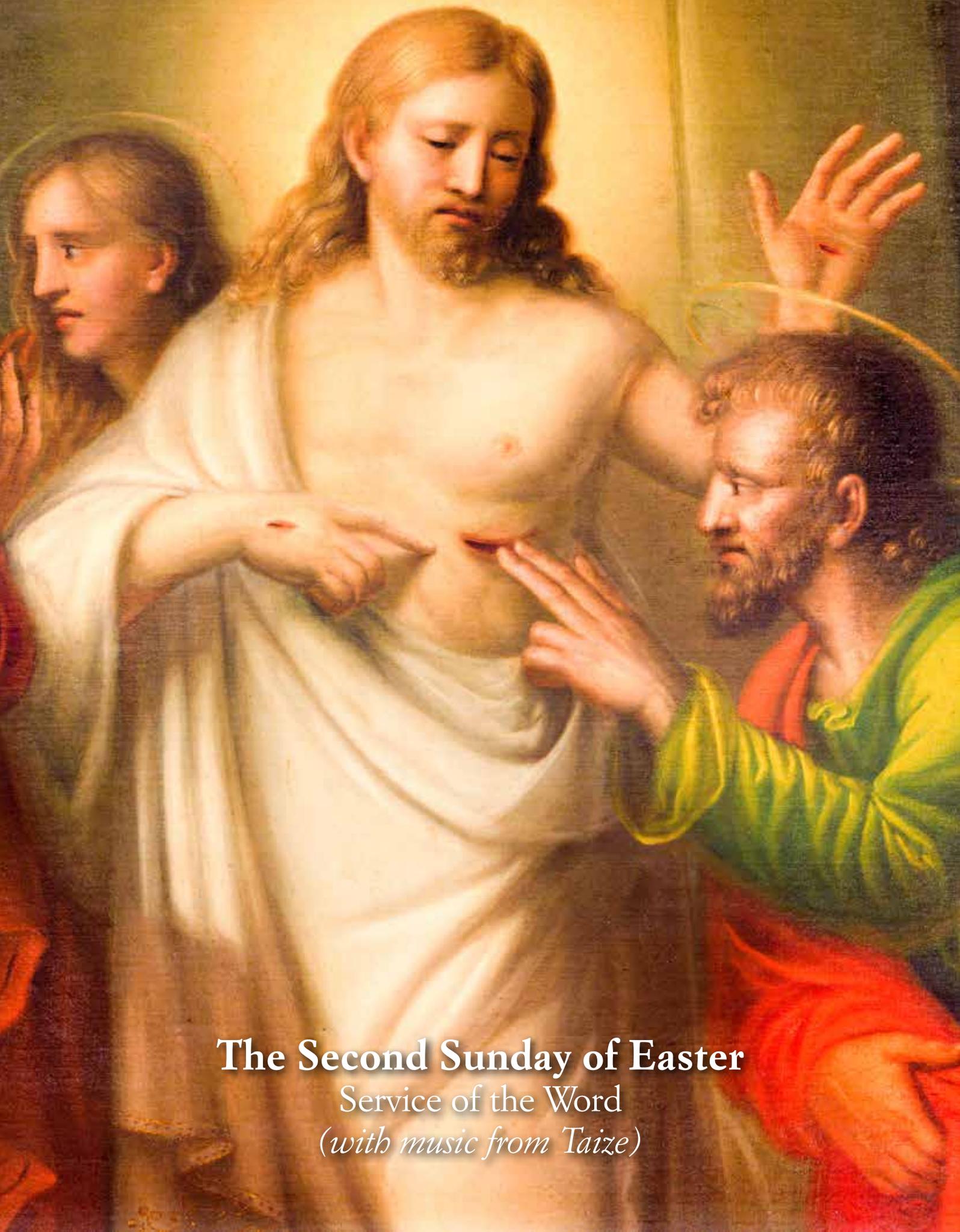


GARROWBYBENEFICE



The Second Sunday of Easter

Service of the Word

(with music from Taizé)

The music from Taize is simple, though beautiful, and the words repeat so you may feel able to sing them out loud or in your hearts if you are sharing the service on line. If you are sharing the service at home without the internet all the readings and the sermon are provided for you to share in worship.

The on line service will be streamed at 10.00 am.

Opening Music: Holy Spirit come to us

INTRODUCTION:

I wonder if anyone feels that they have a rock-solid faith with no doubts? The chances are, that there are very few people who would put their hand up to that.

Doubt is an ingredient of faith, it is how we grow. As we question and search, seeking to know more about God.

We all know about the disciple, Thomas. He was the one who doubted Jesus' resurrection. We call him doubting Thomas. That nickname could have been the source of all kinds of ridicule, but actually, the story of how Thomas refused to believe that Jesus was risen from the dead, is not recorded to make us mock Thomas. Rather it is there to remind us that Jesus works with us in our doubts, and through this, our faith can grow.

