

First Reading: Acts 5:29–42

²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, ⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Epistle: 1 Peter 1:3–9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you

have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Holy Gospel: John 20:19–31

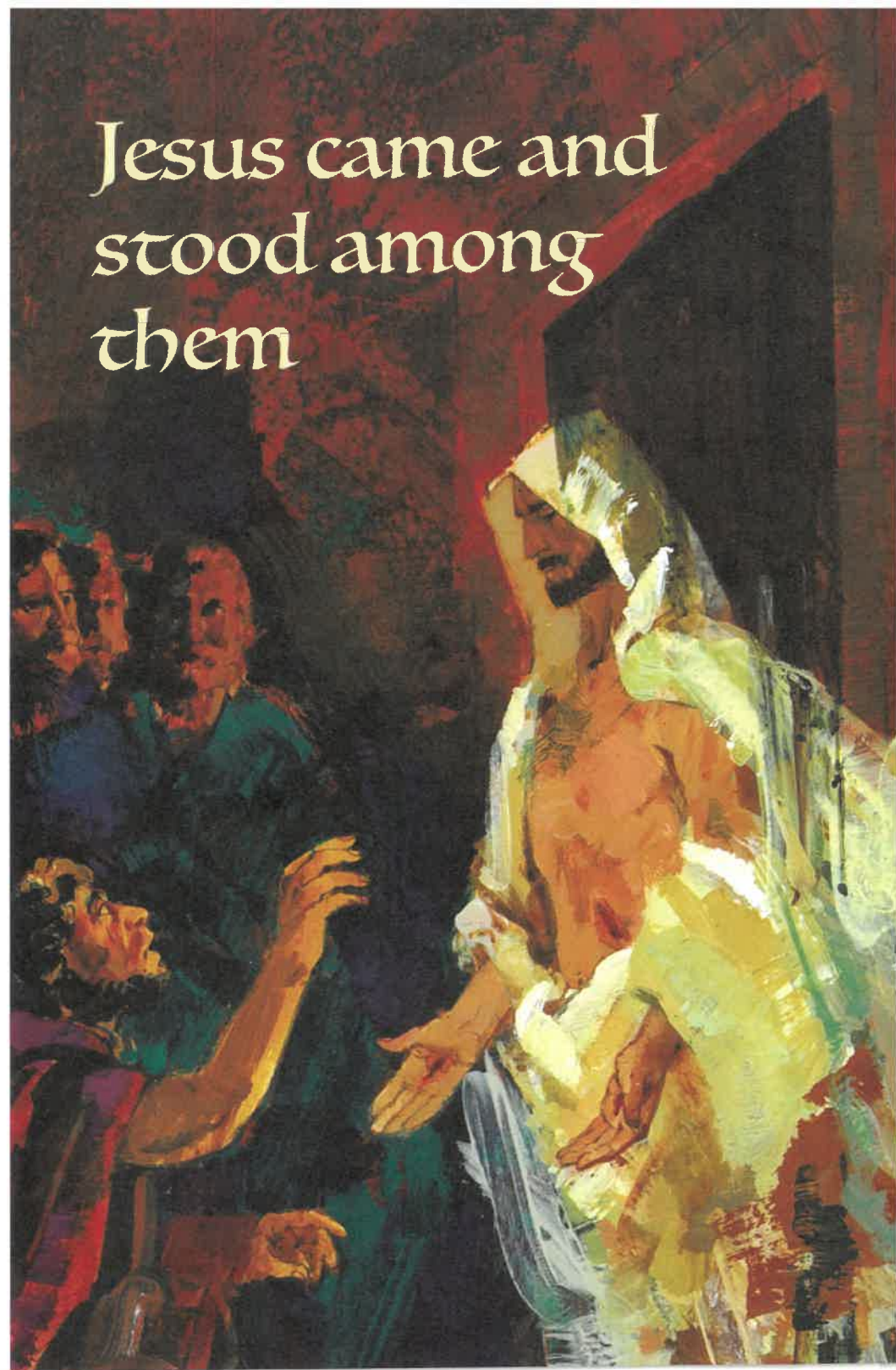
¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Jesus came and stood among them



Easter

About the Cover: “My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed as Jesus showed His nail-pierced hands and feet and spear-pierced side (John 20:28). Jesus stood before His disciples in that locked room and gave them the keys to unlock heaven by His authority to forgive sins. The power of these keys still opens heaven to all believers in the Church today; the benefits of Jesus’ death and resurrection are brought into our ears by the proclamation of the Gospel.

Weekly Worship Resources

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise Him in the heights!
2 Praise Him, all His angels; praise
Him, all His hosts!
3 Praise Him, sun and moon, praise
Him, all you shining stars!
4 Praise Him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!
5 Let them praise the name of the
Lord! For He commanded and they
were created.
6 And He established them forever
and ever; He gave a decree, and it
shall not pass away.
7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you
great sea creatures and all deeps,
8 fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy wind fulfilling His word!
9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees
and all cedars!
10 Beasts and all livestock, creeping
things and flying birds!
11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
12 Young men and maidens together,
old men and children!
13 Let them praise the name of the
Lord,

for His name alone is exalted; His
majesty is above earth and heaven.
14 He has raised up a horn for His
people, praise for all His saints, for
the people of Israel who are near to
Him.
Praise the Lord!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the
beginning, is now, and will be
forever. Amen.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, and in
Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, died and was buried; He
descended into hell; on the third day
He rose again from the dead; He
ascended into heaven, and sits at the
right hand of God the Father
Almighty; from thence He will come
to judge the living and the dead. I
believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy
Christian Church, the communion of
Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom
come. Thy will be done on earth as it
is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread, and forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those who
trespass against us, and lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from
evil. For thine is the kingdom and the
power, and the glory, forever and
ever. Amen.

Collect Prayer

Almighty God, grant that we who
have celebrated the Lord's
resurrection may by Your grace
confess in our life and conversation
that Jesus is Lord and God; through
the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who
lives and reigns with You and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.