

**THINK** and **LOOK** ahead

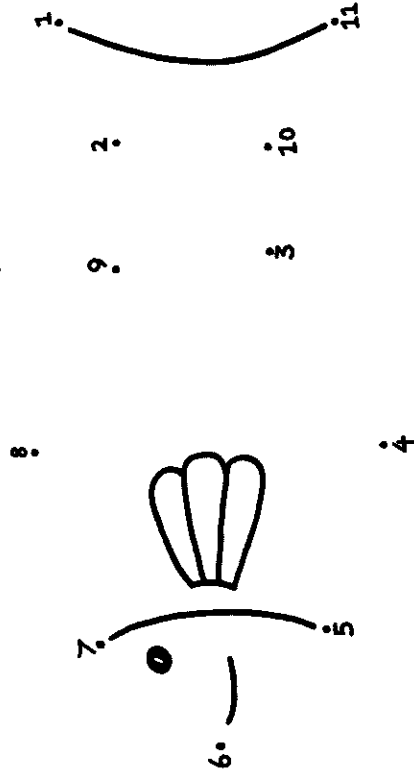
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B

# Thomas has doubts!

JOHN 20:19-31

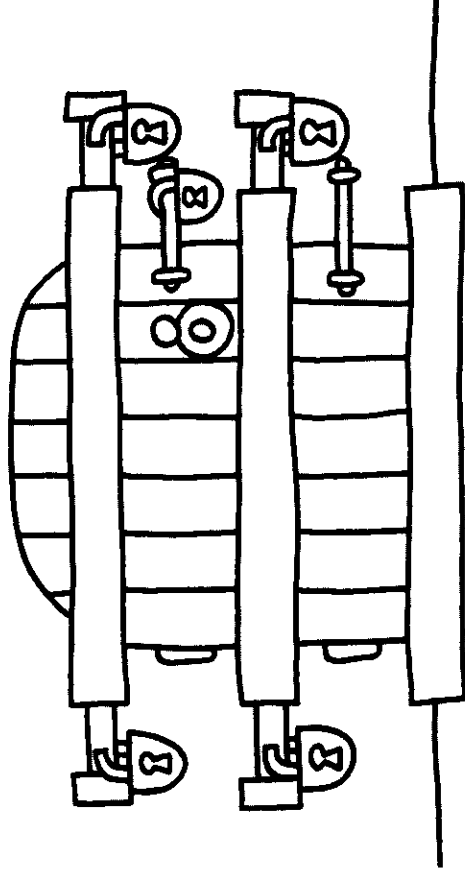
*Which food does Jesus eat  
in next week's gospel?*

Connect the dots to find out!



The door was locked and bolted  
because the disciples were afraid!

