

# EASTER TO TRINITY SUNDAY



*Revised Common Lectionary / Scripture Citations for Year C - All Seasons*  
<http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/calendar/2024-25/?season=all&download=txt>

Welcome to the last leg of the Liturgy journey for year C: Easter to Trinity Sunday. Our hope is that individuals as well as group/class members will make use of this devotional material as it not only reflects the Sunday sermons but ensures that we take our learnings deeper. We do this with scripture readings, daily devotions, reflections on scripture and questions. May you hear His truths, ensure it is transformative and experience God's love for you personally.

- Week 1: Sunday 20 April - The empty tomb.
- Week 2: Sunday 27 April – Jesus appears to his disciples.
- Week 3: Sunday 4 May – Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish.
- Week 4: Sunday 11 May – Further conflict over Jesus's claims.
- Week 5: Sunday 18 May – Jesus predicts Peter's denial.
- Week 6: Sunday 25 May – The healing at the pool.  
*29 May – Ascension Day*
- Week 7: Sunday 1 June – Jesus prays for all believers.
- Week 8: Sunday 8 June – Jesus the way to the Father.
- Week 9: Sunday 15 June – Trinity Sunday.

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## ***Week 2: Sunday 27 April*** ***Jesus appears to his disciples***

Bring God into the meeting with prayer, lighting a candle, listening to a worship song.

Hymn: Christ the Lord is risen today. Mormon Tabernacle Choir: [youtu.be/cErtpg5hBSw](https://youtu.be/cErtpg5hBSw) (no words).  
[youtu.be/nzyZjFNUc3w](https://youtu.be/nzyZjFNUc3w) (with words)

Read the Bible readings provided:

Liturgical Date: Second Sunday of Easter  
Calendar Date: Apr 27, 2025  
First reading: \*Acts 5:27-32  
Psalm: Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150  
Second reading: Revelation 1:4-8  
Gospel: John 20:19-31

*John 20:19-31*

*New International Version - UK*

*Jesus appears to his disciples*

*<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'*

*Jesus appears to Thomas*

*<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord!' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.' <sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were*

locked. Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.' <sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my God!' <sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

The purpose of John's gospel

<sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

A reflection on the Bible reading by: **TONY MATTHEE**

The four Gospels differ regarding their account of the appearance of Jesus to his disciples. Each gives his own view of events. In trying to present a uniform sequence of events it would seem that all the disciples (except Thomas), some women and the two who were on the road to Emmaus, were gathered behind locked doors rather late at night. This meeting of the disciples on this day was to become extremely important for the Christian movement as they continued to meet on the first day of the week and we still do this to this day.

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The doors were locked in fear of the Jews yet Jesus suddenly appears among them. It's a worthwhile exercise to try to imagine yourself being with those disciples and suddenly experiencing the presence of Jesus in the room. Where did he come from? How did he get past the locked doors? Is this a ghost that appears like Jesus? To answer those questions Jesus shows them his hands and his side. Luke tells us that he went even further and asked if they had anything to eat. They gave him some broiled fish which he ate in their presence. This was no ghost. This was Jesus in his resurrected body, similar to his mortal body yet different. Locked doors were no barrier to him, and he could eat food.

However, the first thing Jesus did was to calm their state of mind. "Peace be with you," he said. He could see their fear and confusion. The disciples had seen him raise the dead, but this was different. The Jews had killed Jesus in the most inhumane way devised by mankind. The disciples had deserted him and run away. They were obviously next in line to be killed because of their association with Jesus and they had locked themselves in a house supposedly safe from these Jews. Now here, in their midst, stood Jesus. What was he going to say about their cowardice and lack of loyalty? no reprimand, just acceptance. Can you now appreciate their joy? Jesus turned their panic into peace. And he still does that for us today. Are you experiencing confusing events in your life? Things like sickness, pain, suffering, disappointments, things that you think shouldn't happen in the life of a disciple of Jesus. To you Jesus says, "I know about all those things, trust me, I am with you, and everything will work out in the end for your good. Be at peace."

Jesus then commissions them to carry on doing the work that God, the Father, had sent Jesus to do. In the beginning of Jesus' ministry, he had said to them, "Follow me." Now he says to them "Carry on with my ministry. Take it to the far ends of the earth." A life which, without Jesus, was pointless, now with Jesus, becomes purposeful. God has a plan for our lives.

