



## Wednesday Prayer

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter – Wounds, fear and disbelief

**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... 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.” John 20:19-21, 24-27**

Wounds – physical wounds, spiritual and emotional wounds. Fear and disbelief when things seem out of our control. The disciples had just witnessed Jesus’ crucifixion, had seen and experienced this traumatic event. And then they are told by Mary Magdalene that Jesus has risen, that she has seen the Lord. The disciples hide in a room, filled with fear and disbelief.

When Jesus appears among them, he offers the gentle comfort of “Peace be with you.” He offers to show them his physical wounds to assure them it is truly him. Again later, when Thomas is with them, Jesus offers peace and shows his physical wounds to assure Thomas.

We are so often filled with this same doubt when there is not concrete evidence in front of us. Over and over again, we require survivors of sexual violence to tell their stories – to share their deep wounds – in order to provide the evidence for us to believe. While our legal systems need to move toward more trauma-informed methods of working with survivors, that is just *one* measure of what is needed to support our siblings in Christ. We too, can learn how to hear another’s story with compassion and believing. We too, can offer the peace that surpasses all understanding.

April is both Sexual Assault Awareness Month and National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Commit to learning, listening, and believing. Here are some resources to begin:

[Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation April 2023 \(nsvrc.org\)](https://www.nsvrc.org/sexual-assault-awareness-month-proclamation-april-2023)

[What Should I Do After A Child Tells? | Stop It Now](#)

**Jesus, you came among us to share in our suffering and continue to be with us always, if only we’ll believe. Give us the peace to dispel fear, and the unconditional love to share this peace with survivors in our midst. Amen.**

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