



**April 7th 2024 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy) Year B –
John 20: 19 – 31**

²⁰⁻¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, '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.'

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel.	➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition.
➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life.	➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do).

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In this week’s gospel we see how the disciples experienced the darkest of times after their initial feelings of hope and expectation as they followed Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem. They had witnessed the trial and brutal death of Jesus. Then John tells us they locked themselves behind closed doors out of fear of the Jews. 'Jesus came and stood among them'. Locked doors mean nothing to the resurrected Jesus. God's word is telling us today that his power can be with us even when we are locked into ourselves. Have your locked doors preventing you from entering into the Good News of the joy of the resurrection?

Prayer:

Thank you Lord for your presence and your words "Peace be with you" which you want each one of us to hear and believe especially in this Easter season.

Forgive us Lord for the times we burden ourselves with all sorts of baggage on our journey through life. We often lock out people and events who are bringing us the news that Jesus loves and died for each one of us that we might be free.

Lord help us to proclaim that each one of us has a mission to let each person know that Jesus stands among us even behind locked doors.