



Delivered

Everyday FAITH Family Page

Law/Gospel

I sin when I doubt the forgiveness given through the Church.

Christ Himself gives complete forgiveness in the words of Absolution spoken by my pastor.

Bible Words

[Jesus says,] "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 16:19

Prayer

Dear Jesus, You are our risen Savior and Lord! Because of Your sacrifice on the cross and Your triumphant resurrection from the dead, we have the gift of God's forgiveness for our sins. May we never doubt the forgiveness we receive because it is based on You, who paid for our sins with Your own blood on the cross. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

John 20:19–23

The disciples had good reason to remain behind locked doors in fear. Jesus Christ, their mentor and friend for three years, was dead, put to death by the Jewish authorities and the Roman Empire. Jesus' ministry included miracles, amazing demonstrations of His divine power. If such a teacher could not resist the power of the Jewish leaders and Rome, what possible chance did the disciples have?

In addition to fear, the disciples no doubt experienced profound despair at the death of their beloved Jesus. As circumstances had appeared, Jesus had not turned out to be what they had expected. Even up until Christ's ascension into heaven, many of the disciples still expected Jesus to claim His rightful throne as the earthly king of Israel and usher in a new era of peace and prosperity for the Jews. This possibility died with Jesus on the cross. For those who had more clearly understood Jesus' true mission, that, as He had repeatedly stated, He came into the world to die for the sins of many and rise again after three days, where was Jesus? Shouldn't He be alive? Was it all just a hoax?

Yet now, Jesus appears and stands among them. We are fixed on His first words, "Peace be with you." Jesus' peace is not made up of empty, meaningless well-wishes or good intentions. Jesus brings peace because He accomplished peace. He bids the disciples to embrace what He earned for them on the cross. Sin was removed and with it, enmity with God. Now, the task at hand is to equip and empower the disciples, His servants, to take that peace, that forgiveness, into all the world.