

Opening Prayer: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.* “*The Book of Common Prayer,*” Proper 28, page 236. *Alternative prayers: page 172 or 224.*



Review of Last Week’s Lesson: Last week, we celebrated the resurrection of Christ. In Acts 10, Peter told Cornelius and his household that God wants all people to believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. In Psalm 118:17, the psalmist declared “I shall not die, but I shall live...” Reading these words reminds us that Jesus did not remain dead, he lives. As Christians, we do not spiritually die; we have eternal life. I Corinthians spoke of Christ’s role in mankind’s status after death. In Luke 24, the women went to the tomb on Sunday morning and discovered that Jesus was not there. Two angels told them that he was not there and that he had risen. What new perspective on the resurrection did these Scriptures provide for you?

Year C, Lesson 22
The Second
Sunday of Easter

TODAY’S SCRIPTURES:
Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

TODAY’S THEME:
Christ lives! Rejoice!

MEMORY VERSE:
Acts 5:31



Background Notes: Acts 5:27-32 ❖ After Christ ascended into heaven, the apostles were busy healing and teaching about Jesus Christ’s life, death and resurrection. The Jewish authorities were jealous so they ordered the arrest of the apostles. The fear of arrest did not prevent these brave apostles from continuing their work for the Lord. Read Acts 5:17-26 for a better understanding of the imprisonment of the apostles.

Questions:

1. What happened when the High Priest and the council found out that the apostles were not in prison, but in the temple courts teaching the people? (Acts 5:25-27) _____

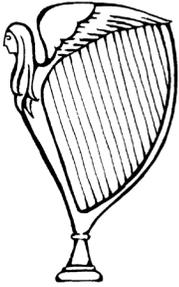
2. What was the charge against the apostles? (Acts 5:28) _____

3. What was Peter’s response to the charge? (Acts 5:29-32) _____

4. Compare this answer to the response Peter gave before Christ was crucified. (Mt. 26:69-75) _____

5. In what way does this account of Peter encourage you? _____

6. **Challenge Question:** Describe the events in Acts 5:12-26 that led to the arrest of the Apostles. Describe the tension that must have existed between the people receiving miraculous cures from commoners like themselves and the Jewish leaders. _____



Background Notes: Psalm 150 ❖ This is the last psalm in the Book of Psalms. It is written as a doxology, a hymn of praise to the Lord God.

Questions:

1. Where are we to praise God? (Ps. 150:1) _____
2. For what reasons are we to praise God? (Ps. 150:2) _____
3. What instruments does the psalmist recommend using while praising God? (Ps. 150:3-5) _____
4. Who is to praise God? (Ps. 150:6) _____
5. Describe how you praise the Lord, what you praise the Lord for and where you are when you offer praise. _____



Background Notes: Revelation 1:4-8 ❖ John introduced the Book of Revelation by telling the reader that the contents of the book were revealed to him by an angel of the Lord. The angel spoke with the authority of Jesus Christ and instructed John to write this testimony down so that others would know “what must soon take place.” The angel promised blessings for those who read, heard and believed his testimony.

Questions:

1. Describe Jesus Christ in these verses. (Rev. 1:5-7) _____

2. What will we see at the time of the second coming of Jesus Christ? (Rev. 1:7) _____

3. What does "I am the Alpha and the Omega" mean? (Rev. 1:8) _____



Background Notes: John 20:19-31 ✦ In this Scripture, the risen Jesus returned to his disciples. He commissioned them for their future work as Christian leaders by empowering them with the Holy Spirit. When Thomas, in verse 28, realized who Jesus was, he said, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus did not contradict Thomas.

Questions:

1. Following the crucifixion, when and where did Jesus first appear to the disciples? (Jn. 20:19; Lk. 24:33-36) _____

2. What was the general emotional state of the disciples that evening? Why? (Jn. 20:19; Lk. 24:36-37)

3. What did Jesus say and do when he greeted his disciples? (Jn. 20:19-21; Lk. 24:36) _____

4. Describe the disciples' response to hearing and seeing Jesus. (Jn. 20:20; Lk. 24:37-38) _____

5. What did Jesus do to empower the disciples for their future work? (Jn. 20:21-22) _____

6. What special authority did Jesus give to the disciples? (Jn. 20:23) _____

7. Compare the commissioning of the disciples with the commissioning of ministers and lay workers today.

8. What was Thomas' reaction to the report that the other disciples had seen the risen Jesus? (Jn. 20:24-25)

9. What was remarkable about both of Jesus' appearances in the room with the disciples? (Jn. 20:19, 26)

10. What did Thomas say when he recognized Jesus' divinity? (Jn. 20:28) _____

11. What did Jesus say to Thomas after showing him his hands and side? (Jn. 20:29) _____

12. How would you have felt if you had been Thomas? _____

13. What does verse 29 say about Christians, such as ourselves, who have never seen Jesus in person? _____

14. What was John's motivation for writing these verses? (Jn. 20:30-31) _____

Closing Prayer: Lord, we thank you for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We thank you for the salvation of our souls that you promise us because of our belief in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We ask your forgiveness when we show doubt. Please be as patient with us as Christ was with Thomas. Show us the way when we are doubtful and confused. May we have the understanding and faith that Thomas had when he exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" *Amen.*

Application for next week: The account of Thomas is a challenge to all of us. We ask ourselves how we would have reacted if we had been Thomas. Jesus told us in John 20:29, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Peter told us in I Peter: 1:8-9, that even though we have not seen him, we have salvation of our souls because we believe in Jesus Christ. Are there times when you have spiritual doubts? How have you dealt with these doubts? Think about what you can learn from the earnest response of Thomas, "My Lord and my God!"

