

Easter 2A 2015
The Faith that Conquers the World

In today's second reading, St. John writes, "And the victory that conquers the world is our faith." Faith in Jesus Christ, faith in the power of God to raise the dead, faith that God can do what we cannot do: this is the faith that conquers the world. The world does not believe in the power of God to raise the dead. The world wants to see before it believes. And so the world only believes in what it can see. But those who believe see what the world cannot see. They see the power of God at work in Jesus Christ. Their faith conquers the world.

The first Christians understood the power of this faith when they lived as a community of mind and one heart. Their faith in the resurrection of Jesus transformed their lives. They lived as a community of believers because they believed that the risen Christ had called them into new life. They shared their goods because they believed that the risen Lord had called them into his church. There was no one who was needy among them because they lived a new life in Christ. Their faith conquered the world.

The faith of those first Christians conquered the world because the risen Lord gave them the gift of his peace. The faith of those first Christians conquered the world because the risen Lord breathed the power of God's own Spirit into their hearts. The faith of those first Christians conquered the world because the risen

Lord forgave their sins and sent them into the world to forgive sins. And so their faith conquered the world.

But Thomas did not understand the power of this faith to conquer the world. Like the world, he wanted to see before he would believe. Like the world he wanted proof that Jesus was risen and alive. Like the world he did not believe in the power of God to raise the dead. The world had conquered Thomas because Thomas did not believe.

But the risen Lord conquered the world and rescued Thomas. “Touch me and believe. Put your hand into my wounds and believe. Believe that you too may overcome the power of the world. Let your faith conquer the world of fear and unbelief. Let your faith triumph over the power of death.”

And so Thomas believed and conquered the world. But our faith is greater. For, we believe without seeing, and so we conquer the world. We believe the Word that has been preached to us, and so we conquer the world. We believe that God sent his Son into the world and raised him from the dead, and so we conquer the world.

Do not be unbelieving but believe. Do not be seduced by the world but believe and conquer the world. For, it is our faith in Jesus Christ and the power of God who raises the dead that gives meaning and purpose to our lives. This is our faith that conquers the world.