

APRIL 16, 2023
SECOND SUNDAY
OF EASTER



The resurrected Jesus gives us peace.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Thomas sees and believes
Monday	Acts 2:14a, 22-36	Peter addresses the crowd
Tuesday	1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Wednesday	2 Thessalonians 3:16-17	Final Greetings
Thursday	Psalms 29	The voice of God in a storm
Friday	John 14:25-31	Promise of the Holy Spirit
Saturday	Psalms 16	Song of trust in God
Sunday	Luke 24:13-35	Road to Emmaus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and living God, give us your peace and courage to live each day with hope and confidence through Christ Jesus our Risen Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Be present at our table Lord, be here and everywhere adored. These mercies bless and grant that we may feast in paradise with thee. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:3)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Come and Fill Our Hearts



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What helps you stay calm when you experience anxious moments?
- When was a time you were afraid and your faith helped you feel at peace?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 20:19-31.

Three times in this reading Jesus says, "Peace be with you." It's the message of our resurrected Lord to disciples who are meeting behind locked doors in fear. Fear, anxiety, and caution are part of daily life then and now. After washing the disciple's feet and the last supper (John 13), Jesus preaches to his disciples (John 14-16) and then offers a prayer that continues his deep-seated concern for his followers (John 17). His message is expressed in the language of John 14:1: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me." At the heart of Jesus' message is trust and confidence in God's power for new life that is filled with peace. Christ's peace does not take us out of the world of fear and suffering but leads us with hope in Christ's victory from the cross that promises life, not death, hope, not despair.

Discuss: How can Jesus' words, "Peace be with you" comfort you when you are facing fears?

Pray: **God of eternal comfort and hope, give us peace to face others and the world with love and faith through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you extend to others Jesus' words "Peace be with you"?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The words in the Gospel of John are "written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). The Easter season is a period of fifty days, lasting from Easter Sunday through Pentecost. Make a bookmark; write the words, "Alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia!" on it, and decorate it. Use the bookmark in your Bible as you read through the Gospel of John during the Easter season. When you finish each reading, be reminded of our Savior, Jesus Christ's resurrection by saying: "Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia!"



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org