

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Children's Meditation & Sermon) Rev. Mark P. Bruesehoff  
APRIL 3, 2016 "SHOW ME, JESUS" ST. JOHN, OCEAN CITY, NJ**

The title to this morning's sermon is: SHOW ME, JESUS! It's not SHOW ME JESUS, as if someone will stand up here and pretend to be Jesus by dressing the part and playing the role. It's SHOW ME, JESUS, as in the way Thomas asked to see His hands and His feet and where the nails had held Him to the cross and His side and where the spear had pierced Him. *"SHOW ME, JESUS, because we want to see; because we need to see; because we have trouble believing."*

SHOW ME, JESUS, because Easter was last week! TODAY... Not so much! Not so many people! Not so many flowers! And most of my candy is gone! Besides that, the excitement of last week is not so much today. But that does not make today, any less important than last Sunday. Every day is a celebration of Jesus in our lives. Every Sunday is a celebration of Jesus resurrection. Every day is a day to say: CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

For the first Disciples it was no different. In today's Gospel we hear that they locked themselves into a room because they were afraid. Afraid that what happened to Jesus, might happen to them. They might be hurt or killed. They were not sure Jesus really was alive. Suddenly Jesus comes to them and says, *"Peace be with you."* It is Jesus' way of saying, *"You do not have to be afraid. I am here! I am with you! I will always be with you! Even when you cannot see Me!"* Then Jesus has something to show them. He shows them His hands and His feet. Where the nails had made the holes! Jesus shows them His side. Where the spear had made a hole!

DOES JESUS HAVE ANYTHING TO SHOW US TODAY! I AM SO GLAD YOU ASKED!

He does have something to show us today! These are called "RESURRECTION EGGS." They were an Easter present from daughter Emily. And these are exactly what Jesus wants us to SEE, TODAY! Each of these eggs has something on the inside. Something to SEE that reminds us of what Jesus has done for us. Each of these eggs can remind us of something that we SEE TODAY, that tells us that Jesus is still with us.

**#1 A DONKEY**

Jesus road a donkey into Jerusalem. The king would ride a donkey only in times of peace.

We may not see many donkeys, but they can remind us that Jesus is our King of Peace.

**#2 SILVER COINS**

The coins that bought Jesus' life. His enemies bought His freedom and bought His life, because they could not find any other way to get Him. He had done nothing wrong.

We support the work of the Church and God's work in the world with our coins.

**#3 PASSOVER CUP**

The cup that Jesus and His Disciples used for Passover, when God set His people free from slavery in Egypt, and their last time together before Jesus went to the cross.

The cup that reminds us that we are ONE IN JESUS. When we come to communion, we are together with one another and with Jesus.

**#4 PRAYING HANDS**

Jesus went to the Garden to pray for strength to face the cross and all the people who wanted to put Him to death.

When we pray, for strength, for help, for those who are sick, and when we pray to say "Thank You" to Jesus for His love.

**#5 LEATHER WHIP**

Jesus was whipped and beaten. They wanted Him to hurt Him.

There is no good reason for anyone to have a whip. They serve no purpose. But a fine leather strap is good for many things. The best, to hold your pants up!

## #6 CROWN OF THORNS

It was just another way to make fun of Jesus, and hurt Jesus. Dress Him up like a king, and put this kind of crown on His head, and hurt Him some more.

They made this crown from something that came from a plant. But the plant is not just sticks and thorns, it also has a very beautiful flower. The plants that grow in God's creation, can remind us of Jesus in our world.

## #7 NAILS IN THE CROSS

The nails and the cross are the hard reminders that Jesus gave His life for us. With nails they hung Him on that cross.

The cross is our trophy. It is something we wear proudly, to show others that Jesus is our Savior, that Jesus loves us and that Jesus is always with us. And the nails? Just think of how many nails were used to build the CHURCH.

## #8 DICE FOR GAMBLING

They took the one thing that belonged to Jesus, His clothes, and they gambled to see who would get them.

There are still many wrong ways to gamble, but God also wants us to play and have fun, and enjoy life, and to play games.

## #9 SOLDIER'S SPEAR

To make sure Jesus was dead, they poked Him with the spear. In today's Gospel Jesus has His Disciples look at His side, where the spear made that hole.

The prayer of the Church is that someday the world will not need any spears. And all the spears will be made into tools for gardening. Turn those spears into pruning hooks. We need to keep praying for that.

## #10 LINEN WRAPPING

When they took Jesus off the cross they wrapped His body in a linen cloth. That was how they put Him into the Tomb. On Easter Sunday, the linen cloth was there, but Jesus was not.

LOOK AROUND. Where do we see white material? On those who serve the Lord in worship. It has lots of other uses, but here in the Church it reminds us of serving Jesus.

## #11 STONE OF THE TOMB

The stone was rolled in front of the tomb, to keep it safe, to keep Jesus in. And they thought the story was over. Jesus was gone, GOODBY! But not even a huge stone could keep Jesus in. The stone was rolled away! Jesus was free!

There are so many uses for stone in building. But we see them one other place. Lots of stones. In the Cemetery. And when we put a stone over the grave of someone we love, we can remember that while the stone did not keep Jesus in His tomb, the stones over our grave will not keep us there either. Jesus calls us to come home to Him. Jesus calls us to come to heaven, and live there with Him.

We have one last egg, #12, AND WHAT DO WE FIND IN HERE? NOTHING!!!

It is empty, just like the tomb. Jesus is not in the tomb any more. The Easter story is complete.

But the Easter story is not over. In a little while the Church will be empty, until next Sunday, just like the tomb, just like this egg. And where will we be? OUT THERE, in all the places we live and play and work. And when we are there... JESUS IS WITH US.

Let us pray: SHOW US, JESUS! Give us something to see, and help us to believe. Help us to believe that Jesus loves us, to believe that Jesus hears our prayer, to believe that Jesus goes with us everywhere we go. SHOW US, JESUS... and help us to believe that the Easter story has been told, but the Easter joy is never gone. And all God's children say, AMEN. **Sola Deo Gloria!**