

Prayer Gathering for Second Week of Easter

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of Everlasting Life,
Christ's empty tomb shattered the trauma of the Cross
and brought us out of the darkness where we huddled, trembling,
into the brightness of heavenly light.
Help us reflect and shine your light into every corner where darkness persists.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

"Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them."

The people regarded Peter as someone so filled with life and healing, even his shadow had healing power. What does this say about the power Jesus shares with his followers, the "members of his body"?

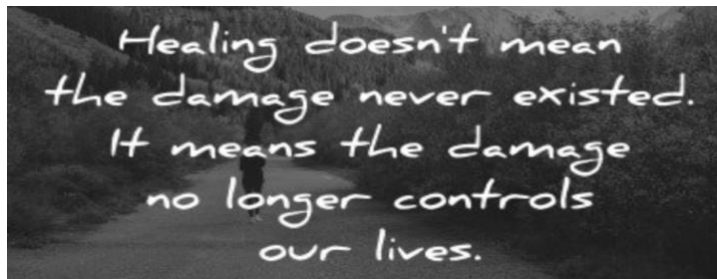
Have you ever encountered a person with a powerful presence? Who?

"[Jesus] showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came."

If we wish to have a sense of how to connect with others, we have to put energy into noticing the details that could escape us. Thomas was the only one missing the day that Jesus appeared. Jesus showed them his hands and side, but Thomas wasn't there to see it. What might be on the list of possible reasons for his absence?

Does his doubt make him different than them? If so, how so?

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

Jesus: *"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: *"My Lord and my God!"*
Christ was willing to personally give Thomas whatever he needed in order to be healed from the trauma of the Crucifixion. If Jesus offered to do anything you needed in order to experience faith and (or) healing, what would you ask him to do for you?

LITANY

When I consider the earth and the heavens you have made, I cry out...

My Lord and my God.

When I see the images beaming down from the NASA telescopes, I cry out...

My Lord and my God.

When I consider the billions of faces and fingers and toes in the world, none of them repeated,
I cry out...

My Lord and my God.

When I hear Polish, Italian, Mandarin, Arabic and English being spoken,
I cry out...

My Lord and my God.

When I witness the colors of a morning sunrise, sandwiched between a dark night and grey day,
I cry out...

My Lord and my God.

When I hear the laughter of children and consider the life stretching before them,
I cry out...

My Lord and my God.

When I think back to the sacrifices my grandparents and ancestors made to bring me to this day,
I cry out...

My Lord and my God.

When I understand that it pleased you to make me and it delights you for me to be alive,
I cry out...

My Lord and my God.

When I finger the marks of his nails and put my hands into his side, probing the wound he bears
for me, I cry out...

My Lord and my God.

OUR FATHER

[OPTIONAL] PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already here, and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN.

CLOSING PRAYER

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

READING 1

A reading from the book of the Acts of the Apostles:

Many signs and wonders
were done among the people
at the hands of the apostles.

They were all together in Solomon's portico.
None of the others dared to join them,
but the people esteemed them.

Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord,
great numbers of men and women, were added to them.

Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets
and laid them on cots and mats
so that when Peter came by,
at least his shadow
might fall on one or another of them.

A large number of people from the towns
in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered,
bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits,
and they were all cured.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

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...

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.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

John, chapter 20