

## QUASIMODOGENITI

### THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Mt. Calvary, West View / Pentecost, Avella 04/23/17*

Acts 5:29-42, I Peter 1:3-9, John 20: 19-31

Theme: Evidence Refused

+ **Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN +**

Our Text is taken from the continuation of Gospel of St. John, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter:

***So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe."***

HE IS RISEN! HIRIH,TIMCT!†

How wonderful would it have been to be one of the first disciples and be able to declare to all you meet, *öWe have seen the Lord!ö* Which would have been more impressive? To say that you have seen the Lord lying in a manger, or to say that you have seen the Lord risen from the dead? Hard decision I would think, but as for myself, I would just plain be happy to be seeing Jesus at all! This is the feeling I will have on the end of days. I could care less when I see Jesus, just as long as I see Him. As the great Psalm says, *öI would rather be a doorman in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.ö*

Thomas, I feel, does not share my sentiment. Thomas is given the great declaration, *öWe have seen the Lord,ö* but he is not happy. He refuses to believe it. I liken it to the old Dickens tale, where old Ebenezer refuses to believe that his old friend Jacob Marley has come back from the dead to visit him. When asked, *öWhy do you doubt your senses?ö* Ebenezer responds, *öFor a little thing can affect them. A slight disorder of the stomach makes them cheat. You may be a bit of undigested beef, a blot of mustard, a crumb of cheese, a fragment of an underdone potato.*

There's more of the gravy than the grave about you, whatever you are.ö That dickens; what a knee slapper! The point being, despite the evidence in front of him, Ebenezer refused to believe his friend was trying to communicate with him. Thomas in our text, is refusing the evidence he has that Jesus is alive and well and traveling about reassuring His disciples and all believers that sins have been dealt with, they are forgiven, the Heavenly Father is angry no more towards His children that trust in Jesus a strong abode, and there is peace in our days. Thomas has no peace. He is refusing the evidence he already has, and like some jury slanted against the accused, unless he sees more, overwhelming, and irrefutable evidences, he will surely NOT believe.

The evidence Thomas has is by my standards overwhelming enough. What is the evidence he has? Can you list them all, or perhaps some? Just off the top of my head, we mentioned the virgin birth; anybody born of a virgin has my vote that whatever He says and does will be 100 percent believable. There is also the evidence of the miracles Jesus performed that are too numerous to list in such a polite sermon (You're welcome, Karen,) but let us just recall the widow of Nain whose son was brought back to life before their very eyes; as well as Lazarus from the tomb after four days. If Jesus can do these things, why is it so hard to believe that Jesus would rise from the grave in three days? He said He would, and as I just said, any virgin born individual has my complete attention and whatever He may say is believed as 100 percent gospel. If this is not enough, Thomas has the evidences of the Old Testament to refer to as proof that Jesus will rise again as He said, **öFor Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see decay.ö** So much evidence! So much overwhelming proof!

Yet, Thomas refuses to believe. These are his friends! They would not be trying to pull a prank or a punk on Thomas! He does not seem like the kind of guy you would want to play a prank on even if it is an impractical joke. So even the evidence of friendly witness should be

enough to at least sway a little to the belief that Jesus is amongst us. Maybe it did, for Thomas does hang out with the boys a week later and Jesus is kind enough to not only be there, but offer up to Thomas, as unworthy as he is for not having faith in the risen Christ, all the evidence he needs to believe - and more! What a wonderful story!

And it does not end there, for even as the disciples were going forth and spreading the evidence of Jesus' resurrection to increase the Kingdom of God, many tried to quash it. Yet, God in His divine providence made the leaders come to a very smart decision, *“If this plan or this undertaking is of men, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!”* more evidence that this must be a Godly movement for it has not been abated, but continues on today, and even if there is suffering, we rejoice as the early church rejoiced, *“that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.”*

So where are we today? We have all the same evidences that Thomas has, with the exception of an actual nail print to put a finger in, or a pierced side to place a hand in. We have the Word; we have a risen Christ; we have a virgin birth; we have the faith in baptism that makes us children of the Heavenly Father. We even get to touch and feel Christ in the Sacrament of body and blood and physically partake of Jesus in the most intimate way as did all the disciples which broke bread amongst themselves. We are so much more enlightened that we should never be doubting that the Word of God is true and correct just as we have it. So why then are churches so empty and believers so few? Because we still have sin in our world that can only be removed by Christ and faith in Him. The world will never believe in all the evidences we have, and reject pretty much all of it for Christ is not the way the world wants to function. The message of sharing the good news we have is not going to be accepted by the world. Wide and well trod is the road to perdition and narrow and hard is the path of light. You have all the evidence you need to share

peace and comfort to those who mourn. For as Peter so encourages, *Without having seen Him you love Him; though you do not now see Him you believe in Him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls.* You have salvation to share with a dying and dark world. Use all the evidence at your disposal, and feel free to study the Word more and gather up even more evidence, to help your neighbor see Jesus as you do, and rejoice, for HE IS RISEN! HIRIH,TIMCT! In His Most Holy Name we pray. AMEN.

+ AND NOW MAY THE PEACE OF GOD WHICH SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING  
KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS IN UNION WITH CHRIST JESUS. AMEN+

Offering / Prayers

**There are only two days on my calendar...today and the day of judgment.**

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**HE IS RISEN INDEED! HALLELUIA, THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE!**