

# Resurrection Witness

## John 20:19-31

### Peace Plaque

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### Peace be with you

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### Today's Bible Reading

Click [here](#)

### Jesus appears to Thomas

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### Additional Bible Readings

#### Psalm 16

#### Acts 2:12a, 22-32

#### 1 Peter 1:3-9

**O God, open our eyes and move our hands to receive your peace. Help us to hear the blessing you offer in our lives so that we might reach beyond fear and feel joy. Amen.**

“Seeing and believing” dominate Thomas and Jesus’s encounter in John 20:18–30.

This has been an ongoing theme in John. At the opening of this gospel, Jesus asks Nathaniel, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree?” (1:50). The story of the man born blind in John 9 is filled with nuances about sight and belief. In this focus passage, the only blessing spoken by Jesus and recorded in John falls on those who have not seen but believe. That blessing reflects the life situation of the original community addressed by this gospel. Most, if not all, of John’s first readers would not have seen Jesus. Yet they believed. Jesus’ blessing of them is Jesus’ blessing of us as well.

This story is often used to berate doubt, based on verse 27, where Thomas wants to touch and see. But the word translated as “doubt” is not one of the common Greek words for doubt. It is *apistos*, whose literal meaning would be closer to “without faith” or “unbelief.” Jesus graciously provides Thomas with what he needs to move from unbelief to belief.

Jesus bestows Spirit upon the community, a movement we will see repeated this season. Here Jesus’ “breathing” upon the disciples empowers them to recall Genesis 2:7, where God breathes life into the one formed of dust. The same word in Greek means “breath” and “spirit.”

Faith does not remove all doubts and questions. It doesn’t push away all the dust and filth but invites trust and witness in the risen Christ. With Thomas’ confession, this chapter concludes with a statement of faith.