



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Faith in the Risen Lord



The readings for the Second Sunday of Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday, focus on Christ's peace, hope and mercy. Pope Francis said that the name of God is Mercy. Mercy creates a living, praying, generous Church that perseveres in hope. They show us what the Resurrection *does* in real life: it gives peace, creates living hope, and forms a community of persevering Faith.

There are many possible themes that a Children's Liturgy of the Word leader can focus upon this week. The CLoW reflection focuses on Faith, based on Thomas's response to Christ: "My Lord and my God."

Background

Acts 2.42-47 illustrates for us that Risen Faith is practical Faith. The first believers in Jesus devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching, to living a shared life, to the breaking of bread (Eucharist), and to a life filled with prayer. As a result, awe spread among the people as God acted through signs and wonders evident in the lives of Christ's followers. Their unity became visible in charity: those with resources (food and shelter) shared with those in need, and the community's daily rhythm included prayer and Christ-filled actions.

Psalm 118 gives us both the emotional and spiritual grounding of Easter joy: God's steadfast love endures forever.

1 Peter 1:3-9 describes mercy as God's gift that provides stability in difficult lives: Believers are born into a living hope through the Resurrection. That hope includes the reward of eternal life in heaven, protected by God's power through faith. Even though believers face trials, those trials test and refine our faith.

John 20:19-31 The Gospel encompasses two distinct events that culminate in Thomas' profession of faith. On Easter Sunday, the disciples are locked in fear, yet Jesus comes and says, "Peace be with you." He shows his wounds, breathes the Holy Spirit, and entrusts them with the ministry of forgiveness—mercy embodied in a concrete power to forgive sins. This passage could be used to reflect upon the Sacraments of Confirmation or Reconciliation; however, they are not ideal topics for CLoW this week

On the Sunday after Easter, the eighth day, Thomas's doubt becomes an invitation: he is met patiently, and his confession—"My Lord and my God!"—reveals that believing is more than seeing; Jesus invites us patiently to believe in him and proclaim His peace to the world by thoughts, words and deeds.

When Christ gives us peace, we are also meant to bring that same peace to others—especially through forgiveness—because God's mercy is what truly heals fear and builds hope. ¹

¹ 22 April 2001: Sunday of Divine Mercy, 3; John 20:19-23; General Audience of 23 April 2003, 3

The Liturgy

Procession from the main Church

After the opening prayer, when all are seated, the leaders come forward and stand facing the altar.

Priest: (in these or similar words)

Children, Jesus asks us to have faith in him, meaning we believe in him even though we haven't seen him. This can be difficult at times, but Jesus will strengthen our faith if we ask him. Go now and listen to God's Word.

Once most of the children have formed a procession, the leader with the book proceeds to the celebration site. The second leader usually walks behind the children. Upon arrival at the CLoW room, the leader places the book on the prepared table.

Welcome.

The leaders assist the children in sitting and preparing. **Begin with the Sign of the Cross.** Help the children think and connect their actions as they touch their foreheads, shoulders, and stomachs. The leader may offer the following prayer, in these or similar words.

Let's quiet our hearts and make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**God of mercy,
as we celebrate Christ's resurrection,
increase our faith and renew your gift of life within us.**

Amen.

Invite the children to listen to the readings. Proclaiming all the readings is unnecessary; however, the Gospel is required.

READINGS

FIRST READING

Acts 2.42-47

A reading from the book of Acts.

They devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the Apostles.

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread in various homes and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 118.2-4, 13-15, 22-24,

R. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever.

or: Alleluia

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."

Let those who fear the Lord say,
"His steadfast love endures forever." R.

I was pushed hard, so that I was falling,
but the Lord helped me.

The Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

There are glad songs of victory
in the tents of the righteous. R.

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it. R.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1.3-9

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

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: a birth into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this, you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, 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 honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.

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, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

It was evening on the day Jesus rose from the dead, 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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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."

After eight days, 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." 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." 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." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

REIMAGINED READINGS FOR CHILDREN

The reimagined readings below are intended for use after the children have heard the original reading. The intent is to allow the children to listen to the original reading and help them better understand it (not replace it).

Read at a minimum, the Gospel, which has the highest priority, and then ask the children to sit down. You can then read the reimagined reading. Leaders may not have time to read all of the reading. If time permits, after the Gospel, proclaim the Psalm, and then the first reading, if time permits.

Reimagined readers must always remain faithful to the original Scripture's intent, making it age-appropriate for children to understand.

