19th April 2020 10am

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER (LOW SUNDAY)

Let the door of our heart be open to receive you, O Christ; the soul of our being unlocked to welcome you, and the gate of our life flung wide for your entering in. Amen (*Ambrose of Milan c.340-397*)

CONFESSION

We need your healing, merciful God; give us true repentance. Some sins are plain to us, some we cannot face. Forgive us; set us free to hear your word to us; set us free to serve you.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8,9)

PSALM 16

READINGS: Acts 2: 14a, 22-32;
1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20: 19-end

MINI-REFLECTION The Gospel reading for today singles out Thomas as a doubter, and yet all of Jesus' other followers had been granted some visible proof that he was alive; 'All of us are witnesses' writes Peter. How wonderful it was for all Jesus' friends to have their own doubts and fears turned to joy as they encountered him once again! Maybe Thomas speaks for all those who feel some uncertainty or hesitation, which from time to time has caused doubts in even the most respected religious thinkers. C.S. Lewis, Mother Teresa, Pope Francis – all have had times of doubt. 'Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief', (Mark 9:24) says the father whose son Jesus has healed. Do we all say this from time to time? It is believed that Thomas went on to take the gospel story far and wide; in his weakness lay a strength acceptable to the One whom he declared to be 'My Lord and my God!'

PRAYERS

The Collect:

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father.

We pray for the church throughout the world and for all who are finding new ways to worship. We thank you for the power of your Holy Spirit, working in and through us in these extraordinary times.

We pray for the sick and all who are suffering in any way, giving thanks for the love, dedication and determination of those who are working to heal the sick, to care for the helpless and to keep our everyday needs supplied, regardless of their own safety.

We pray for all who have died, for those we have known and loved, and for those who have had no-one to love them in this life. Grant them your peace, and keep them in the light of your eternal love. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in your chosen version)

Let us share the **GRACE**…….

FINAL PRAYER

Be light, O Lord, to our eyes, music to our ears and contentment to our hearts. Be sunlight in our day, food at our table and rest to us in the night. Let us rejoice to be about your business and let us live to your praise and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

(*John Cosin: 1594-1672*)