

April 27th
Second Sunday of Easter

“Yet Have Come To Believe”

Affirmation of Baptism
(Confirmation)

Main Text: John 20:19-31
(Acts 5:27-32; Revelation 1:4-8)

We saw in the Easter Sunday story, that it takes some time to have our vision changed. Thomas was not there when Jesus appeared to the other disciples. He heard the women's stories and from the other disciples, but he refused to believe unless he could physically touch and see the resurrection. They all had been able to welcome the resurrected Christ and began to see everything as new. Thomas, on the other hand, refused to believe. He knew that Jesus' death was real. He had experienced that death. He was not willing to allow himself to hope that what they said was real. He would rather hold onto the certainty of death, than allow himself to risk believing in new life. Do we also find ourselves doing the same. We hear the story and are invited to believe that God is making all things new through the resurrection, but it is easier to only allow ourselves to believe in what we see, touch and experience. That is not faith, it is certainty. This reading from Acts shows why Thomas might choose not to believe. Look at what Paul faced to proclaim the resurrection. Believing, embracing and then proclaiming publicly is risky. Our baptism calls us to reject sin, the forces of this world that rebel against God and the ways that draw us from God. That is what Paul and the others did at great cost. They could only do so because they viewed everything differently. This reading from the vision of Revelation points to the witness of Jesus as the foundation of our revelation in Christ. Today we affirm the baptism of young people, who though they have not put their finger in the nail holes in Jesus' hand or in his side, have still come to believe. In believing, we pray they will be able to see and believe that God is making all things new.