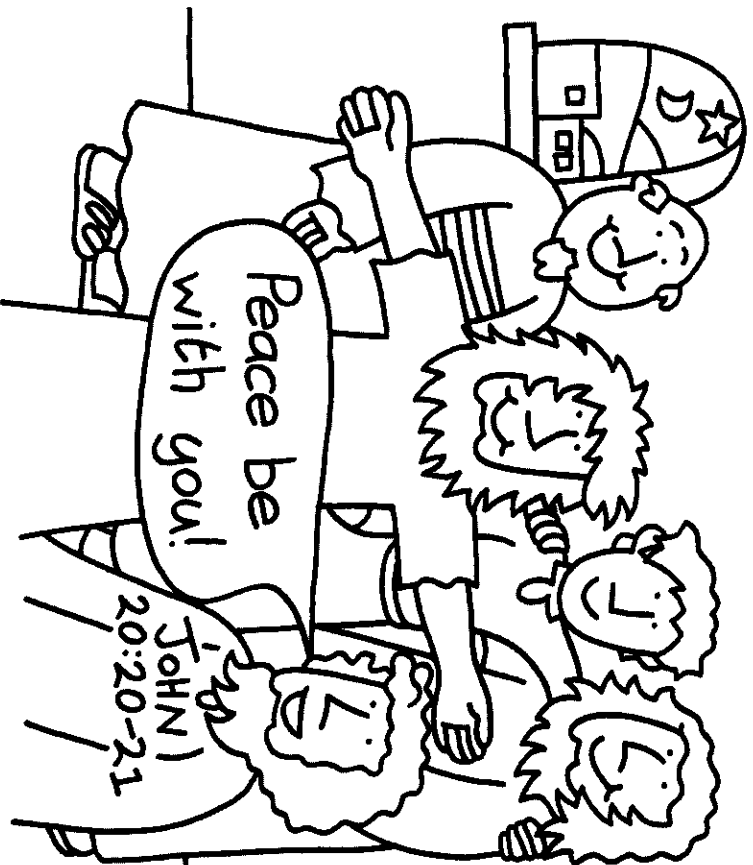
Circle the padlocks in the picture



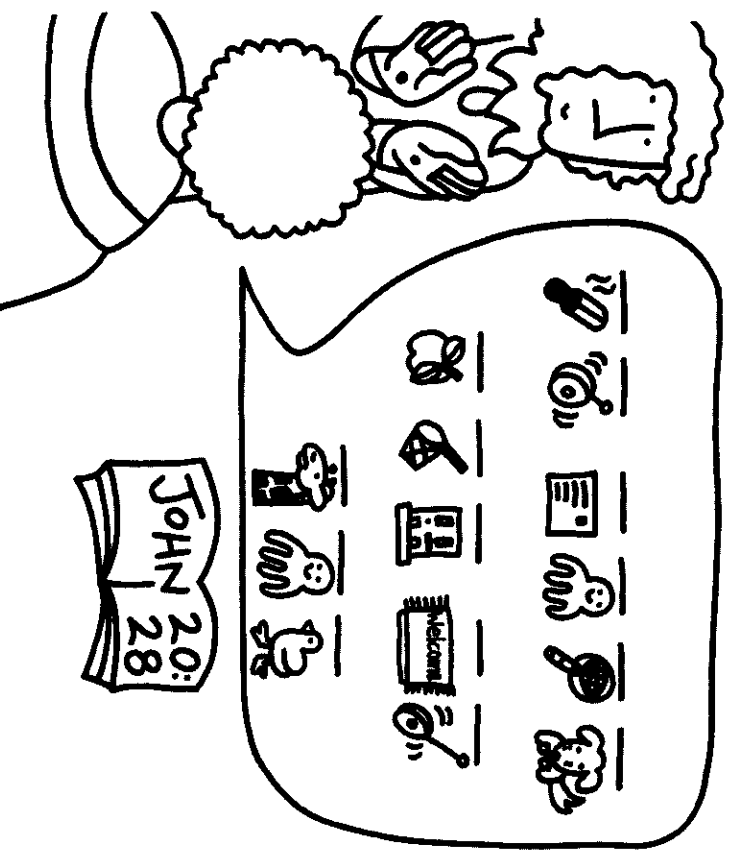
The disciples  
were overjoyed to see  
Jesus again!

## Jesus showed him his wounds?

**Color the picture**

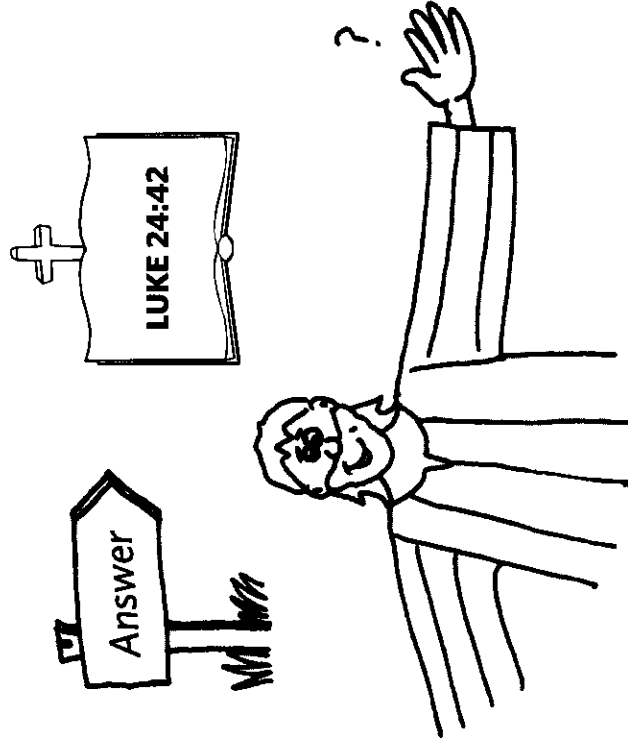


**Write the first letter of each object to find 'Thomas' words**



**THINK** and **LOOK** ahead

*What do the disciples offer Jesus to eat  
in next Sunday's gospel?*



Unscramble the letters to check your answer

**LIRGEDL**

**HFSL**

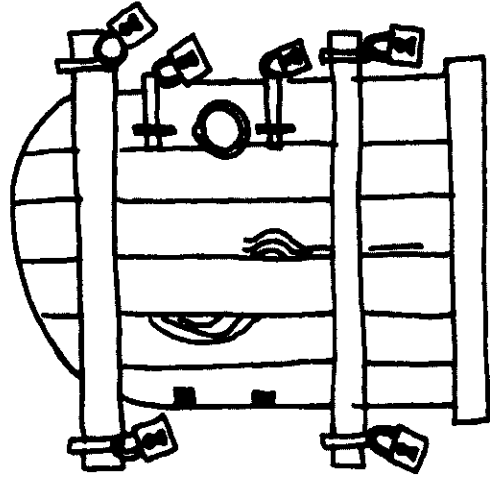
# Thomas has doubts!

