

APRIL 12, 2015
SECOND SUNDAY
OF EASTER

taking+ faith home

The risen Jesus gives us peace.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Jesus appears to the disciples
Monday	John 14:23-27	Jesus speaks of peace
Tuesday	Romans 5:1-8	We have peace with God
Wednesday	Ephesians 2:13-18	Christ Jesus is our peace
Thursday	Colossians 1:19-23	Peace through the blood of Jesus
Friday	Philippians 4:4-9	The God of peace will be with you
Saturday	Psalms 29	God's people blessed with peace
Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Witnesses of these things

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said.
John 20:19 (NLT)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, please come among us. Replace our worries with peace, our fears with courage, and our doubts with true faith. Amen. (John 20:19-31)

Mealtime Prayer:

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

A Blessing to Give:

May the risen Lord Jesus give you peace. May your faith in him remain strong. Amen.

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you felt at peace. What made you feel that way?
- The risen Jesus appeared to his disciples and said, "Peace be with you." What is the peace that Jesus gives?
- In what ways are you experiencing God's peace in your life at the moment?

DEVOTIONS

John 20:19-31 tells us that Thomas found it hard to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. Jesus responded by appearing to him and inviting Thomas to touch him. God's love is not turned away by our questions and doubts. In your household devotion times this week, share questions and doubts you have about the Christian faith. Have each person complete this statement: "*Something I wonder about is ...*" Invite responses from different household members, and talk about ways in which you can explore your questions further. Be sure to respect and listen carefully to one another. Pray for one another, asking Jesus to come to you.

SERVICE

Acts 4:32-34 says that the first followers of Jesus shared their belongings with one another and made sure that no fellow Christians were needy. Is there someone in your church community who is in need at this time - socially, emotionally or physically? Plan a way you can respond to that need as a household.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

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. The New Testament refers to Christians greeting each other with a "holy kiss" (see Romans 16:16). Decide together on a sign of peace that you can share together as a household in daily life, such as a special handshake, hug, or kiss. As you share this sign with each other say, "*The peace of the Lord Jesus be with you.*"



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