

## Gospel Reading for April 11, 2021

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**Directions:** Read the Gospel passage.

### **A Reading from the Gospel of John 20:19-31: Appearance to the Disciples**

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 and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to 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 into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

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

# Excerpts from the Diary of St. Faustina

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**Directions:** After reading the Sunday Gospel for the week, read the excerpts from the diary of St. Faustina. Then answer the questions.

“My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls (...). If only they could understand that I am the best of Fathers to them and that it is for them that the Blood and Water flowed from My Heart as from a fount overflowing with mercy. For them I dwell in the tabernacle as King of Mercy. I desire to bestow My graces upon souls, but they do not want to accept them (...). Oh, how indifferent are souls to so much goodness, to so many proofs of love! (...). They have time for everything, but they have no time to come to Me for graces” (*Diary 367*).

“Tell sinners that no one shall escape My Hand; if they run away from My Merciful Heart, they will fall into My Just Hands. Tell sinners that I am always waiting for them, that I listen intently to the beating of their heart... When will it beat for Me? Write that I am speaking to them through their remorse of conscience,

through their failures and sufferings, through thunderstorms, through the voice of the Church. And if they bring all My graces to naught, I begin to be angry with them, leaving them alone and giving them what they want” (*Diary 1728*).

“This firm resolution to become a saint is extremely pleasing to Me. I bless your efforts and will give you opportunities to sanctify yourself. Be watchful that you lose no opportunity that My providence offers you for sanctification. If you do not succeed in taking advantage of an opportunity, do not lose your peace, but humble yourself profoundly before Me and, with great trust, immerse yourself completely in My mercy. In this way, you gain more than you have lost, because more favor is granted to a humble soul than the soul itself asks for...” (*Diary 1361*).

## Conversation Questions

1. Why is reflecting on the infinite mercy of God so fitting a conclusion to the Easter Octave?

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2. How is this week’s Gospel appropriate for the Feast of Divine Mercy?

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3. Which Sacrament is instituted in this week's Gospel passage? In what verse(s) is this shown?

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4. Can you relate to St. Thomas the Apostle? Explain. How does St. Thomas' experience relate to this Feast of Divine Mercy?

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5. How do the words taken from St. *Faustina's Diary* relate to the Gospel passage?

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6. What words or phrases from the excerpts in St. *Faustina's Diary* are most interesting or important to you? Explain.

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7. How can we seek out and receive God's mercy in our own lives?

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8. What are the misunderstandings, behaviors, or tendencies that most often keep people from trusting in God's mercy? How can these obstacles be overcome?

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