

JESUS AND THOMAS

After Jesus died and rose from the dead, he came to visit the disciples. They were in a room with the doors locked. Jesus came into the room and said, "Peace be with you." He showed them the nail marks on his hands and they knew that it was the Lord. They were happy that He was alive again.

Then He breathed on them and said, "Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Thomas, one of the followers, was not with them. Later they told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later Jesus came to visit them again and told Thomas to touch His wounds. Thomas did. He said, "My Lord, and my God."

Jesus is alive again, and is with us always.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

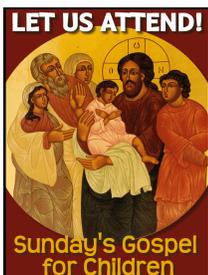
1. After He died and rose, Jesus came to the disciples.

Which disciple was not with the others that day?

2. What did the disciples tell Thomas?
3. What happened one week after Jesus' visit?
4. What did Jesus tell Thomas?
5. Jesus is with us always. Remember this especially when you receive Holy Communion.



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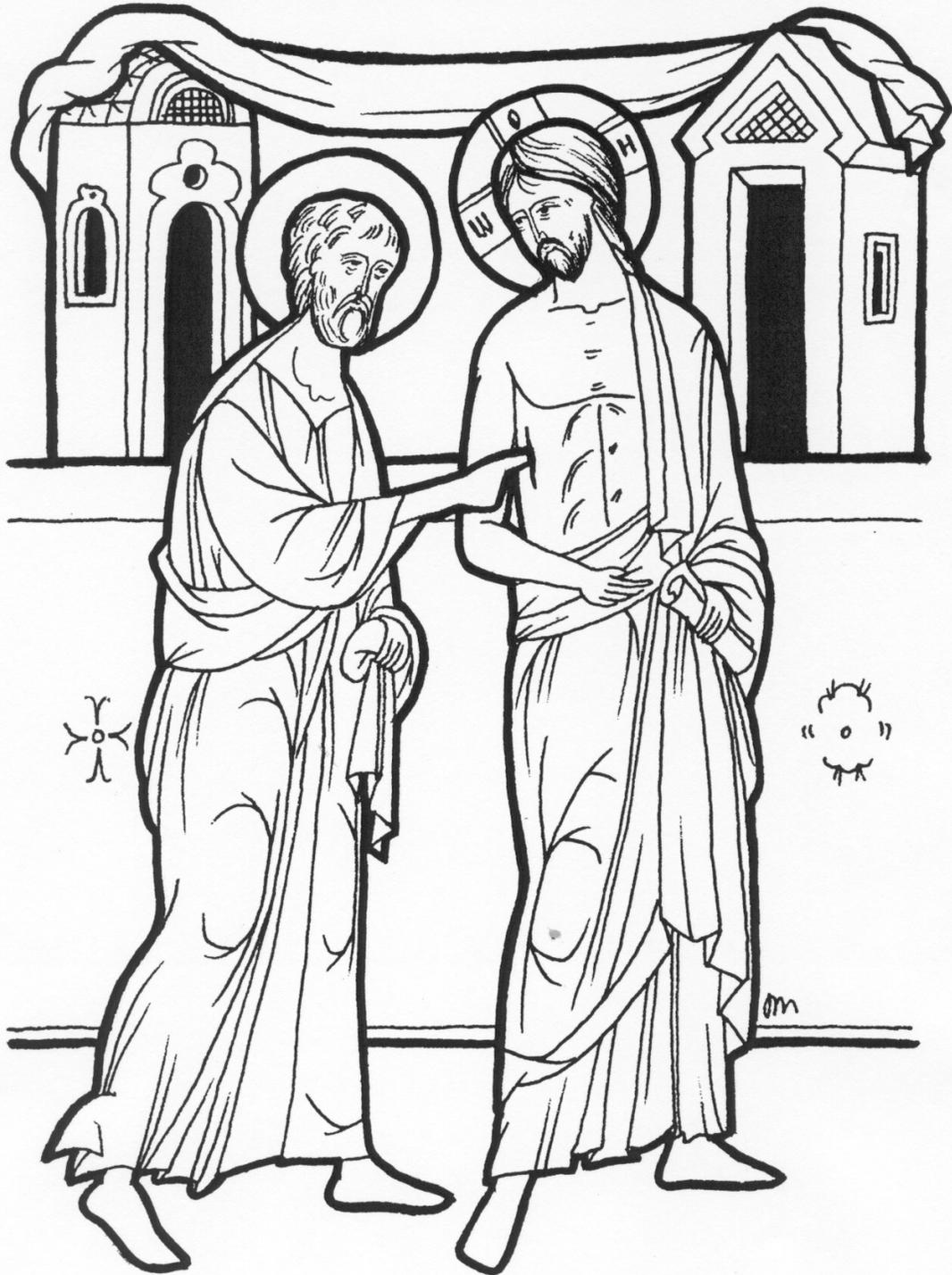


Pre-12



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∴ THE DOUBTING THOMAS ∴



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THOMAS SEES JESUS

One Sunday evening, Jesus' disciples were together in a room. They closed the doors because they were afraid of the Jews.

