



# 瀬田の丘



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Today's reading

Easter Sunday, Year A (April 12, 2026)

Pastor: Father Hiroshi Konishi

First Reading: Acts 2:42 - 47

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3 - 9

Gospel Reading: John 20:19 - 31

## Seeing and Believing

In the Gospel of John, the verbs “see” and “believe” often appear together (2:23, 4:48, 6:30, 36, 40, 20:8, 25, 29a, 29b). Among these, the following are examples of people who believed after seeing the “signs” performed by Jesus.

Jesus was in Jerusalem during the Passover, and many people believed in his name when they saw the signs he performed (2:23).

Jesus said to the officials, “Unless you see signs and wonders, you will never believe” (John 4:48).

So they said to him, “What sign will you perform so that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?” (6:30).

When the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord,” Thomas said, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe” (20:25).

The last passage is part of today's Gospel reading. In last week's Gospel passage, it is not clear what “the other disciple whom Jesus loved” (20:2) saw that led him to believe. It simply states, “Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in. He saw and believed” (20:8). He did not see any “sign.” This disciple (who may have been a symbolic figure representing the ideal disciple) may have anticipated the words in today's Gospel reading:

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (verse 29).

I would like to savor the meaning of verse 29: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Thomas did not believe even after hearing what the other disciples had experienced upon meeting the risen Jesus. He would not even listen to the “words” of their testimony: “We have seen the Lord” (verse 25). He wanted to see and touch Him for himself.

However, it seems that Jesus Himself knew the futility of mere sight. As it says, “Jesus was in Jerusalem during the Passover, and many believed in His name when they saw the signs He was performing. Yet Jesus did not entrust Himself to them” (see verses 23 - 24 of chapter 2 and verse 48 of chapter 4).

On the other hand, the Gospels also depict people who believe through the “word.” Examples include the Samaritan woman (see John 4:41) and the official who went home believing his son would be healed (see John 4:50). Even without seeing Jesus with their own eyes, they came to believe through the “word” of the disciples’ testimony. In other words, the “blessing” lies in the transformation from being someone who sees to someone who hears the “word.”