

**April 12,2020      Easter Day Celebrate**

**Preparing for Next Week April 19, 2020      Second Sunday of Easter**

4/13 Monday      Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24.

4/14 Tuesday      Colossians 3:12-17.

4/15 Wednesday      Matthew 28:1-10.

4/16 Thursday      Psalm 16.

4/17 Friday      1 Corinthians 15:1-11.

4/18 Saturday      Song of Solomon 8:6-7.

**4/19 Second Sunday of Easter** (commemoration of Olavus Petri, priest, died 1552; Laurentius Petri, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1573; renewers of the church)

Act2:14a, 22-32;Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9;John 20:19-31.

Second Sunday of Easter      April 19, 2020

## A Rip in the Seams

Rather than saddling him with a disgraced reputation and besmirching his character by dubbing him “the great doubter,” would it not be nearer the truth to reconsider and rightly recognize Thomas as a “most sincere believer”?

It was an easy and unsurprising move for Jesus’ disciples to seize upon the idea that following their Nazarene teacher would make them great. After all, nothing and no one seemed able to put a stranglehold on his triumphs: not hunger, disease, or storm; neither demons nor priests. He was God-sent, God-empowered, God-blessed.

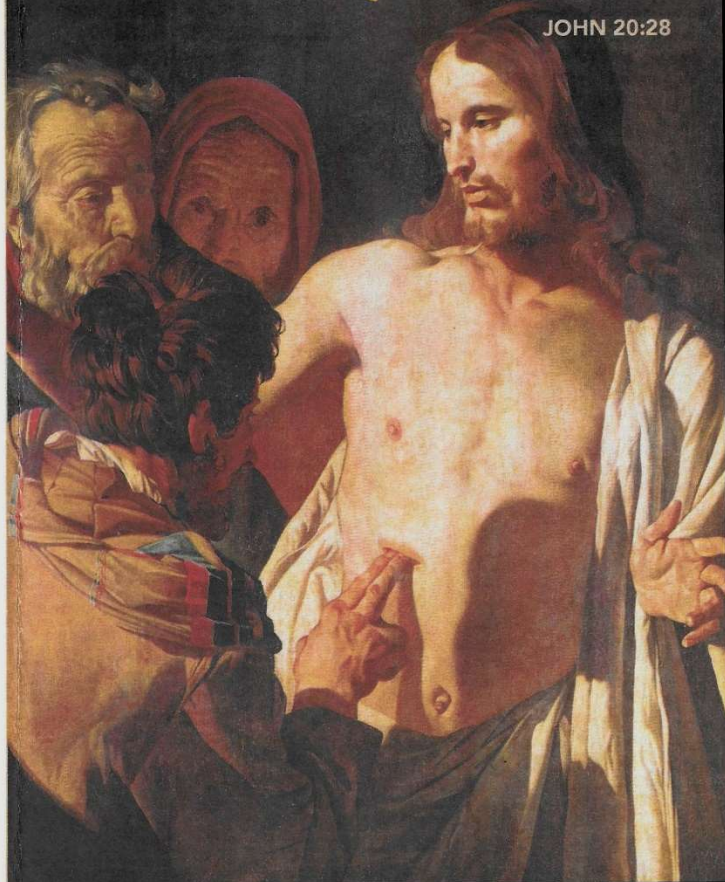
But there was a rip in the seams that held all the pieces of those disciples’ gathered hopes together: Jesus’ unstoppable talk of least and last, served and suffering, freeing and forgiving, dying and departing.

So, when their imagination of who God is and how God acts failed them; when priests and courts condemned and soldiers killed their would-be king, Jesus; when Joseph and Nicodemus wrapped his body and buried his corpse, and Mary Magdalene’s unimaginable announcement, “I have seen the Lord” (John 20:18), left them doubtful and frightened—they locked their doors. The Lord they imagined—the way of God they had hoped for—was dead.

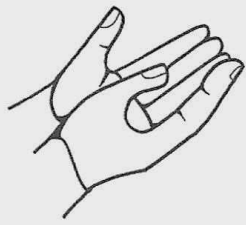
If Jesus’ miraculous entry somehow through closed and bolted doors and his spoken word first revived the doubting disciples’ faith, it happened differently for Thomas, who was not with them. The disciples reported to him what had happened, choosing the same words spoken by Mary Magdalene that, just days before, had left them doubtful: “We have seen the Lord” (John 20:25). Courageously honest, inviting pious disrepute through the ages, Thomas dared to say that he believed Jesus’ own predictive words about serving and suffering, dying and departing. Thomas trusted that the Christ would bear the marks, embody the scars, and retain the wounds of an unimaginable God. A week later, on seeing the risen Lord, Thomas’s belief was confirmed. In sincere faith indeed he exclaimed, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28).

