

**April 18, 2020-Saturday, First Week of Easter**

**Thomas, ‘the Outspoken Twin’**

Thomas the Apostle is mentioned several times in John’s Gospel. Although he is best known as the “doubting Thomas,” he also comes across as a person of courage who speaks his mind.

At one point, some Jewish people in Jerusalem threatened to stone Jesus, because he had said, “The Father and I are one.” Jesus left the city and went to a deserted place with his disciples. While there, he heard that his friend Lazarus had died. Jesus tells the disciples that he is going back to the Jerusalem area to “awaken” Lazarus. They warn Jesus that a return there so quickly would be dangerous. Thomas says, “Let us also go to die with him.”

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The feast of St. Thomas at Kurisumudy is held in Malayattoor, India, each year on the Sunday after Easter. It celebrates the proclamation of Thomas the Apostle that Jesus was God. (This Gospel is always read on the second Sunday of Easter.)

Thomas holds special meaning for Malayattoor. Tradition says, after the resurrection of Jesus, Thomas came to India aboard a Roman ship with a group of spice merchants in 52 A.D. and then traveled to this village. He spent 20 years in India where he founded seven Christian communities. While he was in Malayattor, Thomas’ life was threatened and he fled to the top of Kurisumundy mountain where he spend many days in prayer.

The feast of St. Thomas in the universal Church is July 3.

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***And behold, Jesus met the women on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”*** (Mt. 28:9-10)

The disciples had heard Jesus speak for a couple of years about the way to fulfillment. They heard him say that the way things work out best, the way to life, is to entrust everything to God. They heard him say that they were daughters and sons of God, and they were to act like God acts, responding to evil with goodness, turning the other cheek, being gentle and truthful.

They had seen it work in situations in Jesus’ own home town when people got stirred up against him. He never, ever drew a sword, he was always forgiving and gentle...and it worked.

When Jesus was arrested, and Judas and others came at him with swords and clubs, the disciples must have been terrified and probably thought, “Jesus’ way doesn’t work.” They all abandoned him, not to be heard from again until after his death.

Now, on Easter Sunday, they get the news that the tomb was empty. Perhaps they began to think, “Could it be...that trusting in God works, even in the face of the ugly, senseless death on the cross? Could it be that the way of life Jesus taught us works even against death?”

That’s the good news we celebrate on Easter.

Trust God.

It works.

*Spend some quiet time with the Lord.*