

## GOSPEL

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to John 20:19-29

**T**he disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders,  
and on the evening of that same Sunday  
they locked themselves in a room.

Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group.  
He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side.  
When the disciples saw the Lord,  
they became very happy.

After Jesus had greeted them again, he said,  
"I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me."  
Then he breathed on them and said,  
"Receive the Holy Spirit.  
If you forgive anyone's sins,  
they will be forgiven.  
But if you don't forgive their sins,  
they will not be forgiven."

Although Thomas the Twin was one of the twelve disciples,  
he was not with the others when Jesus appeared to them.  
So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!"  
But Thomas said, "First, I must see the nail scars in his hands  
and touch them with my finger.  
I must put my hand where the spear went into his side.  
I won't believe unless I do this!"

A week later the disciples were together again.  
This time Thomas was with them.  
Jesus came in while the doors were still locked  
and stood in the middle of the group.  
He greeted his disciples and said to Thomas,  
"Put your finger here and look at my hands!  
Put your hand into my side.  
Stop doubting and have faith!"

Thomas replied, "You are my Lord and my God!"  
Jesus said, "Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me?  
The people who have faith in me without seeing me  
are the ones who are really blessed!"

The gospel of the Lord.