

Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in April, 2023

Introduction

Leader Jesus' resurrection from the dead wasn't just a shock for the disciples of Jesus, especially Thomas. It is also hard for us to believe. Yet we do. Our confidence in the love and forgiveness of Jesus grows as we focus on his resurrection. Alleluia!

Opening Prayer

All God our Father, by raising your son, Jesus, you confirmed forever that our faith is alive in him. Just as Thomas struggled to believe, we too need your reassurance. Strengthen our resolve to live in the hope of resurrection. We ask this through Christ in the power of his Spirit. Amen.

Word of God John 20:19-31

Reader A reading from the Gospel of John (After the reading pause for silent reflection)

Optional Discuss these questions in two's or three's. *The reading is on the reverse side*

1. How is your belief in the resurrection strengthened daily? How do you experience the peace that Jesus brings?
2. Jesus breathed on his disciples to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. When have you received an awareness of the gift of the Holy Spirit?

Response (Taken from John 20:19-31)

Side 1 "Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' "

Side 2 Let us celebrate the gift of peace that Jesus has given us through his Spirit dwelling within each of us.

Side 1 "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Side 2 We renew our commitment to continue to grow in our faith in Jesus' resurrection.

Side 1 "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven and whose sins you retain are retained."

Side 2 May we live out Jesus' command to forgive one another just as he has forgiven us.

Petitions Individuals add intentions to remember here.

Closing Prayer

All Alleluia! "The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes." Alleluia!

A Reading from the Gospel of John

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked where the disciples were locked
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them,
“Peace be with you.”

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
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.”

And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
“Receive the Holy Spirit.
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained.”

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve,
was not with them when Jesus came.
So the other disciples said to 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 into the nailmarks
and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

Now a week later his disciples were again inside
and Thomas was with them.
Jesus came, although the doors were locked,
and stood in their midst 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 answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God.”
Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

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