FIRST READING

Acts 2.42-47

After Jesus rose from the dead, many people listened to the apostles' teaching. As a result, they realized that Jesus wanted them to help one another and treat each other like family. They prayed together and shared what they had—sometimes even selling things—so they could give to people who needed help.

Every day, they spent time together. They prayed, thanked God, and were kind to everyone. And day by day, the community grew because they knew that Jesus saved them.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 118

R. God's love lasts forever.

Let God's people say,
"God's love lasts forever." R.

Today is the day the Lord made.
So let's rejoice and be happy. R.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1.3-9

Blessed be God!

Because of God's great mercy, He has given you something new: a living hope—hope that is *alive*—through Jesus' resurrection. And that hope brings you a wonderful inheritance kept for you in heaven: it will never spoil, never get dirty, and never fade away.

God protects you with His power as you trust Him. That protection helps you be ready for the salvation God will show in the end. So even when life is hard, and you face different trials for a little while, you can still rejoice.

Your faith is like gold—it's very precious. Gold is tested in fire, and God's way of testing helps your faith become more real and strong. And one day, when Jesus is revealed, your faith will bring praise, glory, and honour.

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

The disciples were scared on the first Easter Sunday evening after Jesus rose from the dead. They were inside a house with the doors locked because they were afraid.

Then—without warning—Jesus appeared right there among them. He didn't say "surprise" or "I told you so." He said something simple and wonderful: "Peace be with you."

To show them it was really Him, Jesus showed His hands and His side—the places where He was hurt for us. When the disciples saw the risen Jesus, they were filled with joy.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you." And He told them an important mission: "As the Father sent Me, so I send you."

Then Jesus did something very special: He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." With the Holy Spirit, the disciples would be able to help heal people—Jesus also said, "If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not, they are not forgiven."

But Thomas—one of the Apostles—was not with them that first time. The others told him, "We have seen the Lord!" Yet Thomas said, "I won't believe unless I can see the nail marks and put my hand where His side was."

Eight days later, the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was there. Even though the doors were still shut, Jesus came and stood among them, saying, "Peace be with you."

Then Jesus turned right to Thomas: "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side." But Jesus also said the deeper message was: "Don't be unbelieving—believe."

Thomas looked at Jesus and said with a full heart: "My Lord and my God!"

And Jesus answered Thomas by pointing forward to everyone who would come after him: "You believed because you saw me—blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Reflection

The leader may offer this reflection in these or similar words. Remember the amount of time available to return to the main assembly. The leader may wish to reduce the number of questions. An excellent place to begin is the question:

Alternate Reflection

What did you hear? Allow children to respond.

When you feel afraid, what do you usually do? Talk to someone, pray, get quiet, hide.

Sometimes you might feel like the disciples did—scared, not sure what will happen next, and wishing you could hide. On the first Sunday evening, the disciples were together in a house, but the doors were locked because they were afraid.

Then, a week later, something amazing happened: Jesus came and stood among them. Even though the doors were shut, Jesus still found them. And the very first words He spoke were gentle and powerful: "Peace be with you."

Jesus didn't say "don't be scared" just to make the disciples feel better. When Jesus says "Peace be with you," it's like He's telling you: You are not alone, and you can come back to God even when you feel worried or wrong.

What would you think if Jesus said to you, "Peace be with you"? Amazement, awe, love of Jesus.

After Jesus greeted them, He didn't hide His wounds. He showed His hands and His side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. That means Jesus' love isn't pretend love. It's love that can be trusted, because it really happened.

If you could see one "sign" that proves Jesus loves you, what would it be? His teachings, His Church, the Eucharist, prayer, kindness?

Jesus didn't only visit them. He also gave them a mission. He said, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Then He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." And Jesus taught them that God's forgiveness is real—through the work of the Church. So the disciples weren't just "comforted." They were also strengthened and sent to help others—by sharing God's peace and forgiveness.

What helps you remember Jesus is with you? Bedtime prayer, saying sorry, going to Mass, reading the Bible, or helping someone?

One of Jesus' friends, Thomas, wasn't there the first time Jesus appeared. When the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord," Thomas said he would not believe unless he could see the nail marks and touch the place where Jesus was wounded.

Have you ever had a moment where you wanted to believe, but you needed proof—or time—first? *Allow children to respond.*

A week later, the disciples were together again—with Thomas this time—and Jesus came again, even though the doors were still shut. Jesus greeted them with peace and then invited Thomas to see and believe. And Thomas, when he saw Jesus, said something strong and true: "My Lord and my God!" Jesus then told Thomas something that speaks to us, too: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." That doesn't mean we pretend. It means we learn to trust Jesus with our whole heart—even when we can't see Him the way the disciples did.

