

**APRIL 26, 2020**  
**HYMN OF THE WEEK**

*Open the Eyes of  
My Heart*

**WEEKLY MILESTONES**

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When and where have you felt God's presence?
- Have you ever had an experience where you didn't recognize the impact until later? Explain.
- What Bible story or Bible verse or song helps you feel the presence of God?

**DEVOTIONS**

*Read:* Luke 24:13-35.

We have within us the desire for the divine in our lives. As Christians, we want to see Jesus as Lord. We want to have our hearts burning within us. That may have happened weeks ago on Easter Sunday in worship with all the pageantry, song, and community gathered together to "break bread" (v. 35). Interestingly, for the disciples on the road to Emmaus, even though they had the risen Lord with them and he was teaching them the Scriptures, it was not until the breaking of the bread that he was revealed to them and they acknowledged that their hearts had been burning within them. Perhaps the sense of the divine in our lives is best recalled in retrospect. We are not in control of the divine in our lives. God is. The Holy Spirit uses human stories, the Bible, and the breaking of bread in community to create the burning in our hearts that we want to recall and talk about again and again. This is what happened to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. When has your heart burned with the sense of God's presence in your life?

*Pray:* **Creator God, give us eyes to see and hearts that burn for the joy of your presence through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**SERVICE**

Peter tells the first converts to "Repent, and be baptized" (Acts 2:38a). Baptism is not something we often talk about in our daily lives. If you know of someone who has been thirsting to know about baptism, be willing to have that conversation and seek out the help of others, if needed.

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) was introduced during Lent as a way to experience prayer in our daily lives. Add a little extra movement to your prayers this week and make the shape of each letter as you pray: **(A)** I praise God for..., **(C)** forgive me for..., **(T)** I thank you for..., **(S)** I pray for ..., and finish with amen.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

**APRIL 19, 2020**  
**SECOND SUNDAY  
OF EASTER**

**takingt  
faith  
home**

*Faith in Jesus includes a relationship with Jesus.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 20:19-31</b>	<b>Thomas sees and believes</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Acts 2:14a, 22-32</b>	<b>Peter addresses the crowd</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 Peter 1:3-9</b>	<b>A living hope</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Mark 10:46-52</b>	<b>The healing of blind Bartimaeus</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>John 4:1-30</b>	<b>Woman at the well with Jesus</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>John 4:46-54</b>	<b>Jesus heals an official's son</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 16</b>	<b>Song of trust in God</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 24:13-35</b>	<b>Road to Emmaus</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

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." **John 20:28-29 (NRSV)**

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Everlasting God, strengthen us in faith; give us the desire to know you more day by day that we may live with love and hope through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Mealttime Prayer:**

Dear God, may we receive this food with joy, knowing that all good gifts come from you. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God show you the path of life and give you joy through Christ our Lord. (Psalm 16:11)



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APRIL 19, 2020  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*We Walk by Faith*



### WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Who is someone you wish you knew or knew better?
- How does having a personal, trusted relationship with someone impact your life?
- How do you grow in your relationship with Jesus as your Savior and Lord?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 20:19-31.

It is hard to read this text and not be influenced by the title “doubting Thomas.” However, it is only Thomas in the whole Gospel of John who makes the confession of faith that Jesus is God and more specifically, “My God” (v. 28). In this passage at least two important points about the Christian faith are revealed: 1) faith is relational (Thomas personalizes Jesus as “My God”), and 2) faith is a lifelong journey. Jesus blessed those who “come to believe.” The Greek text denotes a continuous process, not just believing at a certain point in time, but continuing to believe. And, isn’t that what is needed to have a real relationship to someone: an ongoing development—even being challenged by—that relationship. What Jesus means for us and to us will continue to develop for a lifetime. As we age and as we have new experiences and challenges, the meaning of Jesus for our lives and our world evolves, even as we evolve and “have life in his name” (v. 31). Our relationship with Jesus grows and develops over time.

Describe your relationship with Jesus.

*Pray:* Come, Lord Jesus, into my life this day, that I may confess you as my God and have life through you each and every day. Amen.

### SERVICE

Thomas had to see Jesus to believe. 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” (John 20:29). It is through our service that the world “sees” Jesus. We are his voice, hands, and feet in the world. List ways others have seen Jesus and his love through your actions and words.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

When Jesus appeared to the disciples after the resurrection, he said, “Peace be with you” (John 20:19b). This has become a traditional greeting among Christians as a reminder of Christ’s presence. Practice greeting friends and family in your home using these words this week.



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APRIL 26, 2020  
THIRD SUNDAY  
OF EASTER



*Our eyes have been opened to see the Lord.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 24:13-35	Road to Emmaus
Monday	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	The first converts
Tuesday	1 Peter 1:17-23	A call to holy living
Wednesday	Matthew 8:5-13	Jesus heals a centurion servant
Thursday	Matthew 9:2-7	Jesus heals a paralytic
Friday	Matthew 14:13-21	Feeding the five thousand
Saturday	Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19	Thanksgiving for illness recovery
Sunday	Matthew 3:1-12	Christ the shepherd

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” **Luke 24:32 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Holy God, may your word and the community of faith open our eyes and our hearts to your living presence within us and among us through the risen Christ. Amen.

#### Mealtimes Prayer:

Dear God, just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus had their eyes opened to you through the breaking of bread, open our eyes now with thankful hearts for this meal. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May the God of hope open your eyes to the presence of the risen Lord and fill you with joy.



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