JOHN 20:19-31

The door was locked and bolted  
because the disciples were afraid!

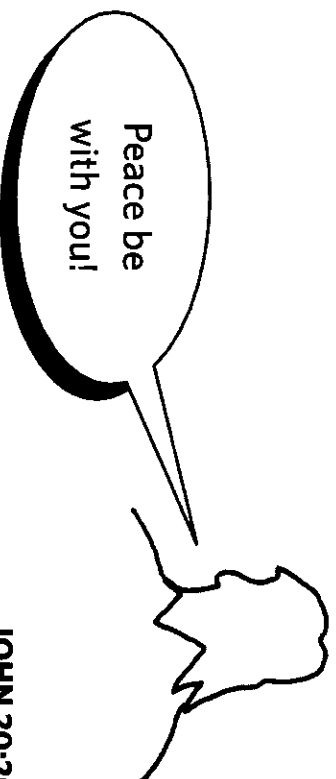
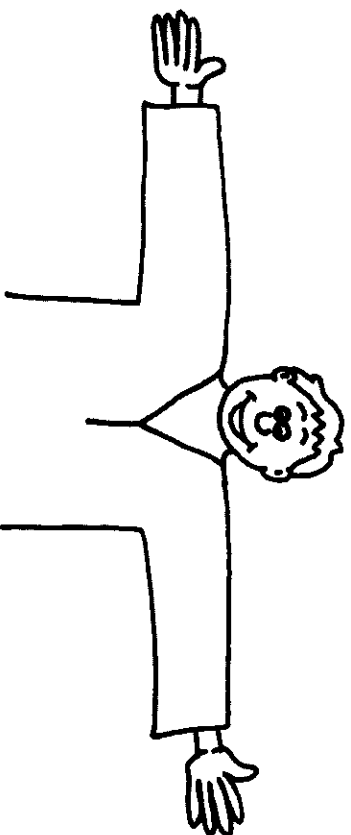
How many padlocks  
can you see?

Write the number  
in the box



The disciples  
were filled with joy  
to see Jesus!

Complete the joyful faces in the picture



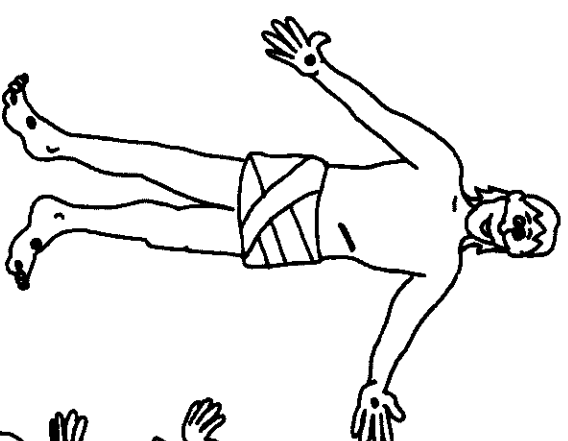
At first Thomas would not believe  
that Jesus was alive.

*What did he say when  
Jesus showed him his wounds?*

Use the code to find Thomas' words

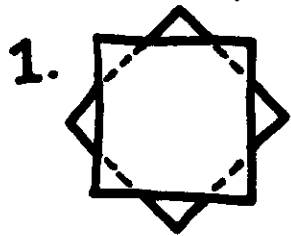
1 = O    2 = M    3 = N    4 = G    5 = Y  
6 = D    7 = A    8 = R    9 = L

2	5	9	1	8	6
7 3 6					
2	5	4	1	6	

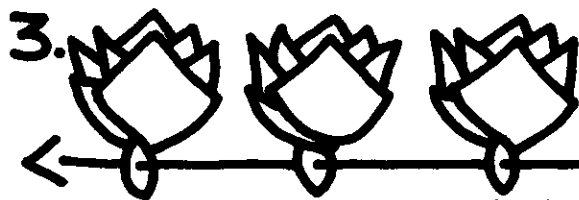




Tissue paper

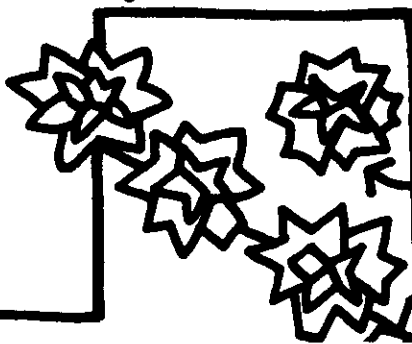


Twist in  
middle and  
attach with  
sticky tape.



