

APRIL 3, 2016
SECOND SUNDAY
OF EASTER

taking+
faith
home

Now, I am sending you.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Seeing Christ's wounds
Monday	Luke 12:4-12	The courage to confess Christ
Tuesday	John 14:15-27	Jesus gives his peace
Wednesday	Judges 6:11-24, 33-40	Gideon asks for signs
Thursday	2 Kings 20:1-11	Hezekiah asks for a sign
Friday	Isaiah 53:1-5	By his wounds we are healed
Saturday	Psalms 122	Peace in Jerusalem
Sunday	John 21:1-19	Jesus appears to the disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

After Jesus had greeted them again, he said, "I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me." **John 20:21 (CEV)**

SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Risen Lord Jesus, please drive away our fears and doubts. Give us your peace and joy. Amen.
(John 20:19-27)

Mealtime Prayer:

For this food and life renewed, we praise your name O God. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus breathe into you the Holy Spirit. May he take away your fears and give you courage. Amen.



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CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- Thomas found it hard to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead (John 20:24-25). Is there something that you struggle to believe?
- Jesus respected Thomas' doubts, and answered them in a beautiful way. What does this teach us about Jesus?
- Jesus sends us out with the power of the Holy Spirit. How do you share God's love with others?

DEVOTIONS



As witnesses to Jesus' resurrection, the early Christians faced great opposition and persecution (read Acts 5:27-32). There are millions of Christians today who face different degrees of persecution, some quite severe. In your home devotional times, pray that God will give strength to Christians under persecution and deliver them.

SERVICE



Decorate some flower pots by painting them with Easter symbols, such as a cross, butterfly, lily, words like "**He is risen!**", or gluing on pictures. Buy some seeds to plant in the flower pots. Tend to these over the coming weeks. When flowers begin to emerge, present the pots as gifts to friends or neighbors.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The words we use influence our thoughts and feelings. During the "Great Fifty Days of Easter," begin and/or end your day by praying, saying, or sending a message using social media one of the following:

- "**This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**" (Psalm 118:24)
- "**Christ is risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**" (Easter liturgy)



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org