In our world today I’m sure there is much doubt and questioning, and it is this week we remember Thomas and his doubt. It’s been one week since Easter, one week since the empty tomb, and even though it was through technology, our first “Alleluia. Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.” It’s one week after the resurrection and the disciples are in the same place they were Easter night. They are in the same room behind the same locked doors. How has it changed them?

One week after Easter, what has Christ’s resurrection done for us? Is our life different? Do we see and engage the world in new ways? What difference has the empty tomb made in our life? When I look at my life it looks a whole like it did last Sunday, the week before, and the week before that. And when I look at the world it looks pretty much the same as before Easter.

The fact is that our experience of what we might call our resurrection, the time our world will get back to normal, will take time. Resurrection is something that we grow into. It’s a process. It’s a way of being and by the grace of God we evolve into resurrected people through our relationships and the circumstances of our lives. God wastes nothing. Every day we are stepping into the resurrected life. It’s not always easy and some days are just plain hard.

If we came to Easter Sunday and the empty tomb expecting to wake up on Monday to a whole new life and world, what a shock, because I am guessing that you awoke up to the same life and world you had on Good Friday, but the empty tomb is just the starting point for the resurrection story. Too often, however, we take a few facts as the entire story, and as we read our Gospel passage this morning isn’t that what we’ve done with Thomas?

What facts come to mind when you hear his name? He was a doubter.  That Thomas doubted may be the only fact that comes to mind. What if that fact was only the start of the story? Do you know where Thomas died? Well, he died in India. He was the apostle to the people of India and he brought the Gospel to them. He died a martyr after he was run through with five spears by five soldiers. That doesn’t sound much like a doubter, does it? It sounds like someone who grew and changed, someone for whom the resurrection of Christ was real, for whom the empty tomb made a difference. It just took a little time to understand, as it does for most, if not all of us.

We know the name doubting Thomas, but let’s not forget the Confessing Thomas, all that stuff about Doubting Thomas, the fact of his disbelief, is just Thomas’ starting point. We all have to think about where our starting point is?  Given our current situation, if we’re dealing with deep loneliness, sorrow, or loss, that’s our starting point. That’s the room which Christ enters. If we’re are locked in a house of fear, confusion, or darkness, that’s our starting point and the place in which Jesus stands. If illness, old age, disability, or uncertainty are facts of our lives, that’s our starting point and the place in which Jesus shows up. If we feel lost, betrayed, disappointed or overwhelmed, that’s our starting point and the house Jesus enters. But if joy, gratitude, and celebration are the facts of our lives today, that’s the starting point of our story of resurrection. I pray we can all look beyond the current situation and look to a place of hope and trust knowing that our Lord is in charge, this is our resurrection starting point.