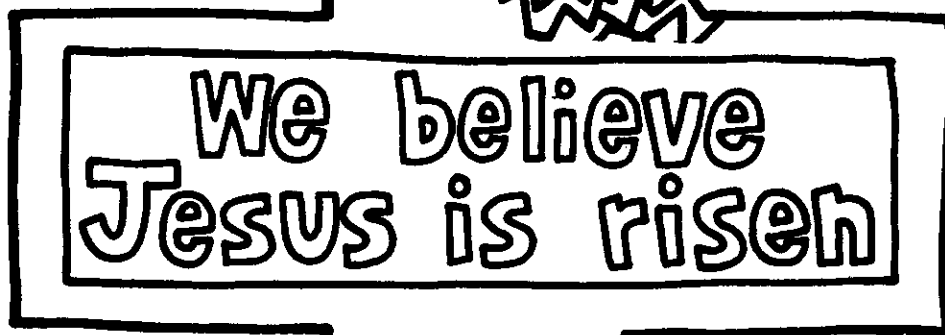
Thread flowers  
onto string—

garland

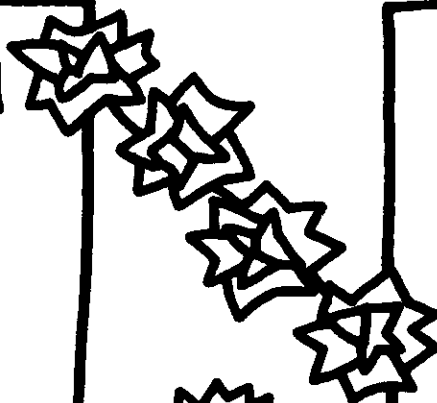


Tissue  
paper  
flower

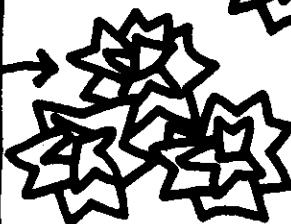
4.



garland



Tissue  
paper  
flowers



# Third Sunday of Easter

## Focus

A Bible open at today's Gospel, with a crucifix and candle arranged next to it.

## Introduction

The disciples had witnessed many of the marvellous miracles that Jesus had performed, and they believed that he was indeed the Messiah or Saviour promised by God. Yet it seemed incredible even to them that Jesus could have come back to life from the dead. What would it take to convince them that Jesus had indeed risen from the tomb and was very much alive? In today's Gospel we'll find out!

## Gloria

## Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and sing Acclamation 3.

## Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St Luke (24:35-48)  
(See page 380.)

## Reflection

*Why were the disciples afraid when Jesus first appeared among them?*

They thought that they had seen a ghost because Jesus had appeared so suddenly and without any warning. They were still in a state of shock and disbelief as they listened to the accounts of the disciples who had met Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

*Why should they think that Jesus was a ghost?*

The followers of Jesus had seen him being crucified and put to death. Surely the only explanation for the person standing in front of them was that he was a ghost. After all, how could someone come back to life?

*Jesus tried to reassure them by offering his peace. How can we exchange a sign of peace with one another?*

There are many different symbolic gestures that serve to share Christ's peace. These include a simple handshake, a warm smile, a few kind words of welcome, or a gentle kiss. These signs can vary from country to country and region to region, depending on what is acceptable according to local or cultural tradition.

*When Jesus saw their hearts were filled with doubt (just like Thomas last week), how did he convince them to believe that he was alive?*

He offered to let them touch him and his wounds, and then he ate a piece of grilled fish in front of them as a gesture of his reality.

*Why did Jesus spend time explaining the Scriptures and all that had happened to his disciples?*

He wanted them to understand his heavenly Father's plan of salvation for his people. Everything had come to pass according to God's will, so that his beloved Son could destroy sin by dying on the cross, and raise us to

new and everlasting life by his glorious resurrection. Jesus commanded his disciples to go out to the world and share this Good News with all people. In order to do this, they needed to understand and believe in everything they had witnessed, so that others might believe and choose to follow Christ.

## Activity

The fish was an early Christian symbol. This wasn't because many of the first disciples were fishermen, but because the Greek word for fish is made up of the first letter of each word of the Greek phrase, 'Jesus Christ, God's Son, Saviour'.

Photocopy the fish symbols and help the children to create witness badges by decorating them before taping them to a safety pin. Alternatively, glue them on to a clothes peg to use for everyday purposes at home.

