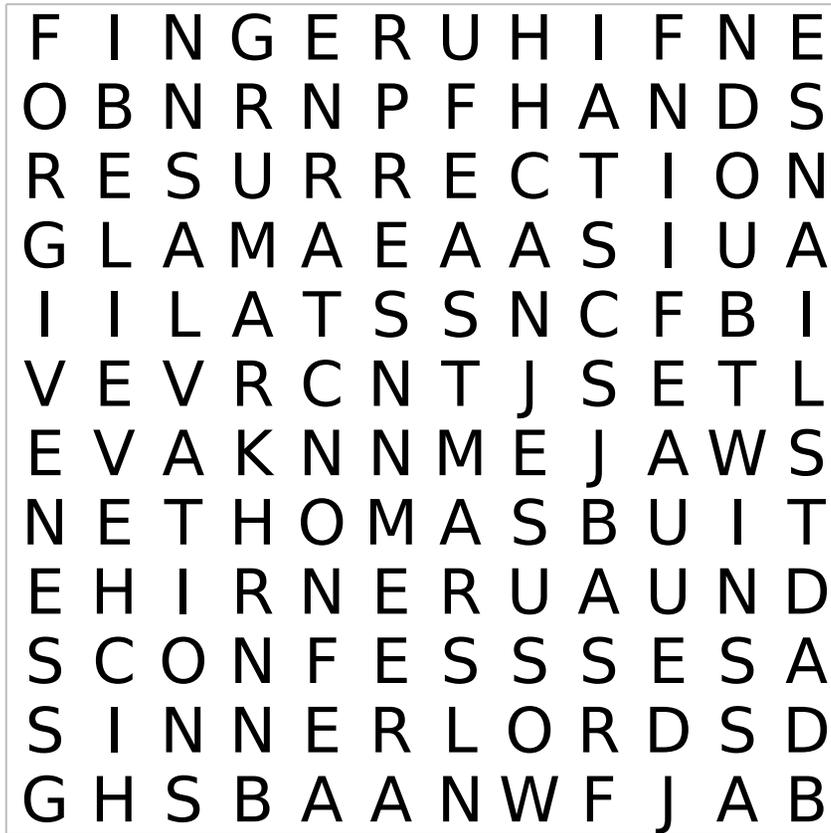


## WORD SEARCH



believe  
feast  
hands  
mark  
resurrection  
sinner

confess  
finger  
Jesus  
nails  
salvation  
Thomas

doubt  
forgiveness  
Lord  
peace  
side  
Twin

# LESSONS FOR LAMBS

**ST. THOMAS, APOSTLE (DECEMBER 21)**

*The color for St. Thomas, Apostle, is red.*



### **What to listen for during the service?**

Jesus said to the disciples, "Peace be with you." During the service listen for the words, "The peace of the Lord be with you always." When do they occur? What is about to happen? Who says these words to us? Who is he speaking for? Who gives us a peace that the world cannot give?

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## **Gospel Reading: John 20:24-29**

*(The Gospel Reading is from the part of the Bible that is about Jesus and his ministry.)*

24 Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

### **Questions to talk about with your parents:**

- 1) Who was Thomas?
- 2) What does it mean to doubt?
- 3) Why didn't Thomas believe the other disciples when they said they had seen the Lord? What had happened to Jesus before this?
- 4) How did Jesus get inside if the doors were locked?
- 5) What did Jesus tell Thomas to do? How did Thomas answer Jesus?
- 6) Did Jesus forgive Thomas for doubting Jesus' resurrection?

### **People of the Bible: Thomas**

Today we celebrate the feast of St. Thomas. But who was Thomas? Thomas was one of the twelve disciples. Thomas believed in Jesus and followed Him even though his life might be in danger, as we hear about in John 11. He was a faithful disciple who learned from Jesus during His ministry. However, Thomas, like all of us, was a sinner and did not always do everything perfectly. Thomas is most known for doubting the resurrection of Jesus when he heard about it from the other disciples. In John 20 Thomas says, "Unless I

see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." When Jesus appears eight days later, He invites Thomas to touch the marks in His hands and side, and Thomas believes saying, "My Lord and my God." Though Jesus wanted Thomas to believe without seeing Him, Jesus forgives Thomas for his doubt. Thomas confesses that Jesus is the Christ and knows that salvation only comes through Him.

### **HYMN – "By All Your Saints in Warfare"**

- 1 By all Your saints in warfare,  
For all Your saints at rest,  
Your holy name, O Jesus,  
Forevermore be blest!  
For You have won the battle  
That they might wear the crown;  
And now they shine in glory  
Reflected from Your throne.
- 2 All praise, O Lord, for Thomas,  
Whose short-lived doubtings prove  
Your perfect twofold nature,  
The fullness of Your love.  
To all who live with questions  
A steadfast faith afford;  
And grant us grace to know You,  
True man, yet God and Lord.
- 3 Then let us praise the Father  
And worship God the Son  
And sing to God the Spirit,  
Eternal Three in One,  
Till all the ransomed number  
Fall down before the throne,  
Ascribing pow'r and glory  
And praise to God alone.