

Scripture Reading: John 20:19-31

Be at peace, not in pieces.

A week ago was Easter Sunday, and we celebrated the risen Lord. In today's reading, we often focus on the doubts of Thomas, the disciple. But I want you to notice something else. Three times in this passage, Jesus says to the disciples, "Peace be with you," (vv. 19, 21, 26).

The disciples were in hiding. "The doors of the house ... were locked for fear of the Jews" (v. 19). A week later, the doors were again shut, and Jesus suddenly shows up and says, "Peace be with you." Elsewhere in the gospels, we read that "they were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost" (Luke 24:37).

The disciples were like little children. Have you ever watched children without their parents? They get nervous. Sometimes, if a babysitter arrives, some children begin fussing and crying. They do not want their parents to leave them. Sometimes, the children, when bereft of parents for a few hours or a few days, become homesick, lonesome, sad and depressed. They worry about what they will do without them, or if they will ever see them again.

The disciples were facing a bleak future. They were like children without their parents. And we, too, have faced adversity in our lifetime on many occasions, and especially in the past year.

But into our rooms, and into our hearts, sometimes locked up in fear and distress, the Lord suddenly appears and says, "Peace be with you."

This is a wonderful word of comfort. Jesus greets us with peace. He commands peace to be "with us." It's as though he thinks of peace as a friend who lives with us, has taken a room with us and goes with us wherever we go.

Is peace "with you"?

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you broke the bonds of death. You are risen and alive! And now, you give us peace. Help me to enjoy the blessings of my new "friend," peace. Amen.

Week of April 11, 2021

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday: Luke 4-6
- Monday: Joshua 4-6
- Tuesday: Joshua 7-9
- Wednesday: Joshua 10-12
- Thursday: Joshua 13-15
- Friday: Joshua 16-18
- Saturday: Psalms 34-36

Verse to Remember

“But it is for you, O LORD, that I wait; it is you, O LORD my God, who will answer.”

—Psalm 38:15

S E T S A I S E L C C E D H T
 O E J D R I N Y G L E I N A D
 N J O S E E S T H E R G A I M
 G E S E E U B A H O S E A D U
 O R H Z S L T M I J O N I A H
 F E U E O E C E U A A E H B A
 S M A K M V H I R N H S C O N
 O I C I A I H A N O J I A A R
 L A M E N T A T I O N S L R U
 O H H L N I G H B N R O A Z T
 M I A Z E C H A R I A H M E H
 O D C G K U K K A B A H C Y O
 N K I N G S B R E V O R P R T
 K V M P S A L M S U D O X E U
 J U D G E S I S A M U E L U Z

OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

Use the Table of Contents in the front of your Bible to find a list of the books in the Old Testament. Then, locate them in the box to the left by searching horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forward or backward.

Numbered books, such as 1 KINGS, appear only once without their numbers.

ANSWER: What God promises God will provide.



DECODE THIS MESSAGE! Use the lowercase letters to decode the message. Answer is in the box above.
SHwhGaRtgDEWodCRpAroJomiLYsesPRgQUAoSBdwODSiKNlpXOLroNOvWiTYde.