What do you think changed in Thomas? *new information, change of heart.*

This Gospel is written so that we may come to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that believing in Him gives life in His name. So today, this Gospel is not just history. It's an invitation: Let Jesus' peace come into your heart, and let your faith grow.

A simple way to respond (for you this week)

- When you feel scared, remember Jesus says, "Peace be with you."
- When something feels too hard to understand, ask Jesus for faith—as Thomas did.
- Talk with your parents so that they can encourage you with kindness, forgiveness, or a gentle word—because Jesus sends His friends to help others.

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess their faith. Recite the Creed or use the sample below to ask the children to respond.

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The Creed

Depending on the time, a simple profession of faith may be made (see below).

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who gave his life for us?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts and gives us everlasting life?

All: I believe.

Leader: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leaders may begin the intercessions by announcing the needs they know. The leader may need to repeat and paraphrase the petition, concluding it with the cue for the response: 'We pray.' All respond to each petition by saying, "Lord, hear our prayer." Sample intercessions are below.

The intercessions are said. The Leader introduces them, and an assistant announces them.

The leader says:

Dear Jesus, you love every child, and you bring peace to our hearts. Today we pray for people who are afraid, and for those who need God's mercy. Let us ask God to hear our prayers. 'Lord, hear our prayer.' **R:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Assistant:

Let us pray for the Pope, bishops, priests, deacons, and all God's people, that we may follow Jesus and share His peace with our words and actions. We pray to the Lord. **R:**

Assistant:

Let us pray for everyone who feels worried, scared, or alone—that they may hear Jesus say, "Peace be with you." We pray to the Lord. **R:**

Assistant:

Let us pray for our parents and families, that God blesses them and strengthens their faith in Jesus. We pray to the Lord. **R:**

Assistant:

Let us pray for people who are sick, hungry, lonely, or suffering, that God's love may reach them through our help and kindness. We pray to the Lord. **R:**

Assistant:

In the quiet of our hearts, we offer our own prayers... [pause]. We pray: Come, Lord Jesus. **R:**

The Leader says:

God of peace, hear our prayers and help us to trust in Jesus. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Return to the church

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and reflect on what they have heard and what they are now doing. Be mindful of children who may have difficulty finding their families.



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

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John 20:19-31 handout provided by thewordthisweek.net

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

John 20:19-31



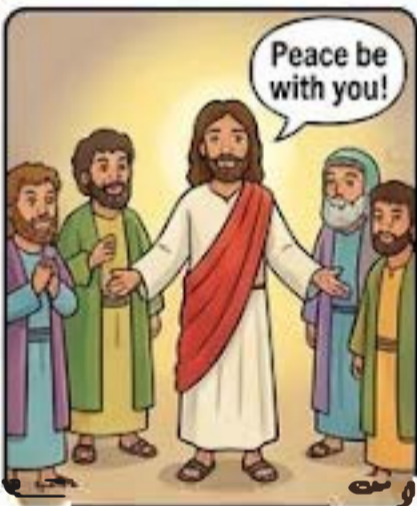
1. Why were the disciples meeting in a room with locked doors?

- A. They were playing a game.
- B. They were waiting for a surprise party.
- C. They were afraid of



5. What did Thomas say he must do to believe?

- A. See the empty tomb.
- B. See the nail marks and put his finger in them.
- C. Talk to a different angel.



2. What was the first thing Jesus said to the disciples when he appeared?

- A. "Peace be with you!"
- B. "You are all in trouble."
- C. "I am hungry."



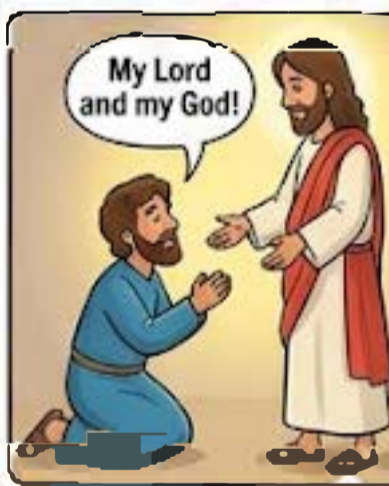
6. How much time passed before Jesus appeared again to the disciples, including Thomas?

- A. One day
- B. A week
- C. An hour



3. What did Jesus show the disciples to prove it was him?

- A. His feet and his heart.
- B. His hands and his side.
- C. His crown and his cloak.