## Intercessions

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray to our heavenly Father:

We pray for the Church and all her people;  
may we share Christ's Gospel by our living example.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for peacemakers in our world;  
may they work to heal injustice and reconcile differences.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are filled with doubt  
and uncertainty;  
may they find faith in the risen Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died;  
may they rise to everlasting peace and joy with Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

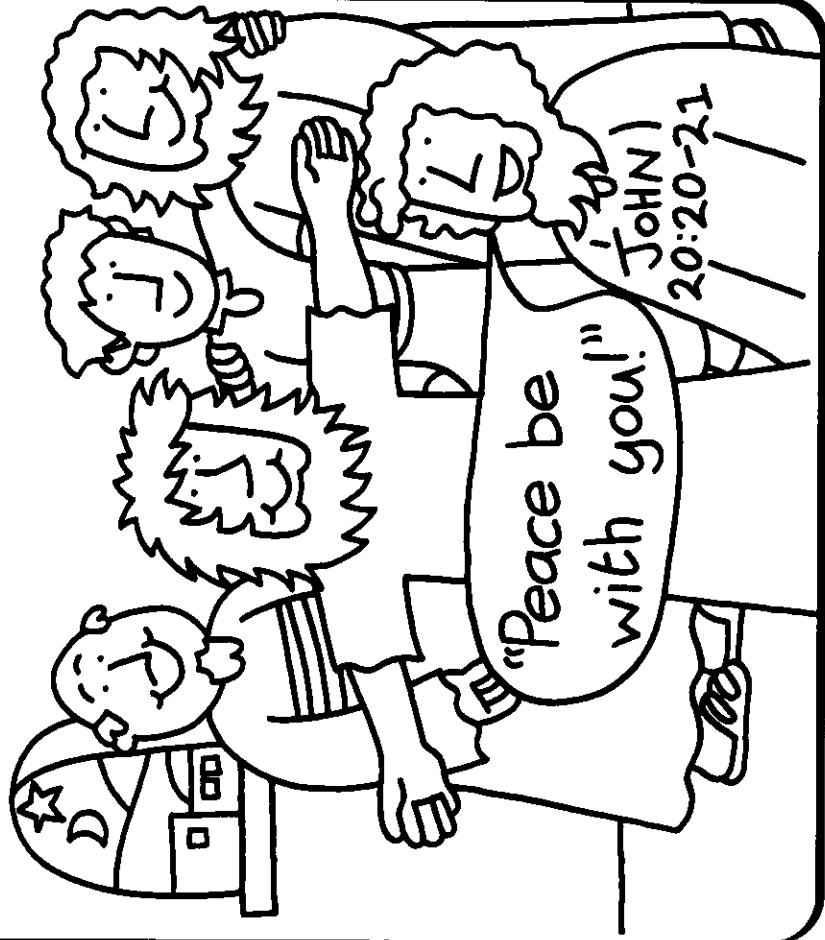
Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening,  
in the silence of our hearts  
let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

*Silence*

Loving Father,  
you sent your beloved Son  
to transform our world with love.  
May we bear witness to that love in our everyday lives.  
We make our prayers through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

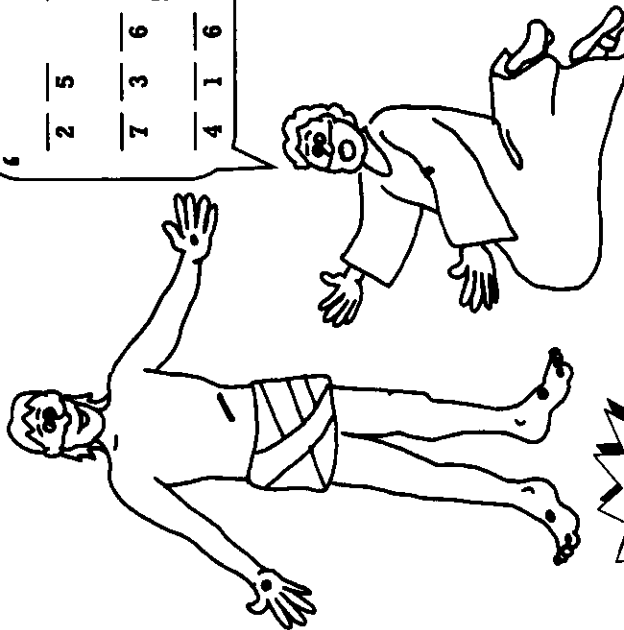
The disciples  
were overjoyed to see  
Jesus again!

Colour the picture



At first Thomas  
would not believe that Jesus  
was alive. What did he say  
when Jesus showed him  
his wounds?

