



*Nurturing Faith . . .  
Every Day in Every Way*

April 11, 2021

**Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

Hello friends! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! I have a question for you. Have you ever missed out on something? Maybe there was a birthday party that you didn't get to go to where someone popped the pinata and all kinds of money fell out...or maybe you heard a story about a friend who went fishing and caught a GIANT catfish, bigger than his head? Would you believe the stories even though you weren't there to witness them?

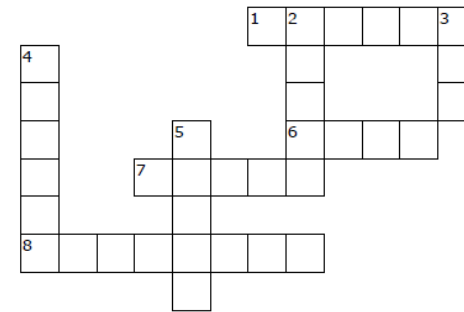
In our Gospel lesson from John, we hear about one of Jesus' disciples named Thomas who wasn't where he was supposed to be and missed out on something really spectacular. Jesus had told his disciples to stay together after he died and they did, all except Thomas. While Thomas was away, the resurrected Jesus appeared to the disciples, and Thomas missed out. When the other disciples told Thomas what he had missed, Thomas didn't believe them. Maybe it's because he didn't see Jesus for himself. I think Thomas was probably upset because he didn't do what Jesus asked him to do. The good news is that Jesus gave Thomas a second chance to see him!

We are all invited to learn what Jesus taught, together, and we are all invited to pray together. If we should forget, Jesus gives us second (and third and fourth) chances to try again. When we do the things that Jesus calls us to do together, we can better understand exactly WHO Jesus is and we, too, can better "see" the resurrected Jesus by learning from each other.

Loving God, thank you for other believers who help us to see and know who Jesus is. Amen.

**Memory verse for April:** Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

*Crossword Puzzle*



ACROSS

1. The disciple who would not believe without seeing
6. An entrance into a building or room
7. A pointed and headed fastener designed to be pounded into wood
8. Unwilling to believe that something is true

DOWN

2. The body parts at the end of the arms
3. To observe with your eyes
4. Not open
5. To believe in something for which there is no proof

FAITH	THOMAS	CLOSED	NAILS
HANDS	SEE	DOUBTING	DOOR

**Activity:** Have an adult put different items in small paper bags (a ball, a hard-boiled egg, a piece of sandpaper, etc). Take turns reaching inside the bag to feel each item and guess what it might be. How do you know for sure what it is if you can't see it???

**Discussion Question:** There are many things that we take on faith alone simply because we believe them to be true. We know the sun and moon will rise and set every day. But how do we know that for sure? You know your age and when your birthday is...but do you remember being born? Jesus died and rose again on the third day...but, we weren't there. We believe because he told us. We can always trust in Jesus' promises. Talk about this with your family.

**Table prayer for April:** Brighter days are upon us, sunshine fills our days. God, you gladden our hearts by the light of your Son and bless us in so many ways. Amen.

***Share Life!***

