

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 16

In your presence there is fullness of joy. (v11)

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty & eternal God, the strength of those who believe & the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you & receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- John 20:19-31

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, & the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came & stood among them & said, "Peace be with you."²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands & his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."²²When he had said this, he breathed on them & said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵So 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, & put my finger in the mark of the nails & my hand in his side, I will not believe."²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, & Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came & stood among them & said, "Peace be with you."²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here & see my hands. Reach out your hand & put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord & my God!"²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen & yet have come to believe."³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, & that through believing you may have life in his name.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Taken with the Maundy Thursday story John 13, these two texts (along with *16:12-15; cf 21*) form the basis of the New Testament pastoral office that begins with the Apostles & continues to this day. What makes this such a good foundation? What is a pastor's authority? From where does it come? *See also 1 Timothy 3:9, 4:13-16; 2 Peter 1:12-22*
2. How does v30 explain Thomas' exclamation? How is this the climax of the gospel, that is, what St. John has been getting at the whole time? Consider its foreshadowing in *John 19:15. See also John 5:39-47, 8:12-58, 10:22-30;*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. How confident are you in the claims that Jesus was physically, historically, really resurrected? That we too will be resurrected just like him on the Last Day? Remember the claim is that so far Jesus alone has already been resurrected; we will receive it much later. *See Isaiah 25:6-9; 1 Corinthians 15:12-28, 51-57; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20:12-15, 21:1-8*
How can you find encouragement toward this simple truth & fact of Jesus' resurrection? *See Mark 9:14-29, esp. v24; Small Catechism: Creed SC available bookofconcord.org*
4. The resurrection of the (actual, physical, human) body is an essential belief of Christianity. However, it's impossible for us to truly know what those resurrected bodies freed from the corruptions of sin, death, & evil, will be like. (IOW we have to wait & see.) How does St. Paul show that our bodies are already being renewed? *See Romans 6:4-22, esp. v13, 12:1; Colossians 3:5-10; 1 Peter 4:2-3, 7-11*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. St. Thomas' exclamation in v28 functions in St. John's gospel much like St. Peter's confession in the other three (*Matthew 16:15-16; Mark 8:29; Luke 9:20; cf. Romans 10:9*). What caused you to make such a confession of faith? How can you show & tell for others to do the same?
6. Faith is both in our hearts/minds & "hands on" (*vv20, 27*). How can you put faithfulness in others' hands?

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Second Sunday of Easter
Series: Forged by the Spirit

04.16.23
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Co-Mission-ed

*Jesus send us, equipped with the Holy Spirit,
to spread the gospel wherever we are.*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (v21)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have come to believe. (*John 20:29*)

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