

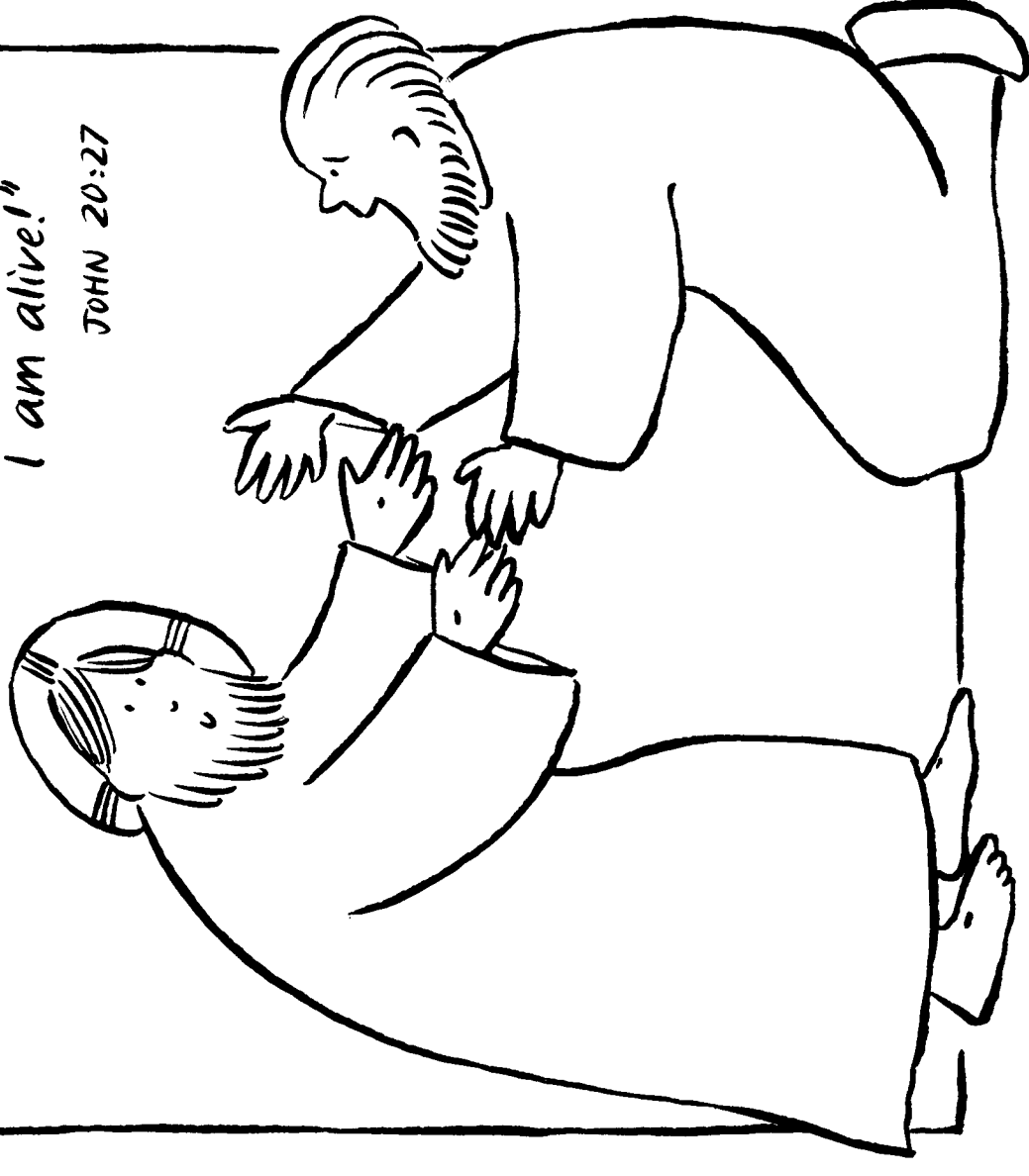
THE SUNDAY PAPER JUNIOR

2nd SUNDAY
of EASTER

Jesus said to Thomas,

“Reach out and touch me.
I am alive!”

JOHN 20:27



A NOTE TO PARENTS

Children love the story of doubting Thomas. When Thomas did not believe his friends, Jesus did something special, just for him: he gave him the opportunity to see for himself. And, so that all of us who come later need not feel left out, Jesus told Thomas, “*Blessed are those who have not seen, and have believed.*”

Seeing may be believing, but there are many things we believe in without seeing them. See how many you and your child can think of:

- ◆ Things that don’t show up to our eyes, but we can know them with our other senses (sounds, smells, tastes)
- ◆ Things that are too small to see with our eyes (germs)
- ◆ Things that are too far away (the design on your friend’s shirt when he is all the way across the playground)
- ◆ Things that are moving too fast (the blades on a fan)
- ◆ Things we can see right through (air, glass)
- ◆ Things that are hidden or around corners; things in the dark
- ◆ Things we can’t see or touch, but feel in our hearts (love, anger, happiness)
- ◆ Things we used to see that are there no longer, but we remember them
- ◆ Things we have never seen, but other people have seen and have told us about
- ◆ Things we haven’t seen, but we’ve seen their results, or some sign that they once were there

As you talk about Thomas, you may want to make a game out of trying to think of as many examples as you can of things we believe in but can’t see. Can you think of any other categories besides the ones already listed? Which of these categories are most like the reason we believe in Jesus, though we can’t see him?

