

## 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

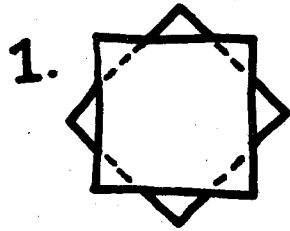
Cut out the shape of a large cross from a piece of stiff cardboard, and either paint it black or cover it with dark paper. Make flowers out of small squares of colored tissue paper. Stick some of these onto the cross, while older children string others together to make a garland to hang on the cross.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

#### CREED

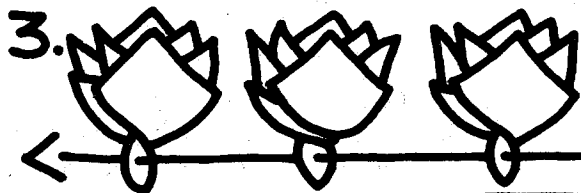
#### CLOSING PRAYER

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.

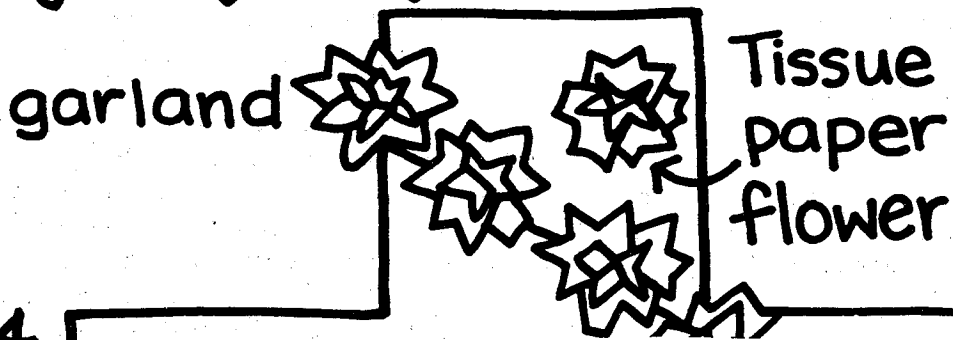
Tissue paper



Twist in middle and attach with sticky tape.



Thread flowers onto string



4.

We believe  
Jesus is risen