Use the code to find Thomas' words

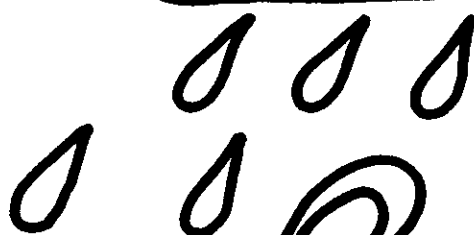
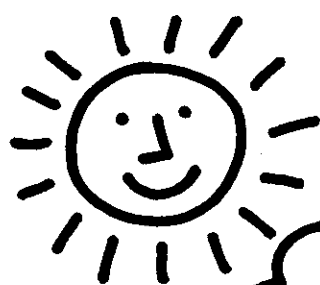
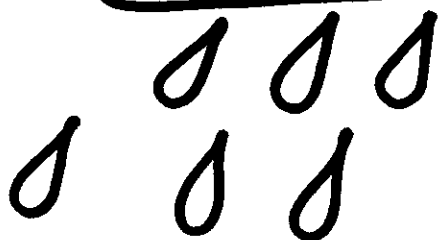


2 5 9 1 8 6  
7 3 6 , 2 5  
4 1 6

CODE  
CRACKER

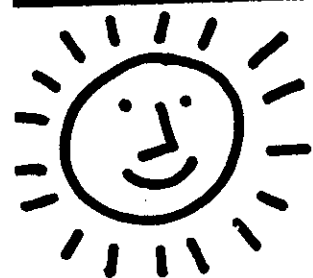
O (1) N (3) Y (5) A (7) L (9)  
M (2) G (4) D (6) R (8)





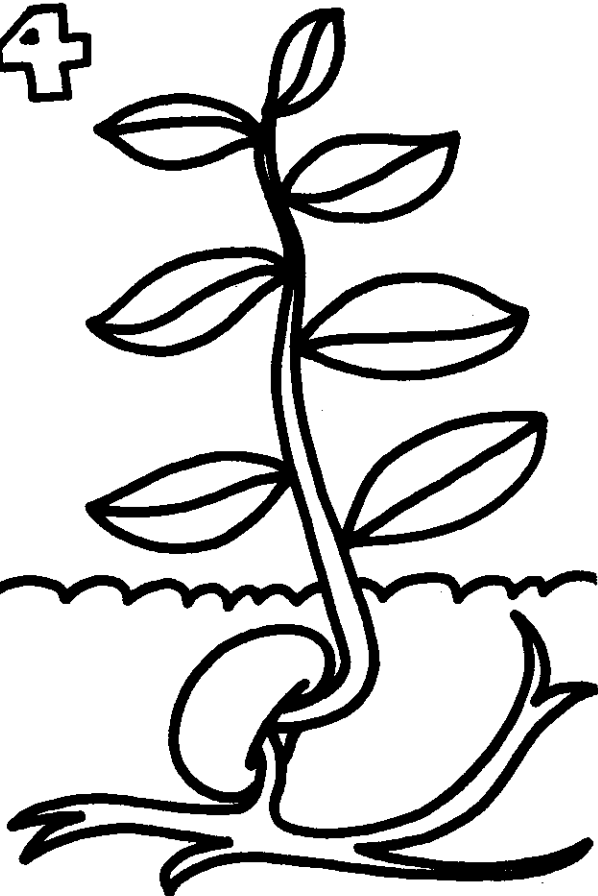
1

2



3

4



## Second Sunday of Easter

### Doubting Thomas

#### INTRODUCTION

Sometimes people use the saying, "seeing is believing," to mean that it is easier to believe something when you have seen it with your own eyes than not. Thomas would not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead without seeing it for himself.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and then read this prayer:

Lord Jesus, help us to follow your light,  
so that we never lose our way  
or walk in darkness.

#### SORRY

Choose a "sorry color" and read the corresponding prayer together.

#### GLORIA

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 4.

#### GOSPEL (JOHN 20:19-29)

On the Sunday after Jesus had died, his disciples sat huddled together in a locked room, hidden away for fear of being arrested. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the room with them. "Peace be with you," he said, and showed them the wounds in his hands and his side.

His disciples were overjoyed to see their master again. "As my father sent me, so I am sending you," said Jesus. Then, breathing on them, he said, "Receive the Holy Spirit, and know that whoever you forgive, I will forgive also." The disciple, called Thomas, was not with the others when Jesus had appeared, and because he had not seen him with his own eyes, he did not believe that Jesus was alive.

A week later, Jesus appeared to them again and greeted them with the words, "Peace be with you." He showed his wounds to Thomas and said, "Doubt no longer, Thomas." At once, Thomas fell to his knees and cried, "My Lord and my God."

Jesus said to him, "You believe because you

have seen me with your own eyes. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

#### DISCUSSION

When Jesus first appeared to the disciples in the locked room, Thomas was not with the other disciples. What did Jesus do when he appeared? He shared the gift of his peace saying the words, "Peace be with you." Then he gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit to increase their faith and courage. Thomas did not believe the disciples when they told him that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thomas could not believe without seeing.

When Jesus appeared again, he showed Thomas his wounds. Because Thomas could see and touch Jesus, he believed that he had risen from the dead. Jesus understood that many like Thomas would hear the story of the resurrection and be filled with doubt.

Can we *see* the risen Jesus today? Jesus lives among us, and we can recognize his presence in the people around us. A kind action or a loving remark are signs of Christ's power working through other people.

