

APRIL 11, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Seeing is believing, and believing is seeing.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Come and see and believe
Monday	Acts 4:32-35	The sharing of goods
Tuesday	1 John 1:1–2:2	The word of life
Wednesday	Hebrews 11:1-40	The meaning of faith
Thursday	2 Corinthians 4:7-18	Living by faith
Friday	2 Corinthians 5:6-10	We walk by faith
Saturday	Psalms 133	The blessing of unity
Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to the disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to [Thomas], "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."
John 20:29 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, give us the eyes of faith that we may believe and have life in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let this food to us be blessed. Let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Holy Spirit give you eyes to see and believe in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ.



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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:

- Talk or think about something you need to see in order to believe it is real.
- What does the expression "seeing is believing" mean to you?
- Jesus wants us to see with the eyes of faith. How is this possible?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 20:19-31.

Thomas wants what the other disciples experienced: seeing the risen Lord. Seeing is a major theme in the Gospel of John. Jesus says to two disciples, "Come and see" (John 1:39). The woman at the well tells the townspeople to "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done" (John 4:29); the man born blind sees Jesus and says, "Lord, I believe" (John 9:38). Mary Magdalene sees the resurrected Jesus in the garden and tells the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" (John 20:18). Our reading for this week ends with sensitivity to those who will not see the resurrected Lord Jesus yet will come to believe. The Gospel of John wrote down enough signs from Jesus that people "may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God" and "have life in his name" (v. 31). Today's disciples, like the ones in the Gospel of John, believe because they see through the eyes of faith. We have the Holy Spirit that we may have a living relationship with Jesus through today's disciples, those who continue to tell the stories of the Scriptures that we may come "to see," to believe and have life in the name of Jesus. Who or what has helped you see with the eyes of faith?

Pray: **Risen Lord, we thank you for blessing us with a community of faith and the Scriptures that we may see that you are the Messiah, the Son of God. Amen.**

SERVICE

In Acts 4:32-35 the first Christians gave witness to their faith by how they lived and cared for one another so that there was no needy person in their midst. It is still important for Christians to care for the needs of others. How can you reach out to someone in need this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

John 20:19-31 tells us that Thomas found it hard to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. Jesus appeared to him and invited Thomas to touch him. God's love is not turned away by our questions and doubts. Complete this statement: Something I wonder about the Christian faith is _____. Then pray: **Lord Jesus, please come to me so that I may see you and believe. Amen.**



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