

Believe: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God

Submitted by Dr. Rosemary Murphy

Today's reading from the Gospel of John reveals for all time, for future generations, the truth of Jesus' resurrection. Yes, the resurrection is victory over sin and death, however, for us, present day Christians, it still may be hard to believe in our Risen Lord without an encounter with the glorified Christ. This was the situation with Thomas.

The question for today is: how do we believe, how do we enjoy the fruits of the resurrection, without experiencing the physicality of our Risen Savior? Jesus knows our human limitations, our stumbling blocks to a deep and life-changing faith and addresses them:

Fear: In the terrifying presence of fear, Jesus offers comfort and new potency, "Peace be with you." (John 20:3) The grip of fear is released and replaced with joy.

Past Failures: With hearts gladdened with peace, Jesus forgives us and even more than that, he breathes on us, gives us the Holy Spirit, and instructs us to forgive others and bring them to a conversion of heart.

Fragility of Faith: Empowered by the Holy Spirit and strengthened by Christ's peace, we are ready to profess our faith. We have not physically seen the Risen Lord, but we have all the resources of his resurrection "...to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and through this belief [to] have life in his name." (John 20:31)

Alleluia!!! Alleluia!!! Alleluia!!!