When Thomas recognized Jesus as the risen Lord, he said, "My Lord and my God." We use these words quietly at the consecration of the bread and the wine, when we believe that they become Christ's body and blood. We cannot see Jesus, but we believe that he is really there.

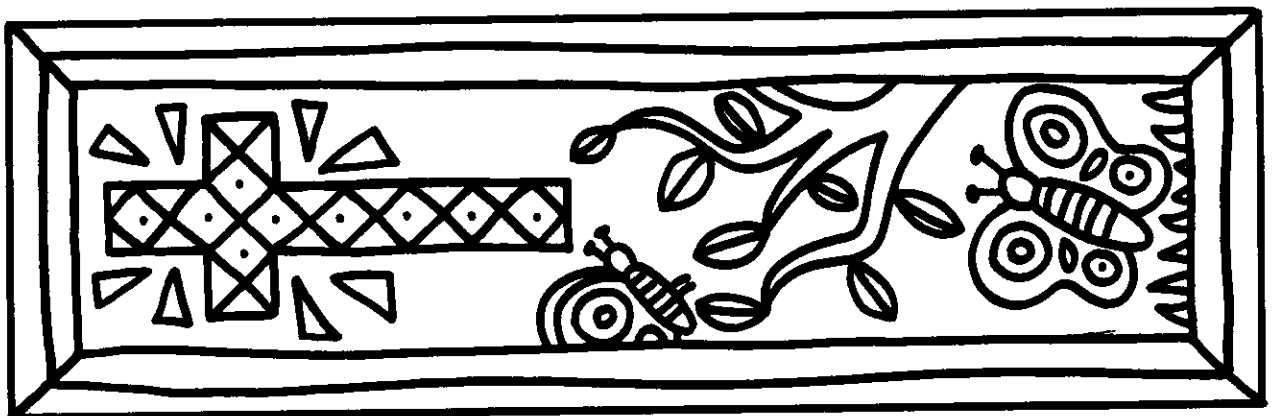
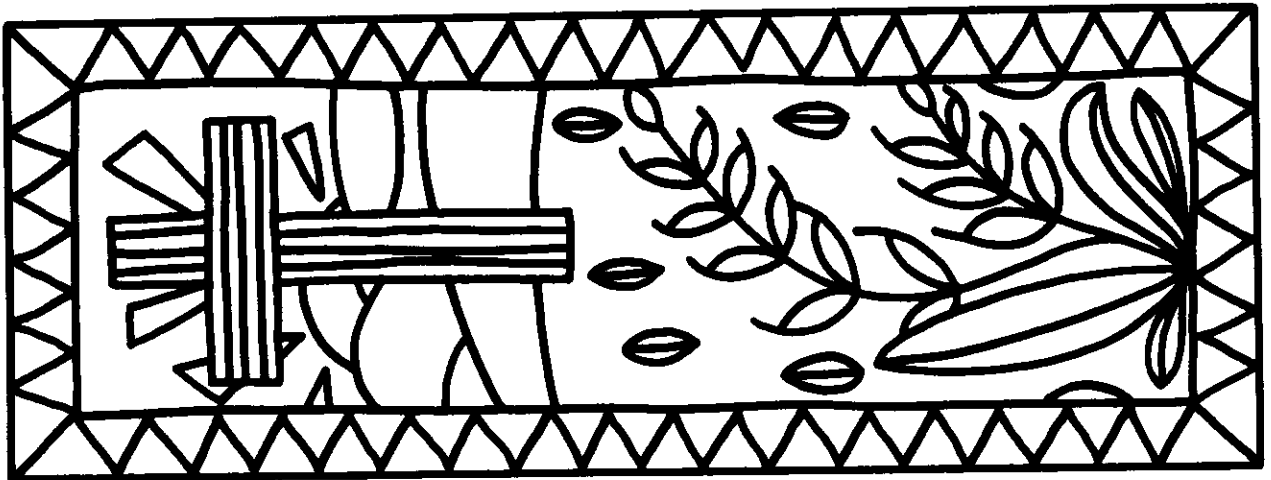
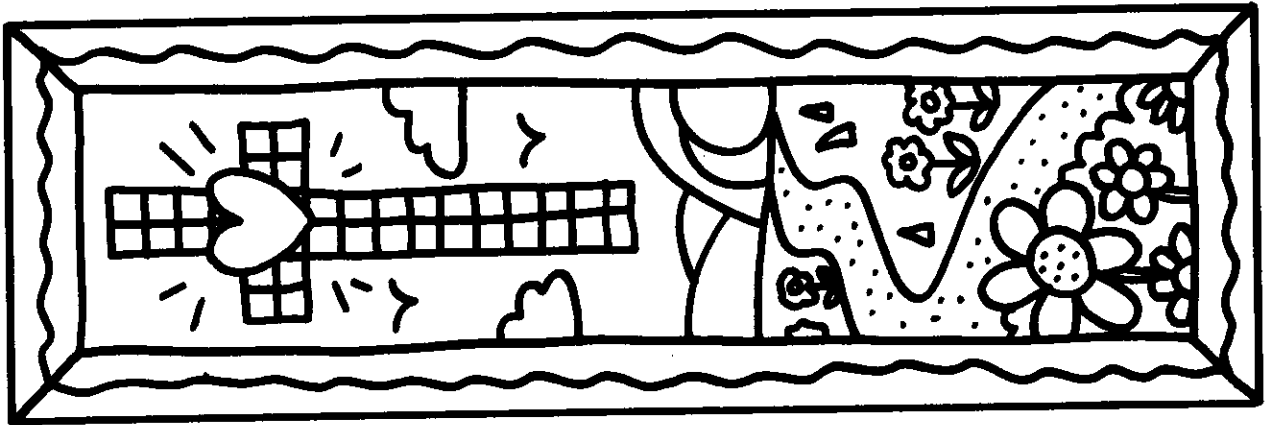
#### ACTIVITY