My Lord  
and my God!

JOHN 20:28



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# Celebrate

Second Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2020

*In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.*

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

*After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.*

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]:

<sup>22</sup>"You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—<sup>23</sup>this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup>For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I  
will not be shaken;

<sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and  
my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

<sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul  
to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience  
corruption.

<sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the  
ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness  
with your presence.'

<sup>29</sup>"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you  
confidently of our ancestor David that  
he both died and was buried, and his  
tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup>Since he was  
a prophet, he knew that God had sworn  
with an oath to him that he would put  
one of his descendants on his throne.

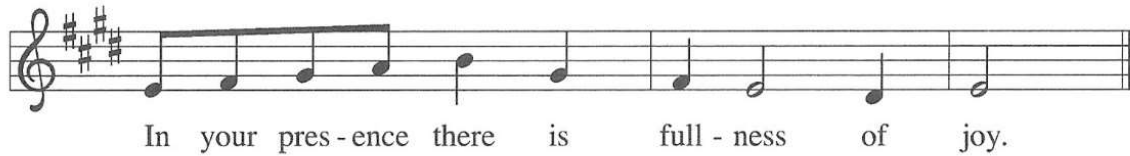
<sup>31</sup>Foreseeing this, David spoke of the  
resurrection of the Messiah, saying,  
'He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience  
corruption.'

<sup>32</sup>This Jesus God raised up, and of that  
all of us are witnesses."



## Psalm

## Psalm 16; refrain, Ps. 16:11



- Protect me, O God, for I take ref-<sup>1</sup>uge in you;  
I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good a-<sup>1</sup>bove all other."
- <sup>2</sup>**All my delight is in the godly that are<sup>1</sup> in the land,  
upon those who are noble a-<sup>1</sup>mong the people.**
- <sup>3</sup>But those who run after<sup>1</sup> other gods  
shall have their troubles<sup>1</sup> multiplied.
- <sup>4</sup>**I will not pour out drink offerings<sup>1</sup> to such gods,  
never take their names up-<sup>1</sup> on my lips. R**
- <sup>5</sup>O LORD, you are my portion<sup>1</sup> and my cup;  
it is you who up-<sup>1</sup>hold my lot.
- <sup>6</sup>**My boundaries enclose a<sup>1</sup> pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a<sup>1</sup> rich inheritance.**
- <sup>7</sup>I will bless the LORD who<sup>1</sup> gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me night<sup>1</sup> after night.
- <sup>8</sup>**I have set the LORD al-<sup>1</sup>ways before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall<sup>1</sup> not be shaken. R**
- <sup>9</sup>My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir-<sup>1</sup>it rejoices;  
my body also shall<sup>1</sup> rest in hope.
- <sup>10</sup>**For you will not abandon me<sup>1</sup> to the grave,  
nor let your holy one<sup>1</sup> see the pit.**
- <sup>11</sup>You will show me the<sup>1</sup> path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand are pleasures for-<sup>1</sup>evermore. R

*This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer

various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel

John 20:19-31

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.*

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the

nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

<sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these 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.



## Prayers of Intercession

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Open the doors we close, O God, when we fear those who worship you in different ways. Guide us to unity and harmony so that we may come to respect and cherish our commonalities. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Open the paths we ignore, O God, when we prioritize financial gain and convenience over listening to the groaning of the earth. Inspire all to care for the world you have made so that living things might thrive. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Open the rooms we lock, O God, to those who live without a homeland or place of safety. We pray that generous nations offer refuge and peace for all. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Open the hearts we close, O God, to the cries of those in pain. We pray for those isolated physically or emotionally through incarceration, addiction, mental illness, chronic suffering, grief, and all in need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Open the ways of love, O God, in the pursuit of peace throughout the world, and bless the efforts of missionaries, healthcare professionals, activists for women and children, and relief workers, especially those who find themselves in harm's way. (*Here other worldwide ministries may be named.*) Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Open the way to eternal life, O God, as we remember those who have died in faith (*especially Olavus Petri and Laurentius Petri, renewers of the church*). Free us from the fear of death, that we embrace the peace you have promised. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** Psalm 114. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109) 1 Corinthians 15:19-28. **Wednesday** Matthew 12:38-42. **Thursday** (commemoration of Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960) Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19. **Friday** Isaiah 26:1-4. **Saturday** (Mark, Evangelist) Mark 1:1-15. **Third Sunday of Easter** Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35.

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