

Daily Bible Readings:

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Seeing Christ's wounds
Monday	Luke 12:4-12	The courage to confess Christ
Tuesday	John 14:15-27	Jesus gives His peace
Wednesday	Judges 6:11-24,33-40	Gideon asks for signs
Thursday	2 Kings 20:1-11	Hezekiah asks for a sign
Friday	Isaiah 53:1-5	By his wounds we are healed
Saturday	Psalms 122	Peace in Jerusalem
Sunday	John 21:1-19	Jesus appears to the disciples

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Scripture Verse for the Week:

Again Jesus said, "May peace be with you! The Father has sent me. So now I am sending you."
– John 20:21 (NIRV)

- Cut out & carry with you.
- Say at each mealtime.
- Read at bedtime.
- Commit to memory.

Prayer for this Week:

Risen Lord Jesus, breathe on me the Holy Spirit, so that I may believe in you and follow your instructions. Amen. (John 20:22)

For Throughout the Day:

Risen Lord Jesus, please drive away my fears and doubts. Give me your peace and joy. Amen. (John 20:19-27)

A Blessing to Share:

May the Lord Jesus breathe into you the Holy Spirit. May he take away your fears and make you into a brave follower. Amen.

Mealtime Refrain:

Christ loves us and has freed us from our sins:
To him be glory and power for ever and ever! (Revelation 1:5-6)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord of the empty tomb, as you fill our bodies with food, fill our lives with hope, and our hearts with love. Alleluia!



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Faith Talk:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Do you sometimes have doubts as a Christian? Share your experiences.
- Thomas found it hard to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead (John 20:24-25). Is there something that you struggle to believe?
- Jesus respected Thomas' doubts, and answered them in a beautiful way. What does this teach us about Jesus?

Devotional Practices:

As witnesses to Jesus' resurrection, the early Christians faced great opposition and persecution (read Acts 5:27-32). There are millions of Christians today who face different degrees of persecution, some quite severe. In your home devotional times pray that God will give strength to Christians under persecution and deliver them. Visit the websites www.persecution.org and www.persecution.com to learn of particular people and situations that need prayer at this time.

Service:

Decorate some flowerpots by painting them with Easter symbols (e.g. cross, butterfly, lily) or words (e.g. "He is risen!") or gluing on pictures. Buy some seedlings or seeds to plant in the flowerpots. Tend these over the coming weeks. When flowers begin to emerge, present the pots as gifts to friends or neighbors.



Rituals and Traditions:

In Revelation 1:8 Jesus is spoken of as the "Alpha and the Omega". These are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, shorthand for the "beginning and the end". Find a way to display these symbols in your home, e.g. make up a cloth banner displaying these symbols for your home altar, or draw them large and cut out of poster board to display on a wall or window. Talk about what it means to say that Jesus is "the beginning and the end".

From Martin Luther's "Small Catechism":

Explanation to the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed:

I believe that Jesus Christ – true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary – is my Lord. At great cost he has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death and the power of the devil – not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. All this he has done that I may be his own, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

FOUR KEYS FOR THE HOME

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