

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

1. Have we lost our sense of wonder and surprise?
 - a. God is constantly acting in our world but we often do not recognize Him
 - b. Skepticism is not unique to our culture
 - c. The apostle Thomas was very skeptical and who can blame Him
 - d. Who has ever heard of dead man returning to the fullness of life
 - e. Maybe a ghost or some kind of hazy existence but fully alive
 - i. Nobody could be more dead than Jesus
 - ii. Hands and feet nailed to a cross, a spear pierced His side
 - iii. Even buried in a tomb
 - f. Jesus is not overwhelmed by this skepticism, “Thomas, touch my hands and feet, hand in side”
 - g. Confronted with this, Thomas eyes are opened to faith, sees the wonder of what has happened
2. We in our technological age tend to think there is no room for the miraculous
 - a. We give something a name or label and think we understand it enough to control
 - b. Instead of seeing diseases as caused by demons, we call the causes bacteria or viruses
 - c. If you notice in technical studies, they always have to correct for the placebo effect
 - d. Fancy technology and drugs can do a lot, but the belief that we are being cared for is even more powerful
3. Some of the difficulty it seems comes from Christianity’s reaction to the Enlightenment
 - a. We have accepted the idea proposed by many skeptics that the supernatural is completely separated from the natural
 - b. If we can find a natural cause and effect for some wonder, it no longer belongs to God it is only natural
 - c. We tend to want God to be this super being who every so often seems to roll some dice
 - d. To say today I am going to break my natural laws
4. But if God is the Creator, the very source and foundation of everything why would He not be free to use His natural laws to be present in our lives
 - a. He will use the skills and knowledge that we develop through the ages to bring about His will
 - b. Healing at the hand of doctors and nurses can also be miraculous at the same time
 - c. We do not have to deny the skills of scientists to be amazed at the wonders God has created
5. This sense of wonder can enable us to experience the joy of faith that Thomas suddenly had when he could recognize that the Master was really alive
 - a. Jesus is revealing Himself to us in so many ways
 - b. We gather to hear Him speak to us in the scriptures, we eat His Body and Blood in the Eucharist
 - c. Whenever two or more of us gather in His name, He tells us He is there
 - d. When we give a cup of water to a thirsty person, or spare some clothes for one who needs them, we are giving them to Jesus Himself
6. The wonder of Easter is that we celebrate that God truly will never abandon us
 - a. He is always present for us, ready to comfort us and strengthen us
 - b. All we need to do is be open to His wonders instead of trying to be a stoic unbeliever as Thomas was before he finally recognized Jesus.