



THOUGHTS FOR LOW SUNDAY
EASTER 2
11 APRIL 2021

“A week later”
Acts 4:32-35, John 20:19-end

Low Sunday (doubtless so called in contrast to the high feast of Easter) is unusual in that the gospel reading set for all three years in the current lectionary is the one we have had this morning, clearly because it relates directly to this day, “a week later” than Easter Day itself. Although some further resurrection appearances were added later, the verses read today were the original ending of John’s Gospel, as we can easily see when he is at pains to point out exactly why he had written his book at all. It was not written to give a detailed account of Jesus’ life, but in order that the reader of his words might, “come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.” And we can be sure that John wrote his book for us, and people like us, to read in order that, “through believing [the reader] may have life in his name.”

John had found something so precious that he wanted others to have it too – life transformed from merely existing to become something purposeful and utterly fulfilling. Thomas had been absent when the risen Jesus appeared to his disciples on Easter evening but, despite his scepticism, on Low Sunday all that was done away when he encountered the Lord, his Lord and his God. John wants us all to have that experience as well, because he sees that belief in Jesus is the key to all God’s promises.

Such belief has consequences. Today’s reading from the Acts of the Apostles shews how their belief made the members of the early church change their lives quite radically. Those who believe in Jesus, and want to follow him, must not expect that all the ordinary difficulties of life to disappear; this current plague-time has taught us that, if we needed a lesson. Indeed, the very attempt to follow Jesus may itself generate new challenges; but we can expect to receive the support of the Holy Spirit in meeting them, as did S. John and S. Thomas.

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