**Resurrection: Celebrating Boundless Transformation**

**Reading - John 20: 19-29**

HE IS RISEN! Indeed our Savior suffered and crucified for our sin and raised from death. Today, we celebrate the resurrection. It is an important day for Christians all over the world.  The event of Resurrection defines the Christian faith and a new beginning.

Upon Jesus's capture the disciples were scattered. Both Peter and the Beloved Disciple had come to the tomb in the Easter morning, but it was only the Beloved Disciple who actually came to believe in Jesus' resurrection (20:8). Peter had not yet believed, nor had the other disciples.  The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders, and on the evening of that same Sunday they locked themselves in a room.
The first appearance of Jesus took place on the evening of Easter Day, when Thomas was absent (20:19-23). The second appearance of Jesus to his disciples happened a week later when Thomas was present (20:26-29).

The final verse (20:29), could be interpreted as a rebuke of Thomas, whose faith was dependent upon seeing Jesus, in contrast to those who believe without seeing him.  In reality, Thomas is no different from the others, for they too believed only on the basis of Christ’s appearance to them.  Jesus appeared in the midst of the disciples and identified himself by showing his hands and his side (20:20).  Even though the disciples knew that the Jesus has risen through his first appearance, a week later they are in the same place - behind locked doors.  Nothing much has changed. Gospel reading describes the house, the doors and the locks.  Apostle John is speaking about more than a physical house with walls, doors and locks.  He is describing the inner feelings of the disciples.

Days after Easter, how are our lives different? Are we enjoying the freedom and joy of resurrection or are we behind locked doors? And if we haven’t transformed, what are the locked doors in our lives? When we close our mind, our lives are always more about what is going on inside of us than around us. What keeps us in the tomb? Maybe, like the disciples, it is fear. Maybe it is questions, disbelief, or the conditions we place on our faith. Some seem reluctant to open up to new possibilities, and change.

Jesus is always entering the locked places. Sometimes even unwanted and uninvited, he steps into our closed hearts and minds. Standing among us he offers peace and breathes new life into us. He gives us all we need so that we might open our doors to a new life and become a new creation.