Thomas goes on, to call Jesus, my Master and my God and that is the first time that anybody does so, in the Gospel of John. His was a testimony, which recognised, more than anyone else did, who Jesus really was.... God in human flesh.

It is typical of humankind to remember the negative things about someone. Yes, Thomas had difficulty believing, but thankfully God is not like that. He takes our weaknesses and turns them around.

We owe Thomas a huge debt, he showed us that it is ok to doubt, to think things through, to pray through our insecurities, He showed us that God still accepts us.

In fact the struggling Thomas became the one who, with all his heart confessed Jesus as Lord.

Let us take a moment of quiet as we listen to Lord Jesus Christ as we begin our worship.

**All “Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us
Let my heart always welcome your love”**

OPENING SENTENCE:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His great mercy, he has given us new, into a living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. *1 Peter 1,3:*

PRAYERS OF PRAISE

Priest: Risen Christ we are your disciples, your wounded hands and feet, in the world today.

All: At times we have been the frightened ones, staying at a distance, doubting your divinity, worried about our status, or our reputations

Priest: But you come close to us bringing peace and challenge, unlocking our potential and setting us free

All: At times we have been the weeping ones, filled with grief and lost hope, we are unable to see your presence in our midst

Priest: But you come close and speak our names and we discover that we are fully known and loved and our hearts reach out to embrace you

All: Now we come close to you in worship, we come with our fear and doubt our confusion and our tears

Priest: And we find ourselves liberated and united by the love of the Resurrected one

All: Amen

CONFESSION

Risen Christ, we gather with a song in our hearts proclaiming that life is stronger than death, and that your light has overcome the darkness in our hearts. And so and we ask you:

For the times when like Thomas we are slow to believe

All: Lord have mercy

For the times when we have failed in our relationship with you and with one another

All: Christ have mercy

For the times we have failed to witness to your love in our world

All: Lord have mercy

ABSOLUTION

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his spirit and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

All: AMEN

MUSIC: Kyrie Eleison – Lord have mercy

COLLECT

READINGS

Psalm 16:

Refrain: The Lord is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

- 1 Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge;
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord,
all my good depends on you.'
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble in heart.
- 3 Though the idols are legion that many run after,
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,
neither make mention of their names upon my lips.
- 4 The Lord himself is my portion and my cup;
in your hands alone is my fortune.
- 5 My share has fallen in a fair land;
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

Refrain: The Lord is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

- 6 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel,
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.
- 7 I have set the Lord always before me;
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.
- 8 Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices;
my flesh also shall rest secure.
- 9 For you will not abandon my soul to Death,
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
- 10 You will show me the path of life;
in your presence is the fullness of joy
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Refrain: **The Lord is at my right hand; I shall not fall.**

**Give to us, Lord Christ,
the fullness of grace,
your presence and your very self,
for you are our portion and our delight,
now and for ever.**

GOSPEL

Priest: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All: **Glory to you O Lord**

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then 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.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

Jesus and Thomas

But Thomas (who was called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told 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 in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

The Purpose of This Book

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may come to believe[b] that Jesus is the Messiah,[c] the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Priest: This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you O Christ

ADDRESS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Priest: My friends in faith, let us boldly and joyfully proclaim our hope this morning. What do you believe?

All: Jesus walked out from the grave, the Lord of life! He conquered sin and death, we are now right with God, we have been given new life and called to walk with Him in freedom.

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again

Priest: Glory to God

PEACE

Priest: The risen Christ came and stood amongst his disciples and said peace be with you. And then they were glad when they saw the Lord.
Alleluia

The peace of the Lord be always with you Alleluia Alleluia.

All: And also with you. Alleluia Alleluia

INTERCESSIONS – (Between each prayer we sing)

**All: Bless the Lord my soul, and bless God's holy name
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life"**

CLOSING WORDS

Priest: May we open our eyes to the needs of all. May we be inspired by your words and deeds to comfort those who labour and are burdened. May we be faithful to the example of Christ in serving others.

All: Let us your Church be a living witness to truth and freedom, to justice and peace, that all people may be lifted up by the hope of a world made new.

BLESSING

Priest: May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future, fill you with his new life.
May the blessing of God Almighty, The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit rest upon you, your homes, and all whom you love, be with you today and always Amen

DISMISSAL

Priest: We are raised to new life with Christ. Go in his peace.

All: Thanks be to God.

MUSIC: In the Lord, I'll ever be thankful

The music is by J. Berthier and J. Gelineau and the whole selection of songs may be found on the album "Sing to God" which is available both on YouTube and Amazon Music