

APRIL 19, 2020
SECOND SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Faith in Jesus includes a relationship with Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Thomas sees and believes
Monday	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Peter addresses the crowd
Tuesday	1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Wednesday	Mark 10:46-52	The healing of blind Bartimaeus
Thursday	John 4:1-30	Woman at the well with Jesus
Friday	John 4:46-54	Jesus heals an official's son
Saturday	Psalms 16	Song of trust in God
Sunday	Luke 24:13-35	Road to Emmaus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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." **John 20:28-29 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Everlasting God, strengthen us in faith; give us the desire to know you more day by day that we may live with love and hope through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

Dear God, may we receive this food with joy, knowing that all good gifts come from you. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God show you the path of life and give you joy through Christ our Lord. (Psalm 16:11)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

We Walk by Faith



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:

- Who is someone you wish you knew or knew better?
- How does having a personal, trusted relationship with someone impact your life?
- How do you grow in your relationship with Jesus as your Savior and Lord?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 20:19-31.

It is hard to read this text and not be influenced by the title "doubting Thomas." However, it is only Thomas in the whole Gospel of John who makes the confession of faith that Jesus is God and more specifically, "My God" (v. 28). In this passage at least two important points about the Christian faith are revealed: 1) faith is relational (Thomas personalizes Jesus as "My God"), and 2) faith is a lifelong journey. Jesus blessed those who "come to believe." The Greek text denotes a continuous process, not just believing at a certain point in time, but continuing to believe. And, isn't that what is needed to have a real relationship to someone: an ongoing development—even being challenged by—that relationship. What Jesus means for us and to us will continue to develop for a lifetime. As we age and as we have new experiences and challenges, the meaning of Jesus for our lives and our world evolves, even as we evolve and "have life in his name" (v. 31). Our relationship with Jesus grows and develops over time. Describe your relationship with Jesus.

Pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, into my life this day, that I may confess you as my God and have life through you each and every day. Amen.**

SERVICE

Thomas had to see Jesus to believe. 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" (John 20:29). It is through our service that the world "sees" Jesus. We are his voice, hands, and feet in the world. List ways others have seen Jesus and his love through your actions and words.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

When Jesus appeared to the disciples after the resurrection, he said, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19b). This has become a traditional greeting among Christians as a reminder of Christ's presence. Practice greeting friends and family in your home using these words this week.



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