

# EASTER



SF OPERA HOUSE

APRIL 1ST

10:30AM

## **04.01.18 | Doubting Easter**

**John 20:19-28**

### **Luke 24:5**

“Why do you look for the living among the dead?”

### **Luke 24:6**

“He is not here; He is Risen!”

### **John 20:19-20**

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed

them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

### **John 20:24-25**

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

“Despair is the death of our sense of surprise, the belief that nothing new can happen to us. We despair at the precise moment when, consciously or unconsciously, we say in resignation: ‘That is the way I am, that is the way things have always been for me, and that is the way it will always be. For me, it’s too late!’ Once this has been said, we are in a tomb. Much of us is dead, and more of us is still dying.”

- Ronald Rolheiser, *Prayer*

“Why is this kind of despair so dangerous? Because the resurrection is always, as it was the first time, a surprise—the totally unexpected, the impossible, and that which defies all logic, laws of nature, and the wisdom of common sense and convention. When we have every angle of reality so calculated and figured that we know all the

possibilities, then nothing new can come along to surprise us. Sadly, our prophecy then will be self-fulfilling because we have ceased believing in God and grace in a real sense. We have slimmed down God and grace to fit our own small minds. We live not merely in despair, but also in mediocrity.”

- Ronald Rolheiser, *Prayer*

### **John 20:26-28**

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

“It is not as a child that I believe and confess Jesus Christ. My hosanna is born of a furnace of doubt.”

- Fyodor Dostoevsky

If when the doors are shut, thou drawest near,  
Only reveal thy hands, that side of thine.  
We know today what wounds are, never fear:  
Show us thy wounds: we know the countersign.  
The other gods were strong, but thou wast weak.  
They rode, but thou didst stumble to thy throne.

And to our wounds, only God's wounds can speak—  
And not a god has wounds, but thou alone.

- Edward Shillito, "Jesus of the Scars"