

APRIL 8, 2018  
SECOND SUNDAY  
OF EASTER



*The risen Jesus gives us peace.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Jesus appears to the disciples
Monday	Acts 4:32-35	The sharing of goods
Tuesday	1 John 1:1–2:2	The word of life
Wednesday	John 14:23-31	Jesus speaks of peace
Thursday	Romans 5:1-11	We have peace with God
Friday	Philippians 4:4-9	The God of peace be with you
Saturday	Psalms 133	The blessing of unity
Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to his disciples

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” **John 20:21 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear Risen Christ, replace our worries with peace, our fears with courage, and our unbelief with faith. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Risen Lord Jesus, you give us food for the body and peace for the soul. May faith be our way and love be our goal. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through believing that you have life in his name. (John 20:31)



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Peace I Leave With  
You My Friends*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Do most of us awake each day to a sense of peace or worry? Why do you think that is? How do you generally begin each day?
- Martin Luther said that the judgement of the law is the “constant guest” in our lives. How do we overcome that sense of self-doubt and judgement?
- How does the resurrection make a difference in your life?

### DEVOTIONS



Read: 1 John 1:1–2:2.

Christianity is often described—and challenged—as primarily a set of beliefs, but in John 20:30-31 the focus is on a way of life, “that you may have life in his name.” In 1 John 1 there is a wonderful openness to an honest look at our lives; we all sin. That is not a dark view of the world. It presents a freedom not to be afraid or ashamed of our lives but to see beyond our brokenness to the power of forgiveness that creates us anew each day to start again in peace. How does that sense of Christianity and the power of the resurrection change everything? For those who don’t have this faith or hope, what are they missing? After a time for reflection, recite the following: (1 John 1:8-9) **“if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

*Pray:* **Dear Risen Christ, replace our worries with peace, our fears with courage, and our unbelief with faith. Amen.**

### SERVICE



In Acts 4:32-35, life in the community that trusts the power of the resurrection has a changed understanding of property and how we care for each other. Finally, everything is God’s more than it is “mine” to use for my own pleasure. This is not an endorsement of an economic system. It is a confession of faith and a commitment to love the neighbor as oneself. Rethink everything you own as a loan from God to love others. How might that influence your actions today?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In what ways can you share the peace with others and in your home or when visiting friends? It can be a handshake, hug, or a high five. There is a long history of Christians sharing a sign of peace with one another in public worship as a physical expression of the peace God gives to us through Jesus. It connects directly to Jesus greeting his disciples in the resurrection. That public greeting also extends to personal greetings. Share the sign of peace: **“The peace of the Lord Jesus be with you.”**



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