

# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY



2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

16 April 2023 - Year A

**“After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.”**

### Something to Think About

Can you remember a time that you came together with your family for a celebration? What did you do together? How did it feel to have the love and support of your family around you?

### The Story

In the gospel today, the disciples have locked themselves away in a room, paralysed by their fear. Jesus had died in an horrific way ... they were afraid that his followers could expect similar treatment. The closed doors and locked-in fears were no barriers for Jesus. He entered the room, and their hearts, and brought them peace. He gave the disciples an important job to continue his mission when he said: 'I am sending you just as the Father has sent me'. Thomas was not with the others when Jesus appeared to them, and he refused to believe. Jesus appeared a second time, and Thomas was with them. He saw Jesus and believed. Jesus said that those who believe without seeing him are really blessed.

### The Scriptures

**A reading from the holy gospel according to John**

**20:19-29**

The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders, and on the evening of that same Sunday they locked themselves in a room. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group. He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy.

After Jesus had greeted them again, he said, "I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven."

Although Thomas the Twin was one of the twelve disciples, he was not with the others when Jesus appeared to them. So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But Thomas said, "First, I must see the nail scars in his hands and touch them with my finger. I must put my hand where the spear went into his side. I won't believe unless I do this!"

A week later the disciples were together again. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came in while the doors were still locked and stood in the middle of the group. He greeted his disciples and said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands! Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and have faith!" Thomas replied, "You are my Lord and my God!"

Jesus said, "Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me? The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Video

Click to watch the video: [Jesus Appears to Thomas](#)

## Group Discussion

Jesus took away the disciples' fear when they were afraid. Think of a time when you felt 'locked in' or afraid. Who supported you and helped to take away your fear? Jesus offers us that peace when we are afraid.

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Trusting in God's love and encouragement, we pray for the needs of the world:

*Reader 1:* We pray for our leaders, that they will work for peace . Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 2:* We pray for those who are afraid or unsure. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 3:* We pray for a strong faith in Jesus, even though we cannot see him. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 4:* We pray for our friends and families. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 5:* We pray that we will give our love and support to others . Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.*

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayer



Dear Jesus,  
Teach us to turn to you when we are afraid, and to trust in your protection.  
Help us to bring your peace to others.  
Amen.

## Group Activity

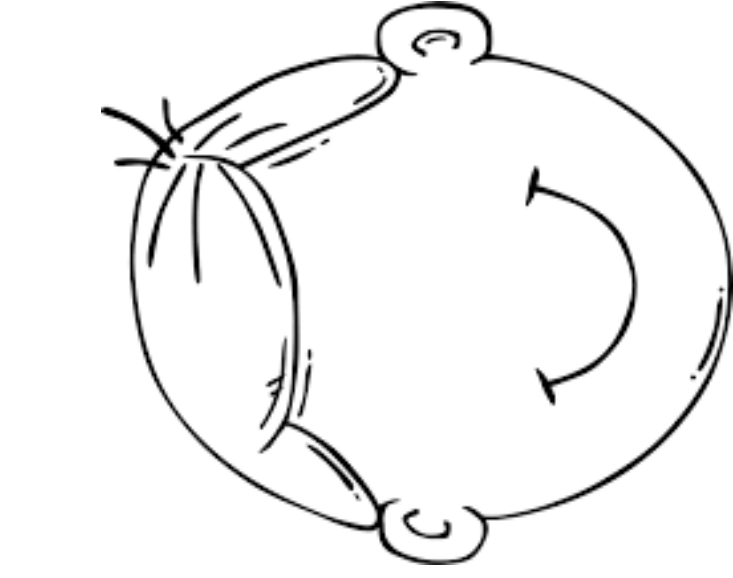
### Faith without Seeing

*You will need: Worksheet templates, googly eyes, red glitter glue, coloured markers, craft glue.*

- 1) Add colour to Thomas' face and Jesus' hands.
- 2) Glue eyes on Thomas' face so he can see.
- 3) Use red glitter glue to decorate the hearts on Jesus' hands.



Thomas didn't believe Jesus was alive without seeing Him with his own eyes.



Glue eyes onto  
Thomas.

Use red glitter glue  
to colour the hearts  
on Jesus' hands.



Jesus said, "The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the  
ones who are really blessed!"



I didn't believe what Yuto told me  
about his holiday.  
He said he'd been to Disneyland.  
Could it really be true?  
Then he showed me his photos.  
YES. It was true!



In this space, make a drawing with a white wax crayon.  
You can't see it. Now paint over it with water colour.

**THOMAS DIDN'T BELIEVE  
THE OTHER APOSTLES  
WHEN THEY TOLD HIM  
THEY HAD SEEN JESUS.**

**BUT THEN, A WEEK  
LATER, HE TOO SAW  
JESUS AND THEN HE  
BELIEVED!**

**HE SAID: YES, YOU ARE  
MY LORD AND MY GOD!**