

Daily Devotions for the Week of April 19-25, 2020

Theme of the Week: *He Lives to Give Me Proof and Peace*

1 Begin with the **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2 Say the **APOSTLES' CREED**

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

3 Pray the **LORD'S PRAYER**

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy
kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven. Give
us this day our daily bread; and
forgive us our trespasses, as we
forgive those who trespass
against us; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from
evil. For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.*

4 Read the **LESSON** (see weekly lessons)

5 Say this part of the explanation of the **Second Article**

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

6 Pray the **PRAYER** of the **WEEK**

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

7 Pray for **OURSELVES** and **OTHERS**

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Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! In the face of doubt, Christ gives proof and peace. To the doubting disciples, the proof of his body and wounds bring peace. Through Word and Sacraments, Jesus gives the same proof.

Sunday

John 20:19-31

The disciples did not have peace. They had questions, concerns and doubts, but not peace. No peace of mind. No peace of soul. No peace of conscience. Grief and guilt weighed their hearts. But then Jesus appeared to them. The peace he speaks to them gives what he says.

Monday

Acts 2:14a, 22-29

Jesus had good reason to let his disciples see him with their eyes. They were his witnesses. When Peter stood before the Pentecost crowd, we see the purpose of all the resurrection appearances. Through the eyes of these witnesses, God gives his Church the gift of proof and peace.

Tuesday

1 Peter 1:3-9

What brings more doubt into our lives than grief or sorrow? "How could God...?" "When will this stop?" Peter points to the resurrection as proof of the living hope we have regardless of outside circumstance.

Wednesday

Psalm 16

In quoting Psalm 16 on Pentecost (Monday's lesson), Peter leads us to clearly see it is a psalm about the suffering and resurrection of Jesus. Those who have the Lord have the source of all good things, especially eternal life. In Jesus, this is a psalm of confidence in God's ability to save even as the believer cries out for help.

Thursday

Acts 10:34a, 36, 39-43

Peter's audience of Gentile believers had never seen the risen Lord. Peter had. The apostles were sent as eyewitnesses to give this proof and proclaim Christ's peace to these who fulfilled Jesus' promise to Thomas as ones who had not seen, yet believe.

Friday

John 16:16-33

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus promised his disciples they would have sorrow. Then he promised their sorrow would turn to joy. He told his disciples he spoke these things that they would have peace, peace he gave to them with proof in his resurrected body.

Saturday

John 20:19-31

As you hear this week's Gospel again, consider what grace we find in Jesus. Thomas required more evidence. He comes and repeats Thomas' objections nearly word for word. He again gives the ultimate proof of his resurrection. He gives the ultimate proof of sin and death's defeat. Christ is risen!