

Sacred Space Believing Without Seeing

PREPARATION

Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith. 2 Corinthians 13:5

Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. Hebrews 11:1

CONFESSION

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Romans 3:22-23

ADORATION and GRATITUDE

I cried out, “I am slipping!”
but your unfailing love, O Lord, supported me.

**When doubts filled my mind,
your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer.** Psalm 94:18-19

MEDITATION & CONTEMPLATION — John 20:19-31*

That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said. As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! Again he said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. They told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he replied, “I won’t believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.”

Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them.

IN SOLITUDE AND/OR COMMUNITY	
Read	Slowly, several times.
Reflect	How do I relate to this?
Respond	What is my next step of obedience?
Rest	Receive God’s healing and renewal.

“Peace be with you,” he said. Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!”

“My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed.

Then Jesus told him, “You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.”

The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded 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 by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

ANCHORING PRAYER

My Lord and my God, I believe without seeing.

REVIEW OF THE HEART (previous 24 hours)

When did I consciously recognise the presence of God?

When was my faith clouded by doubt?

WISDOM

Gideon replied, “If you are truly going to help me, show me a sign to prove that it is really the Lord speaking to me. Judges 6:17

Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32

God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. Matthew 5:8

TESTIMONY *What is God saying to me?*

INTERCESSION *Prayers for the Church, others, and me.*

CLOSING PRAYER

Our Lord and our God, we believe without seeing.

Jesus, you are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. We believe in You.

Amen.

SACRED SPACE EVERY DAY

Be still and quiet before God.

Be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Speak and act from a listening heart.

Pray for, and serve my community.

PermanesED (Abide) Kurt D. Peters. *Episcopal Lectionary, Year B.
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