

# Bouquet Caboodle



Highland Lectionary Series

April 12, 2026

## The Blessing of Not Seeing

Exodus 15:1-11; Psalm 111; 1 Peter 1:3-9;  
John 20:19-31

### Today's Big Idea

*What is the blessing that comes with believing that Jesus is the Lord without being able to see Him in the flesh? A unique kind of love and joy and an ever-increasing faith enabling us to go deeper into God.*

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### The Blessing

Not seeing and still believing: **John 20:29**

Blessing: a real value given

Notice it doesn't say "more blessed" but a distinct blessing nevertheless

Seeing: clear empirical encounter

Not seeing: access to second hand data: reason, testimony, visible work: **Psalm 111**

Believing: entrusting one's whole self over to God, saying, "My Lord and my God": **John 20:28**

### A More Fervent Love

The case of the son of a rich man who started poor: taking for granted the accessible

Absence makes the heart grow fonder: longing heightens affection: **Proverbs 13:12**

Waiting increases the value we attach to object in view: **Proverbs 20:21**

### A Heightened Joy

Deferred gratification increases the consequent joy: Cinderella stories

The children of Israel after 400 years and the Red Sea crossing: **Exodus 15:1-2**

The disciples dark weekend: **John 16:16-22**

Jesus, who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross: **Hebrews 12:2**

Though you do not see Him, rejoicing with an indescribable glorious joy: **1 Peter 1:8-9**

### A Unique Spiritual Muscle Building

To take a reasoned risk requires an exertion of spiritual muscle: we call this *faith*

Faith only grows in the environment of the unseen: **Hebrews 11:1; 1 Peter 1:5,7**

This current environment of dark glass is temporary: **1 Corinthians 13:12; Revelation 22:4**

God has good for us that can only be accessed by going deeper into His mystery: **John 16:12-15**

Which requires ever increasing muscular faith: **Matthew 17:20; Mark 9:23**

Which can only be built up gradually from faith-risk to faith-risk: **2 Corinthians 3:16-18**

Believing without vivid empirical sight keeps us in a state of constantly growing faith

Enabling us the blessing of following God into the deeper places where greater good awaits

## The Key Excerpts for This Week's Thematic Thread

| <i>Exodus 15:1-11</i>  | <i>Psalm 111</i>  | <i>1 Peter 1:3-9</i>  | <i>John 20:19-31</i>   |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>15 "I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea. 2 The Lord is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him; my father's God, and I will exalt him. 3 The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name. 4 Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea; his elite officers were sunk in the Red Sea. 5 The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. 6 Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power— your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy. 8 At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. 9 The enemy said, 'I will pursue; I will overtake; I will divide the spoil; my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.' 10 You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. 11 Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders?</p> | <p>Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. 2 Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them. 3 Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. 4 He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the Lord is gracious and merciful. 5 He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant. 6 He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. 7 The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. 8 They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. 9 He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name. 10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.</p> | <p>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith--being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, or you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.</p> | <p>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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.</p> |

### Next Week's Readings: What thread do you discern?

April 19, 2026 - Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 34:1-10; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35