QUASIMODOGENITI

JESUS BREATHES ON THE DISCIPLES

JOHN 20: 19-31

Memory Verse: John 20: 22-23

And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Terms

Retained Unforgiven.

Listen to the Gospel and answer the following questions:
Where are the disciples gathered? Why are the doors locked? Why are the disciples afraid of the Jews?
Is Jesus really dead? What day is this?
What is the first thing that Jesus says to the disciples?
Then what does Jesus do? Why does He do this?
How does Jesus showing His hands and His side bring "peace" to the disciples?
How do the disciples respond when they hear the words of Jesus and see His hands and side?
What does Jesus do next?

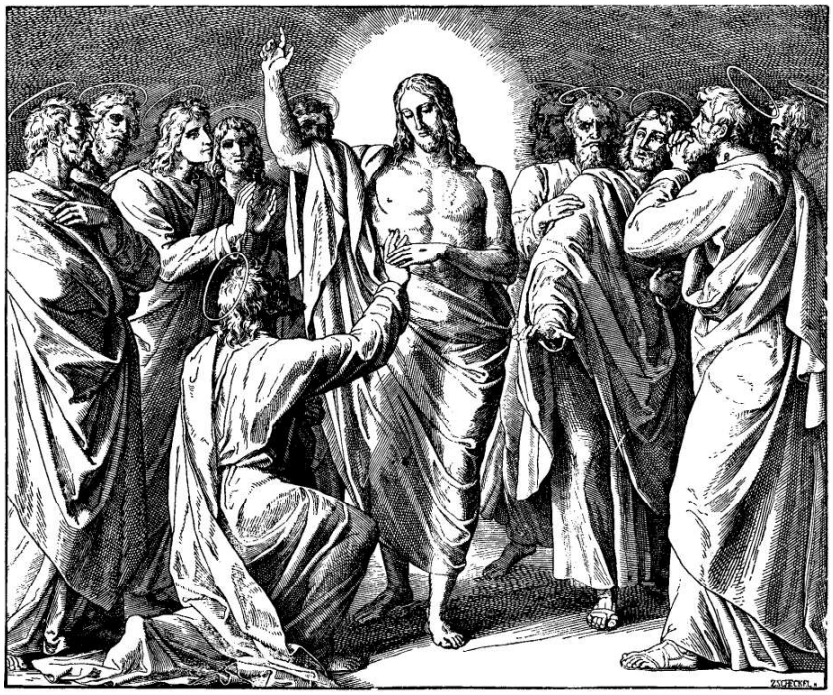
The Peace of the Lord

Jesus appears to the disciples and the first thing He says to them is, "Peace be with you." These were the first words that Jesus spoke to all the disciples after He died.

The disciples were afraid. They were hiding from the Jews in the upper room. They thought that the Jews would come and take their lives as they had taken Jesus' life.

All the disciples also abandoned Jesus. They left Him when He got arrested. When they saw Him, they might have been afraid of Him too.

But Jesus gives them peace. He continues to give peace to us in Church. Just before communion, the minister presents the Body and Blood of Jesus and says, "The peace of the Lord be with you alway."



Read Colossians 1: 18-22 and answer the following questions:

1. What is Jesus called in verse 18?

2. What does it mean in verse 20 that we are "reconciled" to God through the blood of Christ?

3. According to verse 21, what were we before we were reconciled to God through the death of Jesus? What did we do that made us this?

Read Romans 5: 1 and answer the following question:

Why do we have peace with God according to this verse?

These passages explain why Jesus gave the disciples peace, and why the minister gives us peace through the Body and Blood of Jesus today. In Jesus' Body and Blood, we have forgiveness. We are justified, or declared righteous by God, on account of Jesus' death on the cross for our sins. We have peace with God because our sins are forgiven, and we are no longer enemies of God.

From Disciples to Apostles

What do we call those 12 men who followed Jesus? Sometimes we call them *disciples*. Sometimes we call them *apostles*. Is there a difference between these two words? Yes! There is a very important difference between these two words.

Disciple	Comes from the Latin word *discipulus*. It means "student."; A disciple is one who is taught the Gospel by Jesus or by one whom Jesus sends.
Apostle	Comes from the Greek word *apostolos*. It means "one who has been sent." An apostle is one whom Jesus sends to teach and preach the Gospel, and to administer the sacraments.

To compare and contrast a disciple and an apostle, but an "A" for apostle and a "D" for disciple in each of these statements:

_____ This person gives the gifts of Jesus to others.

_____ This person receives gifts from Jesus.

_____ Everyone is one of these.

_____ Only one who is called and ordained is one of these.

_____ Today, the symbol of this one is a stole.

_____ This one sits in a pew and hears the Word.

And With Thy Spirit...

