

APRIL 27, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Jesus' victory over sin and death.

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 24:36-49	Jesus appears to his disciples
Thursday	2 Peter 1:3-15	The Christian's call
Friday	John 1:14-18	The Word of life
Saturday	Psalms 150	Praise the Lord
Sunday	John 21:1-19	Jesus appears to the disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne. Revelation 1:4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Risen Christ, give us faith and courage to live each day trusting in the power of your grace and peace for the sake of the world that needs hope in you. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Risen Lord Jesus, we praise you for your mighty deeds, and for this food that fills our needs. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus' resurrection give you grace and peace.



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APRIL 27, 2025
HYMN OF THE WEEK
*My Hope Is Built on
Nothing Less*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What are some of the things that get in the way of enjoying daily life?
- When is a time you felt or sought God's presence following a disappointing experience?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Revelation 1:4-8.

The book of Revelation is easily misunderstood. It is not meant to be scary book, but a comforting book filled with hope in God who overcomes death and the misuse of power. Jesus' resurrection challenges everything we understand and experience in this life. Human efforts, even those well intentioned, eventually lead to unfairness, inequality, and, finally, death. Human life is limited by sin and death. The basic message of Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega, and the be-all and end-all of reality is that God takes on sin, death, and evil. God gives us a promise to live with us all our days. In Jesus, God wins, and in Jesus, we, too, win a victory over sin and death. That promise gives us power and courage to live on with hope and a desire to experience lives of love with others. We are not overcome by grief and disappointment because we overcome grief and disappointment through grace and peace in Christ.

Discuss: What disappointment in life have you experienced that needs the power of the living God in Christ?

Pray: **Almighty and living God, you who are the beginning and end of all of life, we thank you for Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, who gives us new life now and forevermore. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone who is dealing with grief or disappointments?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples. Thomas was not there. The disciples told Thomas later that they had seen Jesus. He questioned that Jesus really appeared to them and needed proof for himself. A week later Jesus invited Thomas to touch his wounds. Trace your hand on a piece of paper and draw a nail mark in the hand. Our role as disciples is to help others see Jesus. Pause for a moment to touch the nail mark you drew.

Say: **Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**



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