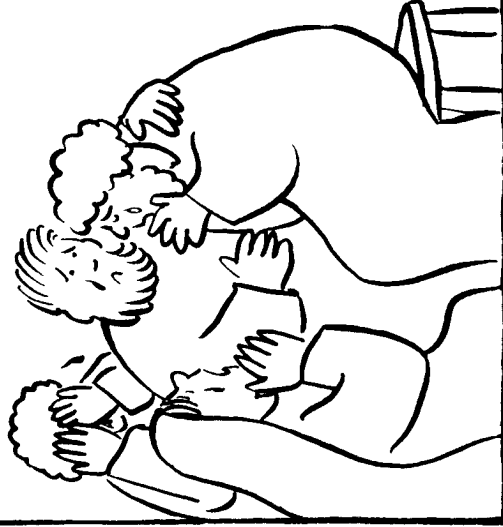
There is nothing wrong with doubt. The other disciples may have been sad or frustrated that Thomas did not believe their story and share their joy, but they remained in community with him. So, when Jesus came again, Thomas was there to meet him, and believe.

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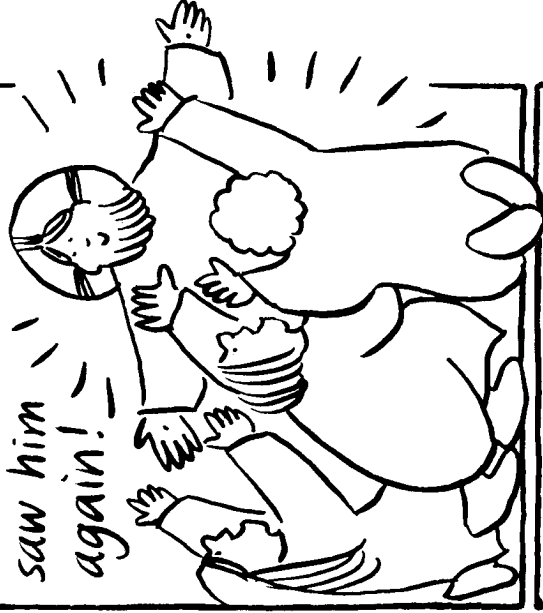
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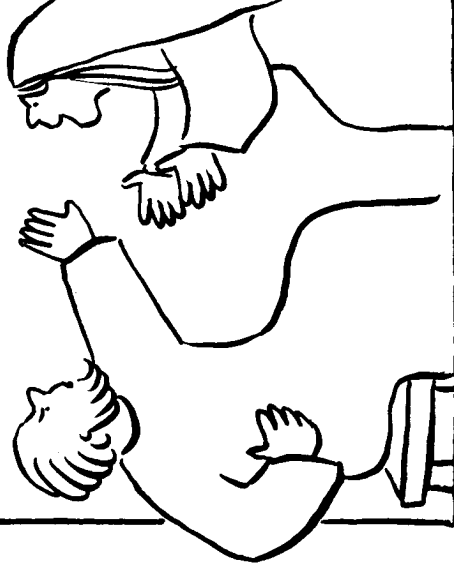
When Jesus died,
his friends were sad.



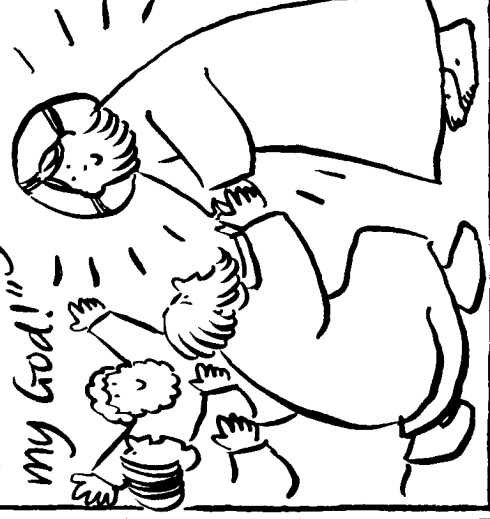
But God gave Jesus
new life. His friends
saw him again!



Thomas didn't believe
it when he heard
that Jesus was alive.



Then Thomas saw
Jesus, too. He said,
"You are my Lord and
my God!"



When Thomas saw Jesus, he believed in him.
Jesus said, "I have a special blessing for
the people who believe in me even though
they have not seen me."

We have not seen Jesus, but we can believe
in him. We can love him, and be near him
in bread and wine. We can try to be like
him, and we can pray to him.

Draw people praying. What do they see in their minds?