

Pastor's Bible Class

April 12, 2026

The Second Sunday of Easter

#472 "These Things Did Thomas Count as Real"

(Tune: "O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair")

1) These things did Thomas count as real:
The warmth of blood, the chill of steel,
The grain of wood, the heft of stone,
The last frail twitch of flesh and bone.

2) The vision of his skeptic mind
Was keen enough to make him blind
To any unexpected act
Too large for his small world of fact.

3) His reasoned certainties denied
That one could live when one had died,
Until his fingers read like braille
The markings of the spear and nail.

4) May we, O God, by grace believe
And thus the risen Christ receive,
Whose raw imprinted palms reached out
And beckoned Thomas from his doubt.

Read Acts 5:29-42

1. How does this story fit into the larger context of Acts?
2. What circumstances directly led to today's text?
3. What is the essence of Peter's defense in verses 30-32?
4. After the venomous response of the council, Gamaliel stands up and speaks. What do we know about this teacher? See also Acts 22:3.
5. Following Gamaliel's words, the Apostles are flogged and told not to "speak in the name of Jesus." How do they respond to this charge?
6. How does this affirm the truth of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ?

Read John 20:19-31

7. What is "that first day of the week?"
8. What other important information do we learn in verse 19?

9. What is significant about Jesus' greeting?
10. Why does Jesus show them the marks of His crucifixion? See also Revelation 5:6.
11. In verse 21, Jesus "sends" His disciples. How do these words relate to the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18?
12. What is the significance of Jesus breathing on the disciples?
13. With the authority of the Father and Son, and the power of the Holy Spirit, what are the disciples "sent" to do?
14. We think of Thomas as the one who doubts. Read John 11:16. What picture of Thomas does this text present?
15. John tells us that a week passes between the appearances of Jesus to the disciples. How do you think this week went for Thomas?
16. Examine the portrait "The Incredulity of Saint Thomas." How does this painting by Caravaggio enhance our understanding of Jesus' appearance to Thomas?



17. According to John 20:30-31, what is the purpose of John's Gospel, and for that matter, all of Scripture?

Devotional Thought from "The Lutheran Study Bible"

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus appears before a skeptical Thomas, who upon seeing Jesus is moved to confess Him as Lord and God. Today, we live in a skeptical age that operates by the saying, "I'll believe it when I see it." However, in the Word and Sacraments, we see and we do receive the benefits of Jesus' death and resurrection. Those who believe receive God's divine favor, for whoever believes has everlasting life (TLSB, 1826).

Closing Prayer

Lord, even though I do not see you now, I believe and rejoice with inexpressible joy. Amen.