

*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*

April 23, 2017

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31



"STOP DOUBTING AND
BELIEVE!"
JOHN 20:27, NIV

Identification, Please. Object: A driver's license or some other photo identification card.

Does anyone ever ask you for identification? It happens to me all the time. When I go into a store to buy something and I want to pay for it with a check, the cashier takes my check and then asks, "May I see your driver's license please?" Why does the cashier need to see my driver's license? The answer is quite simple. The cashier wants to see if I match the picture on the driver's license. Am I really who I claim to be?

Almost every day we are asked to prove that we are who we say we are.

On the Sunday that Jesus rose from the grave, he appeared to a group of his disciples. One of the disciples, whose name was Thomas, was not with them. When the disciples told Thomas that they had seen Jesus and that he was alive, Thomas said, "I won't believe it until I see it with my own eyes. I want to see the nail-prints in his hands and put my hand in the place where the spear was thrust into his side."

A week later, Jesus appeared to his disciples again. This time Thomas was there. Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Then Thomas believed!

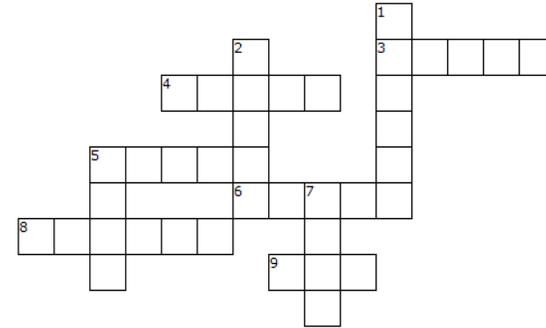
A lot of people today won't believe that Jesus really rose from the grave because they haven't seen him with their own two eyes. They want "proof of identity" before they will believe. Jesus said, "Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed."

Heavenly Father, we thank you for sending your Son to die on the cross for our sin. Help us to accept by faith that Jesus has risen from the grave and that he is alive. Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe. Alleluia. (John 20:29)

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 3. To be in a state of pleasure, satisfaction, joy or delight
- 4. Free from conflict; getting along with others; opposite of war
- 5. To be undecided or unbelieving that something is true
- 6. The body parts at the end of the arms
- 8. Not open
- 9. To break God's law

DOWN

- 1. The disciple who would not believe without seeing
- 2. To believe in something for which there is no proof
- 5. An entrance into a building or room
- 7. A thin piece of metal with one pointed end and one flat end which you hit with a hammer

PEACE	DOOR	HANDS	FAITH	HAPPY
NAIL	THOMAS	CLOSED	SIN	DOUBT

FAITH CROSSES: Give the child construction paper, stickers and markers to make a cross. Write and decorate the word FAITH on the cross. Punch a hole in the top, insert yarn, and hang it around the child's neck.

CROSS LACING: Cut out two crosses from poster board and hole punch around the edges for the child to lace up and hang in their bedroom. Write "I BELIEVE" on the cross!





"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 it."

John 20:25b