

Scripture Prayer For The Week

"Once...
when Jesus...
was praying alone..." Luke 9:18



Artwork Dorothy Woodward

Easter Week 2 Yr A

We Gather: In the prayer space, have the bible opened at the Gospel reading. The stand or table is draped with white. An Easter Candle could be placed near a bowl of water

Leader: Give thanks to the God of gods (light the Easter candle)
All: Whose love is everlasting.

Leader: The Lord is my strength and my song
All: We rejoice and are glad.

We Listen: The Gospel. John 20:19-31
Read the gospel passage reflectively. After a time of silent reflection, the line from scripture below could be repeated and the short commentary read.

"These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ." Jn 20:31

Commentary: As we go about our daily living, the question of our belief in God and Jesus as Saviour, can lie under our skin, perhaps not itching, but very much a mental and emotional question mark. Thomas (and the others) had a similar experience. Did his statement of faith mean he would never again ask, "What is Jesus Christ all about" or "is this belief the absolute certainty of my life-or of my children's?" We may have more questions than Thomas perhaps, more times of wondering if IT is true as we consider these beliefs through the lens of 21st century knowledge. However, the writer of the Gospel by stressing the reason for recording these events was obviously expressing an existing environment of community and personal doubt. Why believe? The writer turns towards our most basic human need. "that through believing you may have life in his name". When we desire fullness of life most desperately, we say, "My Lord and my God"

In silence, reflect on the questions below? You may wish to have a time of brief sharing. In turn, move to the bowl of water, put in your hands and stroke the 'nail marks' on your palms.

- When have I experienced a moment or some days of certain belief in God?
- Can I continue, in hope, with the tension between belief and uncertainty?

Song: We Walk by Faith (M HAugen-AOV1) or Rise Up with Him (J Vogt-Spirit & Song)

We Go Forth:

God of all gods, hope of our hearts, desire of our lives. It is love freely given by you and by us that will bring us together in sureness of eternal unity. You understand our fears and hesitations. Dissolve them so that we can see and touch you during all our days. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Let the people of God say.... Alleluia! Alleluia!
All: God's love has no end... Alleluia! Alleluia!