**Believing - Gospel of John**

**If you believed Moses, you would believe me. *(John 5:46)***

**I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. *(John 11:25-26)***

**More than 80 times in his gospel, John says it is necessary to believe. He's pretty insistent about it. It is a life and death matter.**

**Some readily embrace the imperative; others don't -- like Thomas in today's lection. Some believe too easily; some make a production of it -- again, like Thomas. Some are too gullible; some are too skeptical, like Thomas. Some will believe anything; some will believe nearly nothing, like Thomas, once more. Yet all need to believe.**

**The impulse to believe resides in just about everyone. And for good reason; believing is important to ones well-being. John goes so far as to equate it with ones salvation -- with that quality of life he called "eternal." What one believes is important, but that's another sermon. Today, we focus on the need to believe.**

**"Ya gotta believe," was a favorite line of the late comedian Phil Silvers. The Gospel writer John thought that, too, though in a more serious vein. The imperative to believe reverberates throughout the fourth gospel:**

**God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that everyone who believes in him should not perish. *(John 3:16)***

**Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already. *(John 3:18)***

**Anyone who hears my word and believes...does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life. *(John 5:24)***

***LectionAid***