Suddenly, Jesus was there with them. He said, "Peace be to you!" and showed them the nail holes in His hands and the spear hole in His side.

The disciples were so happy to see the Lord Jesus! He told them that He was going to send them out to help others learn about God. Then, He breathed on them and told them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." It was a very special time for the disciples.

One disciple, Thomas, was not in the room when Jesus came. Later, when the others told Thomas what he had missed, he said, "I will not believe unless I can see—and even touch—the nail and spear marks for myself!"

Eight days later, the disciples were together in the closed room again. This time, Thomas was with them. Jesus came to them again and again said, "Peace be to you!" Then He went to Thomas and said, "Look, Thomas! See the holes in my hands and side? Here, touch them, and believe!"

Thomas answered, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said, "You believe because you got to see it for yourself. People who don't get to see it for themselves, who believe anyway, are blessed."

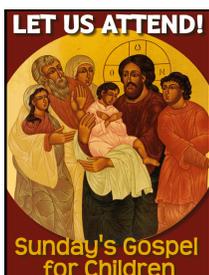
Jesus did so many other things that couldn't all be written down. But the ones that were written, were written so that we can believe that Jesus is the Son of God. By believing, we can have life!



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. After He died and rose, Jesus came to the disciples. Which disciple was not with the others that day?
2. What did Thomas say when he heard that the other disciples had seen Jesus?
3. What happened eight days later?
4. What did Jesus tell Thomas?
5. Jesus is with us always. Pray always, and believe that He is the Son of God.



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MY LORD AND MY GOD

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be to you."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you."

And when he had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was

with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be to you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing."

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him: "Thomas, you have believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

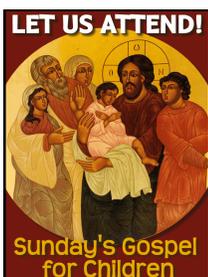
Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does the word peace mean? What does it mean to be at peace?
2. What kinds of peace do we pray for during the liturgy?
3. Who came and stood in the midst of the disciples in this gospel? How does he greet them?
4. Who stands in our midst during the liturgy and greets us that way?
5. Who does he represent or make present to us?
6. When does he greet us that way? What do we do after he says that?
7. Who or what brings us peace according to this gospel and what we say in the liturgy?



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MY LORD AND MY GOD

Characters: Narrator, Jesus, Disciples, Thomas

Narrator: On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them:

Jesus: Peace be to you.

Narrator: When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again,

Jesus: Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.

Narrator: And when he had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them:

Jesus: Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.

Narrator: Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him:

Disciples: We have seen the Lord.

Narrator: But he said to them:

Thomas: Unless I see in his hands the print of

the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.

Narrator: Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said:

Jesus: Peace be to you.

Narrator: Then he said to Thomas,

Jesus: Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.

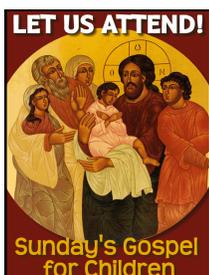
Narrator: Thomas answered him,

Thomas: My Lord and my God!

Narrator: Jesus said to him:

Jesus: Thomas, you have believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

Narrator: Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.



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THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be to you."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you."

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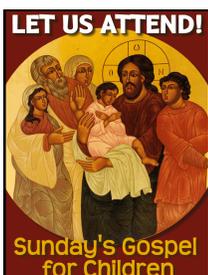
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Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him: "Thomas, you have believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How does Thomas react to the news the disciples give him?
2. How might you react to similarly unbelievable news?
3. What specifically does Thomas need in order to believe this news? How do we know that?
4. How does Jesus respond to Thomas' stated need?
5. What questions or doubts do you have that make it difficult for you to believe sometimes?
6. What does Thomas' story suggest about those doubts?
7. What does this gospel suggest about how Jesus will respond to your doubts?



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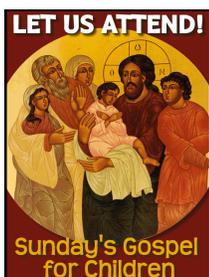
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