

## Read John 20:24-31

The events here are pretty familiar to most of us and will instantly put two words in our heads: *Doubting Thomas*.

Well, perhaps it is the case that he doubts who Jesus is. But maybe there are all sorts of additional ways that we can describe Thomas' approach?

Thomas wants reassurance. Looks to me like in such an anxious and uncertain time he needs to really be sure that Jesus is Jesus, that he is the Son of God, risen from the dead. Isn't that a bit like us right now?

Maybe wasn't quite so fearful as the others? He was not hiding away in the locked room when Jesus appeared the first time. He is also bold enough to voice his doubts and questions.

And Thomas declares who Jesus is: "My Lord and my God!" He worships the Son of God there and then. He acknowledges who Jesus is: declares him to be his divine master.

I like to think that Thomas' way of understanding about the risen Jesus is there in the Bible for a reason. John tells us in verse 31 that his book is "*written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.*" Thomas' encounter is helpful for us to understand who Jesus is in whichever way works for us. Jesus invites Thomas to believe by exploration!

The important thing is that we believe: that we come to know that Jesus is Lord and Saviour, Son of God.  
Peace be with you.  
*Gerard*

## Prayers

Loving God

We thank you for all you give, for all you enable us to be.

We thank you that this day again you have given us life.

Loving God

We turn to you in these times of great anxiety and fear.

We turn to you that you would give us peace.

Loving God

We ask that you would protect all those who are frontline workers.

We ask that you would help us to look out for each other, to do what is best for others.

Loving God

We ask that in your power you would defeat the Coronavirus.

We ask that you would help us in your power, rebuild from this something that reflects your glory, your Kingdom.

We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Psalm 56:3-4

*When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.  
In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid.*