

## Children's liturgy – Second Sunday of Easter (Year A)

### Preparing the worship space

Colour: White

**Song suggestions:** Peace, perfect peace (597, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)  
Peace is flowing like a river (902, Laudate)

**Welcome:** Today we hear how Jesus appeared to his disciples, but how one of them, Thomas, found it difficult to believe that Jesus was risen from the dead. Let's find out what happened...

**Opening prayer:** God of truth, fill us with your Spirit and strengthen our faith, so that we believe in your love for us. Give us courage to spread your peace throughout the world. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Acts 2:42-47

**Psalm:** Psalm 117:2-4, 22-27. R. v.1

**Gospel acclamation:** *everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

**Gospel:** John 20: 19-31

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!"

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!"

In his disciples' presence Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below\*)*

**Gospel reflection:** What do you remember from today's reading?

After his death and resurrection, Jesus appears to his disciples, and wishes them peace. How did they feel when they saw Jesus alive again?

But one of the disciples wasn't there when Jesus appeared. Can you remember who that was?

And what did Thomas say? Did he believe the others when they told him they had seen Jesus?

Thomas said he would not believe that Jesus was risen from the dead unless he saw it for himself. Thomas wanted to see the holes in Jesus' hand, made by the nails on the cross.

We are all a bit like Thomas sometimes. Can you tell me about a time when you didn't believe something someone told you, until you'd seen it for yourself?

In just the same way, it isn't always easy for us to believe in God and Jesus. Even though we listen to the gospel, and hear about God's love for us from people at church, home and school, it can be difficult to keep believing when things go wrong or when we are sad or afraid.

But what does Jesus say to Thomas?

Jesus appears again to Thomas, shows Thomas the holes in his hands and wishes him peace. He tells Thomas to believe, and he proves that he is real. But he also says, "How happy are those who believe without seeing me!"

What do you think this means?

We are blessed by God, because we believe in Jesus even though we haven't seen him like the disciples did. Even though it is difficult for us to believe sometimes, we try to remember that God always loves us.

When Jesus appears to his disciples he says, "Peace be with you." We know that our world is not always peaceful. People get angry, people fight in many different places.

Because we believe in Jesus, we are called to share his peace with others. How do you think we can do that?

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For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see [cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy](http://cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy)

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Perhaps by saying sorry when we have done something wrong, trying to make good choices, and by making the world a fairer and better place for all people to live in.

Let us try not to be like Thomas this week. Let's do our best to believe that Jesus is the risen Son of God. Let's remember God's love for us, even in the saddest and hardest times and share the peace of Christ with each other all around the world.

**Intercessions** *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

We all have times when we find it hard to believe and so we ask God to fill us with faith as we pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may continue to spread God's peace throughout the world as it follows Christ's example of care for those who are poor, sick or finding life difficult. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all people who are sad, lonely, frightened, sick or troubled: that God may give them hope in the darkest times. Through our love and care for one another may they know that they are not alone. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may find it in our hearts to believe and to share the peace of Christ with each other. Lord, in your mercy...

**Closing prayer:** Christ Jesus, you came to show us how to live. Fill us with faith in you and lead us to share your peace throughout the world. Amen.

### **Activity suggestions**

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and encourage them to write or draw on the back of the sheet how they will share God's peace with others in the coming week.

Encourage the children to give one another a sign of peace and when they return to church to share the sign of peace with their families, remembering all that they have thought about in the liturgy today.

Write the words "I believe" on a large sheet of paper and encourage all the children to write their names or make their marks to create a poster showing the faith of the group to carry back into church at the offertory.

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today, to try to have faith even when it is difficult, and to share peace with others as Christ shared peace with his disciples.

\*Gospel passage taken from:

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