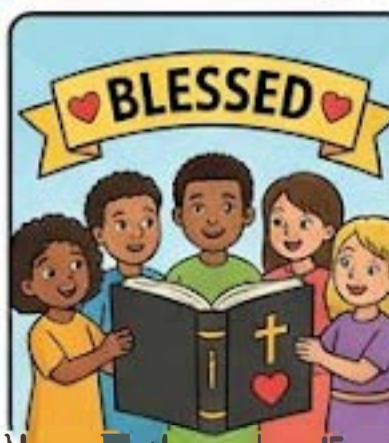
7. What did Thomas call Jesus after seeing him?

- A. "Good teacher"
- B. "My Lord and my God"
- C. "A ghost"



4. Which disciple was not with the others when Jesus first came?

- A. Peter
- B. John
- C. Thomas



8. According to Jesus, what is true of those who have not seen and yet have believed?

- A. They are special.
- B. They are blessed.
- C. They are correct.

Divine Mercy Sunday

Today, besides being the second Sunday of Easter, we also celebrate the feast of Divine Mercy. It is the special day when we remember the mercy of God.

Mercy is when a person treats another better than they deserve. God does not owe us anything, since everything we have comes from Him. When we sin we offend God, but because He is merciful He forgives us when we are sorry.

Jesus' dying on the cross was the biggest act of mercy. He gave up His life so that we could be forgiven of our sins and go to Heaven! Thank God today for all He has given you, especially giving up His life so that you can go to Heaven!



Here are some easy prayers you can say to ask God to be merciful to us:

***Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,
Have mercy on us!***

Jesus, I trust in You!

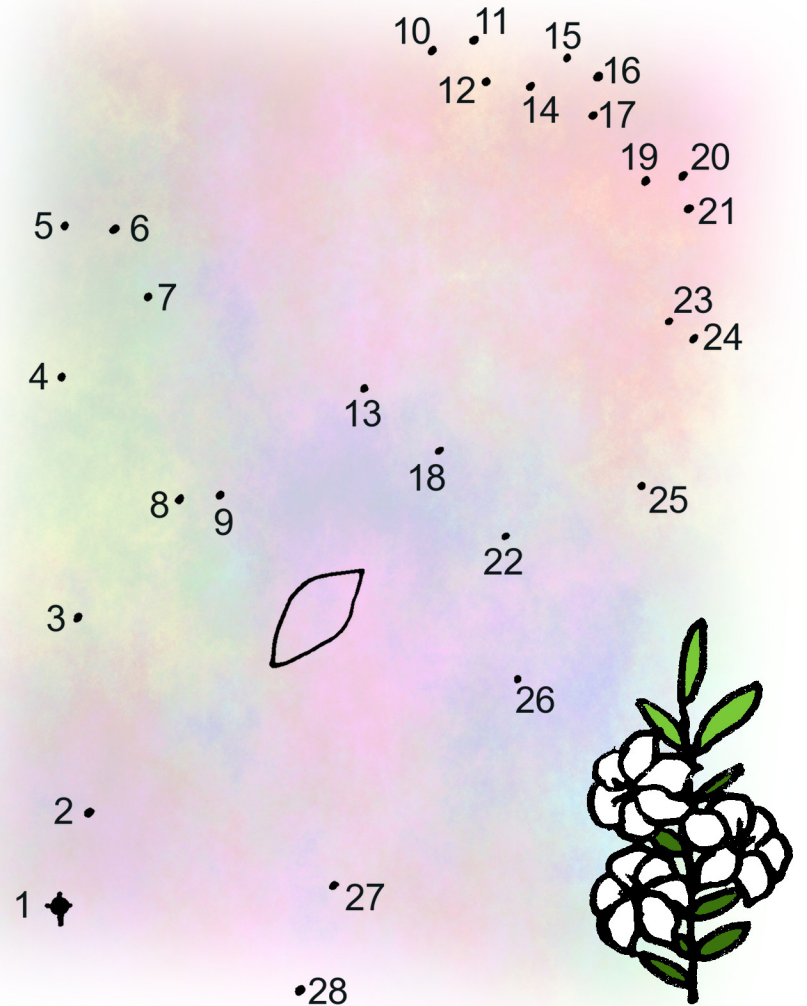
Answer to Word-Find: My Lord and my God!