Not only does Jesus commission us, but he also enables us. Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit on them. I do not wish to enter the debate regarding this breathing the Holy Spirit onto the disciples compared with the Holy Spirit descending on the disciples like tongues of fire at Pentecost. The bottom line is that Jesus enabled the disciples to do the work he was asking them to do. Jesus will not ask us to do something that he will not enable us to do. It's not your ability to do something, but rather your availability that is important.

The last part of Jesus' appearance to his disciples, is the doubt that Thomas expressed. He is always referred to as "*Doubting Thomas*," an unfair label, as we read in Scripture that many disciples doubted. The only difference is that Thomas was vocal and decisive – he would not believe unless his terms were agreed to. Interestingly, Jesus knew what his terms were and addressed them at the next meeting with the disciples. How did he know? While the answer to that question is speculative, his words to Thomas have a monumental impact on us: "*Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*" (vs 29) The foundation of Christianity is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, our Christianity would not exist. Everything in our Christian faith revolves around BELIEF. Is our belief strong enough to spur us into action for the kingdom of God?

## Questions for group discussion;

1. If you were a disciple of Jesus, how would you have felt at the sudden appearance of Jesus behind locked doors? Give reasons for your answer.
2. Have you had an experience of Jesus helping you out of a confusing or difficult time in your life. Please share this experience with the group.
3. Jesus gives us Spiritual Gifts in order for us to do the work that he has called us to do. Do you know what your gift is? Let the group tell you what they think your gift is.
4. How do you think Jesus knew what the terms of Thomas' were before he would believe?
5. Christianity is all about belief. Spend some time discussing all the things in our Christian faith that require us to believe.

## Daily lectionary readings:

Monday, April 28, 2025: [Psalm 122](#); [Esther 7:1-10](#); [Revelation 1:9-20](#);  
Tuesday, April 29, 2025: [Psalm 122](#); [Esther 8:1-17](#); [Revelation 2:8-11](#);  
Wednesday, April 30, 2025: [Psalm 122](#); [Esther 9:1-5, 18-23](#); [Luke 12:4-12](#);  
Thursday, May 01, 2025: [Psalm 30](#); [Isaiah 5:11-17](#); [Revelation 3:14-22](#);  
Friday, May 02, 2025: [Psalm 30](#); [Isaiah 6:1-4](#); [Revelation 4:1-11](#);  
Saturday, May 03, 2025: [Psalm 30](#); [Genesis 18:1-8](#); [Luke 14:12-14](#);

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## FAMILY TIME:



Written by Jenny Blake – CHILDREN'S PASTOR

Week 2 Title: *Peace Be With You*

Scripture: John 20:19–31

Theme: Jesus gives peace and helps us believe.

### Opening Thought

Have you ever been really scared? Maybe it was a loud storm, a dark room, or something unexpected. The disciples were hiding in a locked room, scared and unsure what would happen next. But then, Jesus came—and everything changed.

### Bible Reading: John 20:19–31

Let each person read a few verses or act out the scene. Try reading it once in a “worried” voice, and then again in a “peaceful” voice.

### Devotion

The disciples had seen Jesus die. Even though they heard He was alive, they were still hiding, afraid. Then suddenly, Jesus stood among them and said, “*Peace be with you.*” He didn’t knock or open the door—He just appeared! He showed them His hands and His side—proof it was really Him. Then He breathed on them and gave them the Holy Spirit. Later, Thomas wasn’t there when Jesus appeared. He had a hard time believing without seeing Jesus for himself. But Jesus came again, just for Thomas. He showed him His wounds, and Thomas believed. Jesus told him, “*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*” That’s us! We haven’t seen Jesus face to face, but we still believe. And He gives us peace and power through His Spirit.

### Big Idea

Jesus brings peace to our fear and helps us believe, even when we don’t see.


### Discussion Time

For Younger Children:


1. Why were the disciples hiding?
2. What did Jesus say to them when He came?
3. What do you think Thomas felt when he saw Jesus?

 For Older Children/Teens:

1. Why do you think Jesus said, "Peace be with you" more than once?
2. Have you ever struggled to believe something about God? What helped you?
3. Jesus gave the disciples the Holy Spirit. What do you think the Holy Spirit does in our lives?
4. What does it mean to believe without seeing? How can we grow in faith even when we don't have all the answers?

 Prayer

Jesus, thank You that You came to bring peace to our hearts. Help us to trust You, even when we feel unsure or afraid. Fill us with Your Spirit so we can share Your love and peace with others. Amen.

 Family Activity

Peace Hands:

Trace each person's hands on paper. On one hand, write "Peace be with you." On the other, write something that makes you feel peaceful (e.g., praying, singing, nature, etc.). Hang them up to remind you that Jesus gives peace.