

Eucharist For Thomas

I often feel sorry for Thomas as he seems to have missed out on many of the crucial events of the first Easter morning and is then, when he dares to voice his disbelief is known forever by the church as "Doubting Thomas". To me this does not seem very fair as I think Thomas is just able to put into words the questions that many of us feel. But Jesus doesn't chastise. Jesus offers peace.

Thomas had missed it
missed the crucial moment
the moment when Jesus appeared
and shattered their fear and gloom
with the pervading warmth of the Holy Spirit.

Thomas had heard the women
he had listened to the disciples
something was clearly not right
but a man, risen from the dead?
clearly this was the denial of grief that was speaking.

And so, once again,
gathered in the privacy of someone's home
Jesus came and stood among them
"Peace be with you " he said
but Thomas could not have been less at peace.

And the story doesn't tell us (but I like to think)
that following the awkward moment
between Jesus and Thomas
the tension was shattered
by the breaking of bread and laughter of friends together.

So come,
bring your doubts and your fears
So come,
bring your anger and your hurt
So come,
bring your disbelief and your questions
So come,
bring the partial answers you cling to
And like Thomas
lay them before the risen Christ
who doesn't give us a row
but gives us his hand
and his peace.

Peace be with you...
and also with you.

For on the night of fear and doubt
on the night of betrayal and arrest
on the night when all certainty was stripped away
Jesus ripped the bread apart, saying,
"take, eat, this is my body broken for you".

[share bread]

For on the night of fear and doubt
on the night of betrayal and arrest
on the night when all certainty was stripped away
Jesus poured wine and shared it with them, saying,
“you will next taste wine in the coming kin-dom of heaven”

[share wine]

Peace be with you...
and also with you.

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