

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 8, 2018



THE LESSON Acts 4:32-35

³²The community of believers was one in heart and mind. None of them would say, "This is mine!" about any of their possessions, but held everything in common. ³³The apostles continued to bear powerful witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and an abundance

of grace was at work among them all. ³⁴There were no needy persons among them. Those who owned properties or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds from the sales, ³⁵and place them in the care and under the authority of the apostles. Then it was distributed to anyone who was in need.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 133

Look at how good and pleasing it is when families live together as one!

¹It is like expensive oil poured over the head, running down onto the beard—Aaron's beard!—which extended over the collar of his robes.

³It is like the dew on Mount Hermon streaming down onto the mountains of Zion,

because it is there that the LORD has commanded the blessing: everlasting life.

THE EPISTLE 1 John 1:1-2:2

We announce to you what existed from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have seen and our hands handled, about the word of life. ²The life was revealed, and we have seen, and we testify and announce to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us. ³What we have seen and heard, we also announce it to you so that you can have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus

Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy can be complete.

⁵This is the message that we have heard from him and announce to you: "God is light and there is no darkness in him at all." ⁶If we claim, "We have fellowship with him," and live in the darkness, we are lying and do not act truthfully. ⁷But if we live in the light in the same way as he is in the light, we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin. ⁸If we claim, "We don't have any sin," we deceive ourselves and the

truth is not in us. ⁹But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from everything we've done wrong. ¹⁰If we claim, "We have never sinned," we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

²My little children, I'm writing

these things to you so that you don't sin. But if you do sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. ²He is God's way of dealing with our sins, not only ours but the sins of the whole world.

THE GOSPEL John 20:19-31

¹⁹It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." ²²Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

²⁴Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails,

and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

²⁶After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

²⁸Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

³⁰Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. ³¹But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.