

Peace for the Journey ... April 28, 2010

Scripture Reading: John 20:19-31

Fear and doubt are two universal aspects of the human condition. Most of us have, at one time or another, experienced either fear or doubt or both. Not many of us have avoided the anxiety and paralysis which accompany fear and doubt.

So it is comforting to read John 20 and discover that Jesus comes to us in our fear and doubt. Like the fearful disciples and doubting Thomas, we are not fully clear on the meaning of Easter. We don't always understand what God is doing and we need further instruction.

Through the words of John's Gospel, the resurrected Jesus comes to us and breathes new life into us, and we discover that just as God sent Jesus into the world, Jesus sends us into the world with the message of forgiveness. We discover that fear and doubt are not a barrier to hearing and answering God's call. In fact, the Gospel seems clear: fearful and doubting people (like us) are exactly the kind of people God uses. Easter means that fear and doubt do not get the last word: God gets the last word and God's last word is **life**.

*But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have **life** in his name. (John 20:31)*

In prayer, turn your fear and doubt over to God. Trust that God's grace is sufficient. Let God fill you with the breath of life and send you into the world to serve Him.