

Second Sunday of Easter

April 11, 2021

These Post-Resurrection readings are filled with Hope, a future full of hope. And are we not in need of such a Spirit-filled future?

In the Gospel we have Jesus who has “past through” the barriers of locked doors. His new presence unlocks the fear that has harnessed these disciples. They hear his greeting: “Peace be with you”. They are reminded of the Man Jesus, who walked with them and taught them and spoke about returning to the Father. Now they hear the words of Sending, of commissioning, of telling the world what they have seen and heard. Now it is their turn.

“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you”.

But they are not alone. The promise of the Holy Spirit brings them courage. The Risen Jesus breathes on them, as God breathed on creation in Genesis 2:7.

Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life... a living being.*

And again, in Ezekiel “Then he said to me: Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, son of man! Say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: From the four winds come, O breath, and breathe into these slain that they may come to life. I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath entered them; they came to life and stood on their feet, a vast army.

Breath is the essence of life. Without it no life exists. Breath is the presence of God’s life. So, in the Gospel when the Risen Jesus breathes on them, he is breathing into them the breath of God. Breath is essential! Think of those who have been affected by Covid and their breathing is compromised. Fear! Think of George Floyd’s last words. Think of yourself when you are “out of breath”.

We are closer to God than we can imagine. Breathe that in!