Cut out the shape of a large cross from a piece of stiff cardboard, and either paint it black or cover it with dark paper. Make flowers out of small squares of colored tissue paper. Stick some of these onto the cross, while older children string others together to make a garland to hang on the cross. Add the caption "We believe Jesus is risen."

#### CREED

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Today we pray for those like Thomas,  
who cannot believe without seeing.  
Increase their faith, Lord,  
and help them to recognize you  
in the people they meet everyday.



# Second Sunday of Easter

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## Focus

A Bible open at today's Gospel, with some large nails scattered across the pages.

## Introduction

Have you ever heard the saying, 'Seeing is believing'? What do you think it might mean? Sometimes we find it hard to believe what we are told. We want to see it for ourselves before we believe it to be true. In today's Gospel we hear how one of the disciples had just such a moment of doubt.

## Gloria

## Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and sing Acclamation 1.

## Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St John (20:19-31)  
(See page 380.)

## Reflection

### *Why were the disciples hiding away?*

As followers of Jesus they were afraid that the Jewish authorities would have them arrested and imprisoned or worse!

### *What did they do when Jesus knocked on the door?*

He didn't knock on the door – he simply appeared there amongst them! A knock on the door would probably have thrown the disciples into a blind panic in case they had been discovered by the Jews. Jesus entered the room quietly and without fuss, and immediately calmed them by sharing the gift of his peace.

### *How did the disciples react when they realised that Jesus was alive?*

They were overjoyed to see their beloved Master again. All the fear and sadness of the past few days were swept aside by an overwhelming sense of happiness. Jesus had transformed death to life and tragedy to joy.

### *Thomas was not with the other disciples when Jesus appeared. How did he react when his friends told him what had happened?*

Thomas could not believe or accept what he was told without proof. However much the disciples tried to convince him that Jesus really was alive, and that they had seen him with their own eyes, he simply could not believe it. His lack of faith and trust earned him the name 'Doubting Thomas'.

### *Can you imagine what Thomas might have thought when he heard what his friends had to tell him?*

Perhaps their grief and sadness about Christ's suffering and death had blurred the difference between what was real and imaginary. Because they wanted so much to believe that Jesus was alive and well, they had convinced themselves that he had appeared in the room with them.

### *What convinced Thomas to doubt no more?*

Jesus appeared to the disciples again, and showed Thomas the wounds in his hands and feet where the nails had been driven in, and the hole in his side that had been made by the centurion's sword.

### *Was Jesus angry that Thomas was filled with doubt?*

Jesus understood that human beings are naturally doubtful creatures. We find it hard to accept what someone tells us on the strength of their word alone. To question or doubt something we are uncertain about isn't necessarily a bad thing! In today's world we cannot afford to believe absolutely everything we are told. We all have moments like Thomas, when we feel uncertain or unsure about what we hear in the Gospel. We find it hard to make that leap of faith that allows us to believe the unbelievable, and accept that nothing is impossible for God. Thomas was fortunate because Jesus appeared in person and showed him the proof he needed to have faith. Jesus understands that we need his loving help to believe what we hear in the Gospel without being able to see such proof for ourselves.

## Activity

Give each child an activity sheet to complete.

## Intercessions

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray to our heavenly Father:

Let us pray for our Christian faith to grow and be strengthened.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for people who are imprisoned or made to suffer because of their faith.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for people who struggle with doubt and uncertainty in their lives.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the gift of God's peace in our troubled world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening, in the silence of our hearts let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

*Silence*

Loving Father,  
watch over the children gathered before you in prayer.  
May our faith and trust in you grow a little more day by day.

We make these prayers through Christ your Son.  
**Amen.**