

Year A, Week 18 (March 30, 2008)

John 20: 19-29 Doubting Thomas

Hymn Suggestion: *Jesus Loves Me*

Figures Needed: Jesus (with arms outstretched)
 Thomas figure
 2-3 other disciples

Story:

(Optional: place blocks in a large square to make a “room” in which the disciples gather.)

(Place 2-3 disciple figures in front of you, perhaps in “room” described above.)

The evening after Jesus rose from the dead, the disciples gathered in a house and locked the doors. They were afraid that if the religious leaders had ordered Jesus to die, the disciples might not be safe, either. They were afraid.

Jesus appeared in the room with them and said, “Peace be with you.” *(Place Jesus figure near or among disciples.)*

Jesus showed them the scars in his hands where his hands had been nailed to the cross *(extend your hands, and touch your own palms).*

Jesus showed them the scars in this side where a spear had pierced his side. *(Touch your own side.)*

The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I send you.”

He breathed on them and said, “Receive God’s Holy Spirit. If you forgive people’s sins, they are forgiven.” *(Remove Jesus figure).*

Thomas was not there when this happened. When he returned to the house *(place Thomas figure with the others)*, the disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he told them, “Unless I see the scars in his hands and the scar in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later, the disciples were again locked into the house.

Jesus came in and said, “Peace be with you.” *(Place Jesus figure with disciples.)*

Jesus told Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Do not doubt, but believe.”

Thomas said, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus said, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet still believe."

Questions without Response:

I wonder ... how it felt to see Jesus again?

I wonder... how excited the disciples were to tell Thomas about seeing Jesus?

I wonder ... if we would have believed or doubted the disciples?

I wonder ... if we would like to see Jesus today?

I wonder ... if we sometimes act like we are still scared and full of doubt?