



**ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!  
THE LORD HAS RISEN, INDEED. ALLELUIA!**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ;

Holy Week and Easter was moving, meaningful and inspiring. I have had several comments from various parishioners concerning their experiences. Many told me of their feelings of experiencing God's presence and of tears and great joy. I want to extend a large **THANK YOU** to the many Volunteers, Altar Guild, Ushers, Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers and everyone who helped create in the words of one person "the best Easter they had ever experienced." It is a great privilege and honor to serve a parish that supports and appreciates our efforts to feed your souls! Thank you! Resurrection Episcopal Church is a special place that takes its liturgical life seriously.

**I remind you that Easter is a season not a day. We will celebrate the Risen Lord for the next 50 days.** Easter festivities end with our celebration of Pentecost on Sunday June 4th.

*Now a couple of notes about our Easter Worship:*

- The Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. "condemned" the practice of kneeling during the season of Easter during the Eucharistic Prayer. However, in good Anglican-Episcopal sensibility I say, "**All may, none must, some should.**" Please follow the practice that best suits your ability and your spirituality.
- During the Easter season, we will not say the Collect for Purity at the beginning of the service, nor will there be a Confession of Sin. During the Rite I services we will refrain from using the Prayer of Humble Access. We must celebrate while the "bridegroom is with us."

From Fr. David

## Doubting Thomas didn't doubt by [Steve Pankey](#)

The Lord said to Thomas, "Do not doubt, but believe." We know that line well. Too well, in fact, since Jesus didn't say anything to Thomas about doubt. In Matthew 14, when Peter tries to walk on water and sinks, Jesus, reaching out his hand saves him and says, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" Whereas in John 20, when Jesus and Thomas meet in the upper room, Jesus lets Thomas touch his hands, feet and side and then says, "Don't be without belief, rather believe." Don't believe me, here's the Greek words:

διστάζω	ἄπιστος	πιστός
<i>distazo</i>	<i>apistos</i>	<i>pistos</i>
doubt	a-beliving	believing

See, despite what millions of sermons by thousands of preachers have told you, doubting Thomas didn't doubt, but rather he was *a-believing* because in John's Gospel, belief isn't about an intellectual assent to some list of facts, but instead, belief is about a relationship. When Jesus died on the cross, so too did his relationship with Thomas. Thomas believed Jesus, he gave him his heart and his hope, and that belief couldn't live beyond the grave.

Unless, that is, Jesus lived beyond the grave, and that is so hard to fathom, that Thomas wanted proof before he handed his heart over to be burned again.

We all have doubts from time to time. That's a normal part of living the life of faith. We shouldn't begrudge Thomas for doubting (even if he didn't). What Jesus longs for in this post-resurrection encounter with Thomas is that we all might believe in him by handing over our hearts and our hopes that he might bring them to the fullness of joy. That's what living an Easter life is all about. That's what Thomas wanted, he just needed to see it, touch it, experience it before he was willing to risk relationship again. Believe me, I get that.

*Originally posted at [Draughting Theology](#)*

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ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA.... Blessings to all