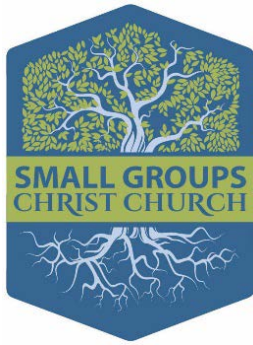


CHRIST CHURCH SMALL GROUPS

The Second Sunday of Easter – The Week beginning April 27, 2025



Read John 20:19-31:

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” 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 them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, 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 the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Background: This reading is about the disciples meeting nervously behind locked doors. There are two separate meetings. At the first one, all are present except Judas Iscariot and Thomas. We know what happened to Judas, but we don’t know why Thomas was absent. However, he is present the second time. Although the others have told him about seeing the resurrected Jesus, Thomas remains skeptical.

Talking Points:

- What is the Peace which Jesus bestows? How does it differ from what the world sees as “peace”?
- Jesus gives them the Holy Spirit and links the Spirit with the act of forgiveness. The disciples are given the responsibility to forgive sins (or not). Today, this responsibility is passed onto priests. Have you ever made Confession (the Rite of Reconciliation)? If not, is this something you would be willing to consider?
- Why do you think Thomas needed to see evidence of Jesus’ crucifixion before believing in the resurrection? Did he lack faith or could there have been another reason?
- Thomas says, “My Lord and my God.” How is Jesus the Lord in your own life?

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father. Amen.