In the liturgy, when the minister says, "The Lord be with you," we respond, "And with thy spirit." What does this mean? What "spirit" are we talking about? Based on the Gospel we just read, what spirit are we talking about?

Of course, we are talking about the Holy Spirit, the very spirit that was breathed on the apostles in the very beginning! Because of this spirit, the minister has the authority to forgive sins. It is not just he who is forgiving our sins, but it is the Lord by the Holy Spirit. This is why we pray that the Holy Spirit might be with him. We want the seal of God behind our forgiveness!

Catechism Study: The Office of the Keys

Open the Small Catechism and study the section on the Office of the Keys. Read what it says under the question, "What do you believe according to these words." Answer the following questions:

1. Does the Lord still send out men to speak the forgiveness of sins? If so, who are they?

2. What does it mean that the minister deals with us by Christ's "divine command"?

3. What words does the minister say that shows he speaks by divine command? (Use a hymnal!)

4. What other authority is given to ministers if a sinner refuses to repent?

5. How much can we trust the word of Holy Absolution from the minister?

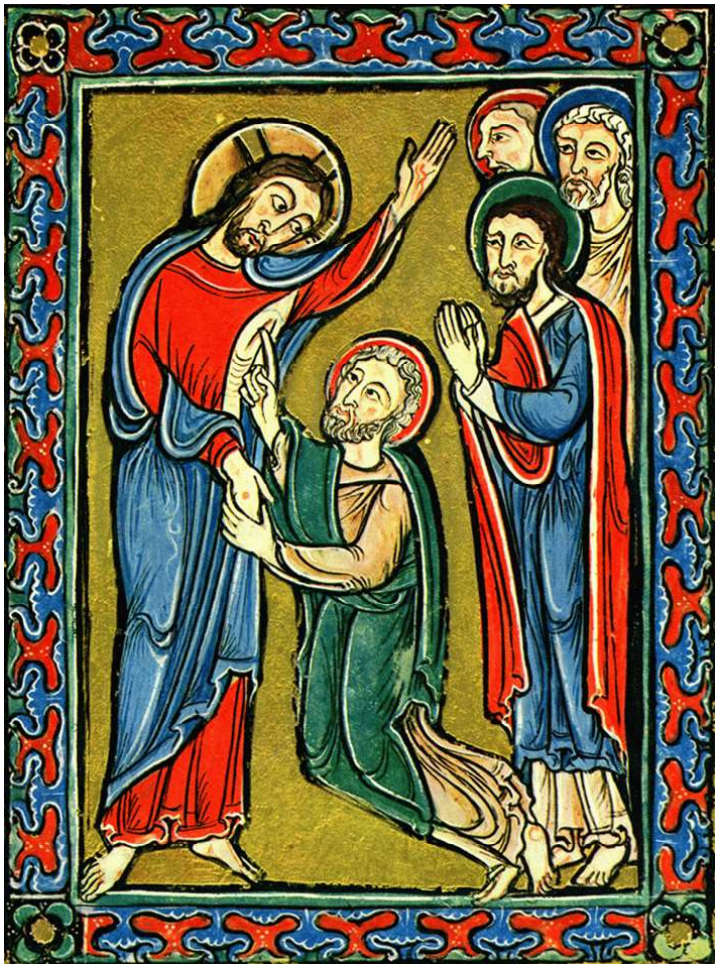
Blessed are those who believe without seeing

Write out Hebrews 11: 1:

Jesus said to Thomas, "Blessed are those who believe without seeing." In Hebrews 11: 1, we learn that faith is assurance. What does assurance mean? It means being sure of something. We learned that faith is being sure of things that we cannot see.

Have we ever seen Jesus? Have we seen the Holy Spirit in Holy Baptism? Have we seen Jesus' Body and Blood in Holy Communion? Do we see the Holy Spirit working by the minister?

The 12 apostles saw these things because they were witnesses of them, but Jesus said, "Blessed are those who believe without seeing." That is a promise to us! We are blessed because we believe without seeing.



Look at the following situations and discuss them:

1. John says that he sees spiritual things all the time. He sees Jesus in his dreams. He sometimes sees Jesus at church. His friend, Seth, thinks that he must not be very special. He never sees anything. All he sees is bread, wine, the pastor, and water. What should Seth be told?

2. Rachel tells her friend Tanya that she feels the Holy Spirit. She says, "When I hear the Gospel, I get this tingly feeling in my spine. That's how I know God is truly in me." Tanya feels bad. She never feels anything. All she hears is the pastor preaching. What should Tanya be told?