

# When Jesus Pursues Doubters

Welcome to worship at Rainbow. We are delighted that you are here.

This morning we will learn from Jesus' interaction with doubting Thomas what happens when he pursues those who struggle with doubt. Thomas' life is a testimony to how kind and merciful Christ is to doubters. He bears with the infirmities of all His people.

How do you respond to people when their faith is feeble? Remember Thomas' case and be compassionate and tender. Our Lord has many weak children in His family and many frail lambs in His flock. Yet He bears with them all and casts none away. Happy is that Christian who has learned to deal likewise with his brothers and sisters.

**PRAYER OF PREPARATION \* 9:00 AM Service \* Gathered Worship**

Have you ever wondered why we devote so much time to the reading and preaching of God's Word in corporate worship? Like doubting Thomas, we all struggle with unbelief. The Apostle Paul reminds us of the antidote: "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17).

*Prayer: Father, as we worship, read and study your Word together, would you be pleased to enlighten, convince, and humble us, conform us to your image, build us up in your grace, strengthen us against temptations and corruptions, and establish our hearts in holiness and encouragement. AMEN.*

**PRELUDE . . . . . O Worship the King**

**CALL TO WORSHIP. . . . . 1 Peter 1:8-9**

Though you have not seen him, you love him.  
Though you do not now see him,  
you believe in him and rejoice with joy  
that is inexpressible and filled with glory,  
obtaining the outcome of your faith,  
the salvation of your souls.

**PRAYER OF ADORATION. ....**

**HYMN OF PRAISE .....O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing**

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of His grace.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease,  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of canceled sin,  
He sets the prisoner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean;  
His blood availed for me.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,  
Your loosened tongues employ;  
Ye blind, behold your Savior come;  
And leap, ye lame, for joy.

My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread thro' all the earth abroad,  
The honors of Thy name.

## HYMN OF ADORATION. . . . .Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

Lo, He comes with clouds descending,  
Once for favored sinners slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending,  
Swell the triumph of His train:  
Alleluia! alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold Him,  
Robed in glorious majesty;  
Those who set at naught and sold Him,  
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
Shall the true Messiah see.

Now redemption, long expected,  
See in solemn pomp appear:  
All His saints, by men rejected,  
Now shall meet Him in the air:  
Alleluia! alleluia!  
See the day of God appear.

Yea, Amen! let all adore Thee  
High on Thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,  
Claim the kingdom for Thine own:  
O, come quickly, O, come quickly!  
Everlasting God, come down.

**MORNING PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION. . . . .**

Ever faithful and most gracious Father,  
You promise blessing to those who trust You  
without the aid of sight.  
Yet we confess losing our battle with unbelief regularly.  
Forgive us for doubting Your provision, promises, and plan.  
Pardon us for the times that we have faced our trials  
with cowardice and not courage,  
with fickleness and not faith.  
Grant us to discover anew  
in Jesus' death and resurrection  
the reality, immensity, and assurance of Your love.  
We pray in the strong name  
of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON . . . . .Acts 26:18**

Let us "turn from darkness to light  
and from the power of Satan to God,  
that receive forgiveness of sins  
and a place among those who are sanctified  
by faith in Jesus."

**HYMN OF ASSURANCE. . . . . My Faith Has Found a Resting Place**

My faith has found a resting place,  
from guilt my soul is freed;  
I trust the ever-living One,  
his wounds for me shall plead.

Refrain:

I need no other argument,  
I need no other plea,  
it is enough that Jesus died,  
and that he died for me.

Enough for me that Jesus saves,  
this ends my fear and doubt;  
a sinful soul I come to him,  
he'll never cast me out. [Refrain]

My heart is leaning on the Word,  
the written Word of God:  
salvation by my Savior's name,  
salvation thro' his blood. [Refrain]

My great Physician heals the sick,  
the lost he came to save;  
for me his precious blood he shed,  
for me his life he gave. [Refrain]

**ANTHEM . . . . . Depth of Mercy**

**GREETINGS/MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES. . . . .**

**SCRIPTURE MEMORY CHALLENGE. . . . .Psalm 23:1-2**

The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.  
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside the still waters.

**SERMON TEXT. . . . .John 20:24-29**

**THE SERMON . . . . .When Jesus Pursues Doubters**

*#5 in our series on "When Jesus Pursues"*

1. He comes to us in spite of \_\_\_\_\_ (24-25).
2. He ministers to us his gospel of \_\_\_\_\_ (26-27).
3. He transforms us into his blessed \_\_\_\_\_ (28-29).

**COMMUNION. . . . .**

It is our privilege to celebrate the Lord’s Supper today.  
It is the family meal of believers by which we recall Jesus’ cross,  
relive his anguish, and renew our vows to live as His followers.

We invite all followers of Jesus Christ to participate:

- who are baptized members of a gospel-proclaiming church,
- who are endeavoring to live at peace with God and others,
- and who seek grace and strength to live a life pleasing to our Lord.

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION . . . . .**

## HYMN FOR COMMUNION . . . . . Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

Alleluia! sing to Jesus!  
His the scepter, His the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph,  
His the victory alone;  
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion  
Thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus, out of ev'ry nation  
Hath redeemed us by His blood.

Alleluia! not as orphans  
Are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! He is near us,  
Faith believes, nor questions how:  
Though the clouds from sight received Him  
When the forty days were o'er,  
Shall our hearts forget His promise,  
"I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Bread of heaven,  
here on earth our food, our stay.  
Alleluia! Here the sinful  
flee to You from day to day.  
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,  
earth's Redeemer, hear our plea  
where the songs of all the sinless  
sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal,  
thee the Lord of lords we own;  
Alleluia, born of Mary,  
earth thy footstool, heav'n thy throne:  
Thou within the veil hast entered,  
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest;  
Thou on earth both Priest and Victim,  
In the eucharistic feast.

**BENEDICTION. . . . . Psalm 67:1-2**

May God be merciful to you and bless you,  
And cause His face to shine upon you,  
That Your way may be known on earth,  
Your salvation among all nations. AMEN.