

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

Blessed Without Seeing

John 20:29

Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

Thomas missed church. A week earlier, the risen Jesus had appeared to the other disciples, but Thomas wasn't there. When they told him what had happened, he refused to believe. "Unless I see the nail marks and put my finger in the wounds, I will not believe." We can hardly blame him. It was an extraordinary claim.

But Jesus, in His mercy, came back. On the second Sunday of Easter, He appeared again and invited Thomas to touch His hands and side. Thomas needed no further proof. He fell to his knees with the greatest confession in all of Scripture: "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus spoke a word meant for every believer who would come after Thomas — including you: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." You have not touched the nail prints. You have not seen the empty tomb with your own eyes. But through the Word and Sacraments, the risen Christ comes to you just as surely as He came to Thomas.

You are not a second-class Christian because you live by faith and not by sight. Jesus Himself calls you blessed. In your Baptism, His name was placed upon you. In His Supper, His body and blood are given to you. In His Word, His voice speaks peace to you. You believe — and that faith is the gift of the Holy Spirit, working through these very means of grace.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever felt like Thomas — struggling to believe without physical proof? What helped you through that season?
2. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus calls you "blessed" for believing without seeing?
3. How do the Word and Sacraments serve as the way Jesus "shows up" for us today?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You did not abandon Thomas in his doubt, and You do not abandon us in ours. Strengthen our faith through Your Word and Sacraments. When we struggle to believe, come to us again with Your wounds of love and speak Your peace. Thank You for calling us blessed. Amen.

Family Action Item

Read John 20:24–29 together as a family. Ask each person to share one thing that helps their faith when they have doubts. Then thank God together for the gift of faith and the means He uses — His Word, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper — to strengthen it.