ST. BUENO'S OUTREACH PROGRAMME TO THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM)