

APRIL 23, 2017
SECOND SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Belief in the crucified and risen Lord leads to joy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Thomas sees and believes
Monday	Genesis 32:22-32	Jacob wrestles with God
Tuesday	Judges 6:36-40	Gideon and the fleece
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 5:1-10	We live by faith, not by sight
Thursday	Hebrews 10:35–11:2	The nature of faith
Friday	1 Peter 1:1-9	A living hope
Saturday	Psalms 16	Life centered on God
Sunday	Luke 24:13-35	On the road to Emmaus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

You have never seen Jesus, and you don't see him now. But still you love him and have faith in him, and no words can tell how glad and happy you are to be saved. **1 Peter 1:8-9a (CEV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, bless us with faith in you. Help us to move from doubts to joy in the power of your death and resurrection. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, as our bodies are fed with good gifts from you, please bless us with Easter peace, joy, hope, and faith. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Risen Lord Jesus replace your doubts with faith, your worries with peace, and your sadness with joy.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Lord Jesus, You Shall
Be My Song*



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about a time when you experienced great joy.
- What do you think it was like for Thomas to wait a week longer than the other disciples to see Jesus?
- John 20:31 states that the gospel was 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.” How would you describe that life?

DEVOTIONS



The disciples did not rejoice at seeing Jesus until they saw his wounds. Thomas insisted on seeing and touching Jesus' wounds. Jesus' suffering and his resurrection belong together. The resurrected Christ still bears the scars of his crucifixion. Resurrection is not the undoing of Jesus' crucifixion. It points out that the suffering and death of Jesus is the defining moment not only of history, but for our own lives of faith. The disciples had an encounter with the risen Lord by seeing him and his wounds. How do we have a relationship to the risen Lord today without seeing him? Conclude your time of reflection by praying the words of the Apostles' Creed.

SERVICE



When Jesus first appeared to his disciples, Thomas was not with them. He must have felt like an “outsider,” not having the same experience as his friends. Is there a person who is a newcomer to your school, community, or congregation who may feel like an “outsider” at times? Invite them to your home to share a meal, at school to eat lunch with them, or to a congregational function with you. Introduce them to others and help them feel more at home.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



While his disciples were hiding in a locked room on the first Easter Sunday, the risen Lord Jesus appeared to them and said, “Peace be with you.” When you gather as a family this week, “pass the peace” to one another with handshakes, kisses, or hugs.

As you greet each other say, “**The Lord's peace be with you.**”



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