



Communion Hymn **C.W. 316** sung by the Congregation after everyone has communed including the Pastor

*Nunc Dimittis* (Song of Simeon - Liturgy pg. 24)

Collect / Prayer (pg. 24)

Benediction

Closing Hymn **C.W. 291** sung by the Congregation.

SERMON TEXT: John 20:26-31

Vs. 26 - "A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

Vs. 27 - Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Vs. 28 - Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Vs. 29 - Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Vs. 30 - Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. (See also John 21:25)

Vs. 31 - But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

GREETING: Jesus says: heaven & Earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass away. . (Matt. 24:35)

Have you ever had, or do you ever have any doubts in your mind over issues in the world, in your life?

Maybe you doubt the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Maybe you doubt whether you will ever be able to recover from whatever ailment(s) you have.

Maybe you doubt certain articles that you read or news reports.

Maybe you doubt whether you can ever be happy again.

Maybe you doubt whether those broken relationships can ever heal.

I doubt that ..... \_\_\_\_\_ (and you can fill in the blank).

In this portion of Scripture for today, we learn about Thomas who doubted the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

On the day of Christ's Resurrection (Sunday) Jesus went and appeared to His disciples behind locked doors. He showed them His hands and His side as He said, "**Peace Be With You!**"

Only, when Jesus appeared to His disciples on the day of His resurrection, behind those locked doors, one of the disciples was not there. Thomas was not there.

The other 10 disciples told Thomas "**We have seen the Lord!**" But Thomas did not believe it. Instead, Thomas said,

**John 20:25 - But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.”**

It is from this portion of Scripture that we have coined the phrase: “*Doubting Thomas*”  
Satan of course tries to lead everyone to doubt the resurrection of our Lord Jesus from the dead.

And so, a week passed by, and the disciples are again behind locked doors when Jesus again appears to them. Only this time Thomas is there with them.

Where was Thomas the week before? - Scripture does not tell us. God in His Word does not tell us.

Again, as Jesus appears to them, He greets them with: **PEACE BE WITH YOU.**

We have PEACE because our sins have been paid for by the blood of Jesus which He shed for us on the cross. We have PEACE because we are forgiven by His blood. We have PEACE because Satan and death have been defeated. We have PEACE because no matter what happens in this life, we have heaven.

Jesus Who is God, and Who knows all things, including what everyone is thinking, including Thomas, went up to Thomas and says to Thomas:

**Vs. 27 - “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”**

*NOW! – Finally!* - Thomas believes as he says: **Vs. 28 - “My Lord and my God!”**

[For anyone who doubts and / or wants to challenge whether or not Jesus is True God, these words of Thomas as recorded in Scripture clarify that Jesus is LORD (Ps. 23 & Jn. 10:11) and GOD (Ex. 3:14, Jn. 1:1, Jn. 8:58, & Acts 20:28). - Ο Κυριος μου και ο θεος μου -]

God the Holy Spirit led Thomas to believe. “Seeing is believing”.

For those of us who have not seen Jesus with our eyes of flesh, we see the Risen Savior with our eyes of faith.

**Vs. 29 - Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”**

As believers in Christ Jesus our Risen Lord, you are blessed.

(I Cor. 12:3 – No one can say Jesus is Lord except by the power of the H.S.)

God has used His Almighty and power WORD to create saving faith in your heart.

God has graciously and miraculously used Holy Men of God (I Peter 1:21) to record the Words of Scripture for us to read and study and learn of our Savior.

**Vs. 31 - But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”**

The same Word of God with which God created all things – Genesis 1:1-Genesis 2:25 – God created faith in your heart.

**Romans 10:17 – Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message was heard through the Word of God.**

In a Computer program that I have it showed that the phrase: SAITH THE LORD – Occurs 803 times in the Old Testament of the King James Version of the Bible. (If anyone finds a different figure, let the Pastor know)

Of those 803 times in the O.T. the phrase - **THUS SAITH THE LORD** – occurs **413** times.

As the Apostle John ends his Gospel, he makes note of how many things Jesus did with the following words:

**John 21:24-25 - This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. - Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.**

How many books do you have in your home?

When going to a library, there are rows and rows of books.

Now imagine if everything that Jesus did were written down.

We are told through the Apostle John that the **WHOLE WORLD** would not have enough room for all the books that could be written concerning the Work of our Risen and Living Savior Jesus.

And yet God in His grace has given us the Holy Bible. With everything in it needed for our Salvation. AMEN

**THEME: What Is The Purpose Of The Bible?**