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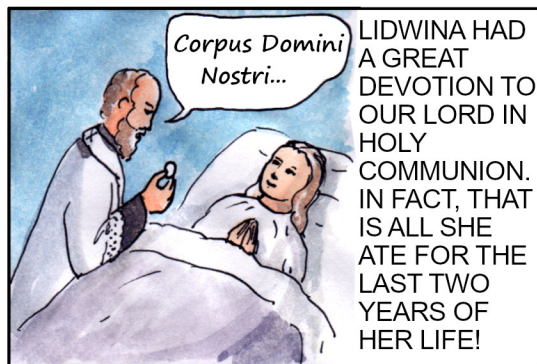
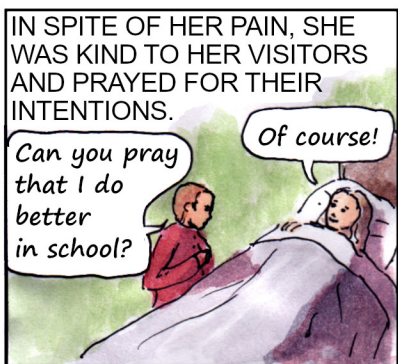
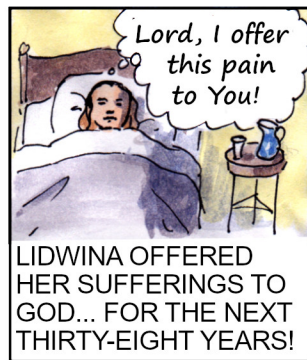
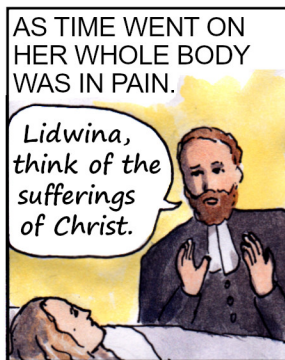
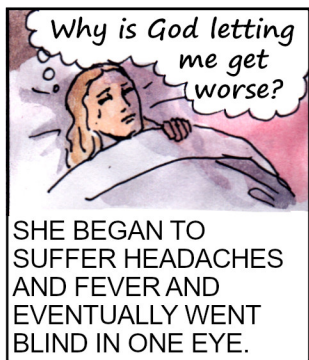
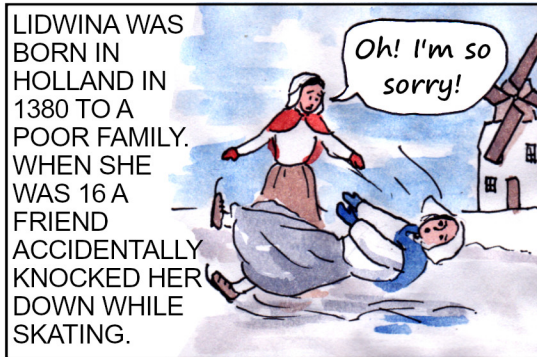
*Second Sunday of Easter
April 12th, 2026*



Saint Thomas wasn't there the first time Jesus came to the Apostles after He rose from the dead. What did Thomas say he would have to see before he believed that Jesus was alive? Connect the dots to find out!

Saint Lidwina

April 14



SAINT LIDWINA LIVED A LIFE OF EXTREME SUFFERING, BUT SHE DID NOT GIVE UP LOVING GOD AND BEING KIND TO OTHERS. GOD EVEN LET MIRACLES HAPPEN THROUGH HER PRAYERS FOR OTHER PEOPLE! WE CAN LEARN FROM SAINT LIDWINA THAT WE SHOULD BE KIND TO OTHERS EVEN WHEN WE ARE SUFFERING.

Doubting Thomas Word-Find

Find the words in CAPITALS in the puzzle, and when you're done use the left over letters to fill in the blanks near the end.

T W E L V E S I N S R M
 H R Y W U D J E W S E L
 O E V E N I N G O R J F
 M C D E L S A A S F O O
 A E F K E C I P E A I R
 S I E N S I L E N T C G
 H V A D S P S A D H E I
 A E R M Y L O C K E D V
 N B E L I E V E D R G E
 D J E S U S P I R I T N
 S I D E B L E S S E D O
 U N B E L I E V I N G D

In the EVENING when the doors were locked where the DISCIPLES were for FEAR of the JEWS, Jesus came and said, "PEACE be with you," and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples REJOICED. JESUS said again, "Peace be with you. As the FATHER has sent me, so I SEND you." He breathed on them and said, "RECEIVE the Holy SPIRIT. Whose SINS you forgive are FORGIVEN them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

THOMAS, one of the TWELVE, wasn't there when Jesus came so they told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said, "UNLESS I see the mark of the NAILS in his hands and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." A WEEK later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, though the doors were LOCKED, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my HANDS, and bring your hand and put it into my SIDE, and do not be UNBELIEVING, but believe." Thomas said to him,

" _____!"

Jesus said, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? BLESSED are those who have not seen and have BELIEVED."