

APRIL 28, 2019
SECOND SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Believe that the crucified Jesus is the Messiah.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Seeing Christ's wounds
Monday	Acts 5:27-32	The conviction of the Apostles
Tuesday	Revelation 1:4-8	Christ sends a message to John
Wednesday	Luke 24:36-40	Jesus appears to his disciples
Thursday	John 2:1-11	Wedding at Cana
Friday	John 11:38-53	Raising of Lazarus
Saturday	Psalms 150	Praise the Lord
Sunday	John 21:1-19	Jesus appears to the disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But these [signs] are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. **John 20:31 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Risen Christ, replace our fears with courage, our unbelief with faith, and give us peace. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Risen Lord Jesus, we praise you for all of your mighty deeds, and ask a blessing on this food that fills our needs. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you always.



© 2018 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

APRIL 28, 2019

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*My Hope Is Built on
Nothing Less*



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Describe or think about what it means to believe in something.
- What gets in the way of believing in Jesus?
- How does believing in Jesus as the Messiah impact how you live each day?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 20:19-31.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus performs a number of signs, beginning with the wedding at Cana (2:1-11). These signs point beyond themselves in order that people may have a relationship to Jesus, believe in him, and have "life in his name" (v. 31). Jesus sends out his followers just as he was sent by his heavenly Father, and he sends them out to extend God's peace and forgiveness empowered by the Holy Spirit (vv. 21-23). The mission of Jesus' followers, the mission of the church, is to be sent out as those who believe in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God, and, thereby, live a life that goes out into the world to offer peace and forgiveness. Followers are sent out through a surprising power; it is the power of the resurrected Jesus who still bears the wounds of the crucifixion as seen by Thomas and the other disciples. Christian followers trust that the crucified and risen Lord has the power to forgive, the source of true peace on earth. How do you experience peace and forgiveness as a follower of Jesus? How are you sent out to extend this same power of peace and forgiveness to others?

Pray: **Dear Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus, give us the faith to believe and to be sent out with your power to forgive and to bring peace to others. Amen.**

SERVICE

After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples. However, Thomas was not there. When the other disciples told Thomas later that they had seen Jesus, he doubted that Jesus really appeared to them. He did not believe and needed proof. After Jesus invited Thomas to touch his wounds and Thomas' subsequent confession of faith, Jesus said, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe" (John 20:29b). Our role as disciples is to help others see Jesus. How can you help others to believe that "Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God" (John 20:31)?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 150 is the last psalm in the book of Psalms. It is a call to praise God. We praise God through worship, hymns, prayers, and actions. Choose one way to praise God daily this week in your home. Will it be with musical instruments, song, prayer, or in some other way? Finish your time of praise with these words: **Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!** (Psalm 150:6)



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