

THE STORY OF ST. THOMAS

Each year on the Sunday following the Resurrection, our Church remembers the incident involving st. thomas, with its remarkable turning of doubt into faith. When Christ was crucified, the Apostles fled in fear. For all of them, life had lost its meaning: their hopes and dreams were shattered as the Lord was laid in the tomb. But they came together Sunday evening after the crucifixion, seeking comfort in their sadness.

It was then that the Risen Christ suddenly appeared in the midst. They looked at Him and couldn't believe their eyes. But Jesus spoke to them, showed them His wounds, and convinced them of the reality of His presence. They rejoiced with renewed hope.

But Thoms was not present that evening. Later, when the Apostles told him the good news of the Resurrection, he replied: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails . . . and place my hand in His side, I will not believe.

A week passed by. On the Sunday after the Resurrection, once again the Apostles were gathered together. This time Thomas was there. In spite of the locked doors, the Risen Christ again suddenly appeared amongst them and greeted them with words of peace. He called Thomas to His side and had him place his fingers in the wounds and see for himself, saying: "Do not be faithless, but believing."

Thomas did as the Lord had asked. Then he fell to his knees and cried out: "My Lord and my God!" His doubts were gone, replaced by a deep and abiding faith. Jesus then responded, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed."