



This Sunday's Gospel – 2nd Sunday of Easter Year A
(John 20:19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." 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; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe." Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.



This is the Gospel of the Lord

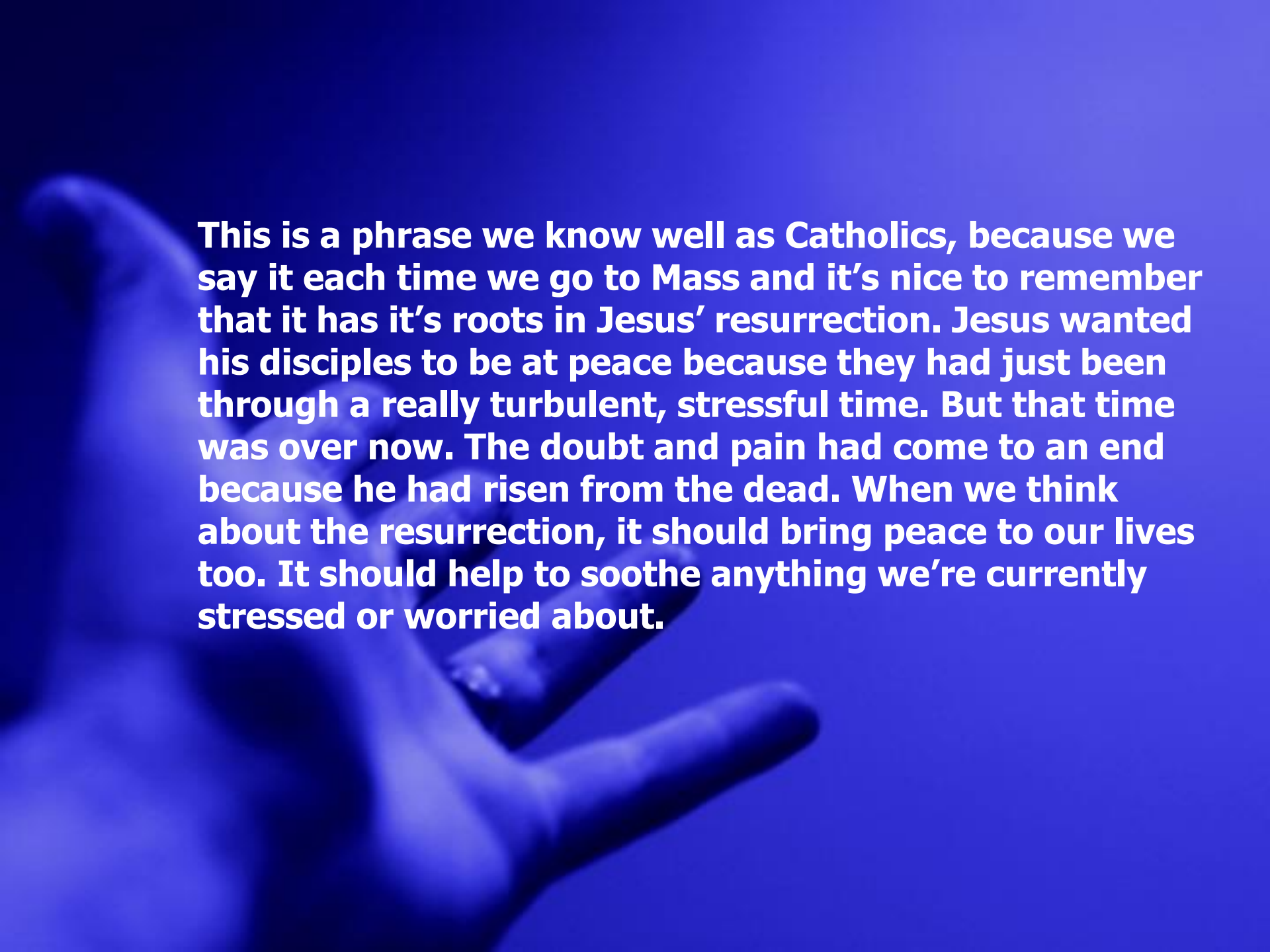
Prayer One

The Sign of the Cross

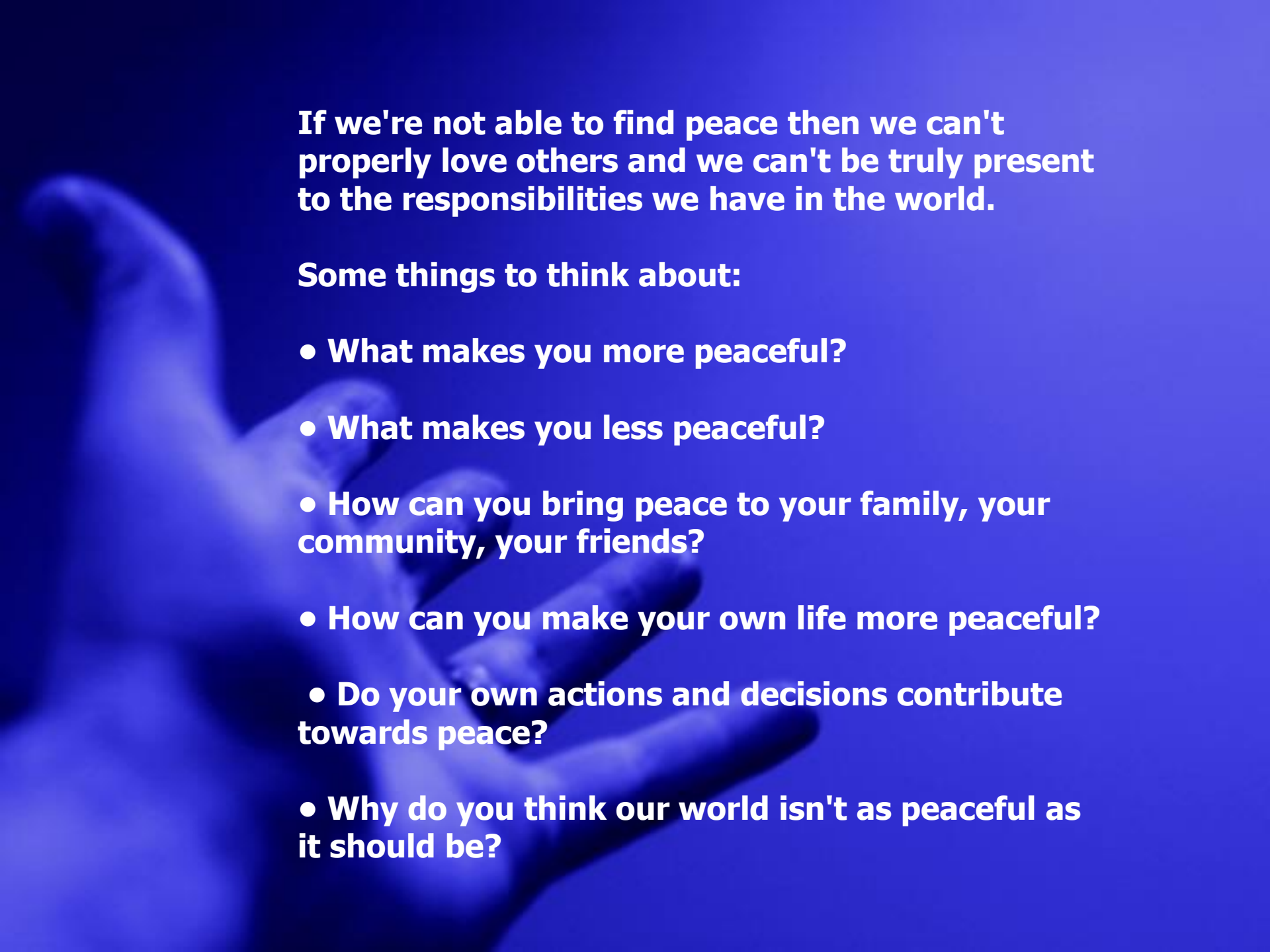
Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Reflection:

When Jesus meets the whole group of disciples for the first time after the resurrection, his first words are 'Peace be with you.'



This is a phrase we know well as Catholics, because we say it each time we go to Mass and it's nice to remember that it has its roots in Jesus' resurrection. Jesus wanted his disciples to be at peace because they had just been through a really turbulent, stressful time. But that time was over now. The doubt and pain had come to an end because he had risen from the dead. When we think about the resurrection, it should bring peace to our lives too. It should help to soothe anything we're currently stressed or worried about.

A blue-tinted image of a hand reaching out from the left side of the frame, palm facing up, symbolizing peace or offering. The background is a solid blue color.

If we're not able to find peace then we can't properly love others and we can't be truly present to the responsibilities we have in the world.

Some things to think about:

- **What makes you more peaceful?**
- **What makes you less peaceful?**
- **How can you bring peace to your family, your community, your friends?**
- **How can you make your own life more peaceful?**
 - **Do your own actions and decisions contribute towards peace?**
- **Why do you think our world isn't as peaceful as it should be?**

Final Prayer

LOVING FATHER...

You can see into our hearts. Into the parts of us that we dare not share with anybody else. Into those places where there may well be hidden pains and fears. Help us to trust in you and to believe that you truly are risen again, and as we do, help us to have hearts that are filled with peace and joy.

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
AMEN.**

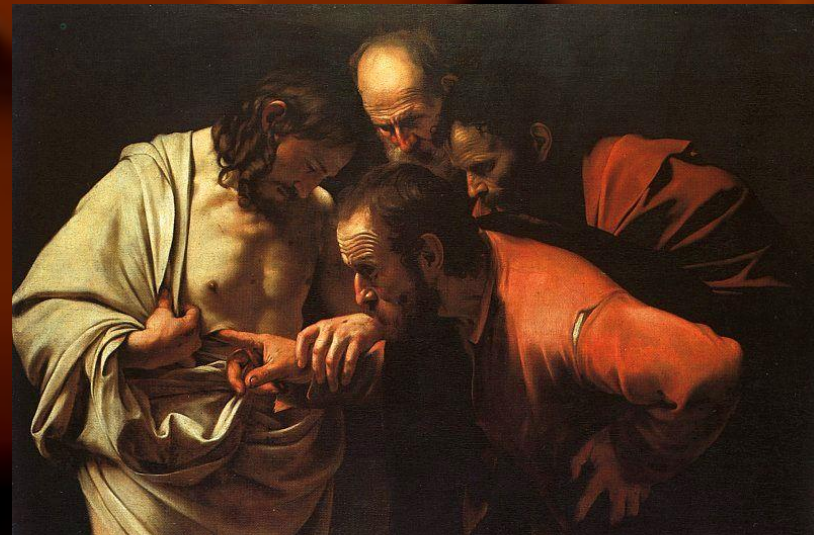
Prayer Two

The Sign of the Cross

**Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

***Reflection: In this week's Gospel, we get the story
of doubting Thomas***

Thomas was one of Jesus' followers. One who refused to believe that he had risen from the dead until he could actually see him for himself and see the marks made by the nails that had held him to the cross. Because Jesus had indeed risen again, he turned up and showed Thomas his wounds. Thomas was happy, but Jesus gives him a slight ticking off for his lack of faith! We don't have Jesus standing in front of us today, but we still have a lot of proof that the resurrection happened. We are called to believe it and to live our lives joyfully because of it!





Final Prayer:

LOVING FATHER...

**Take away our doubt. Fill us with
faith in you, and turn that faith in to
a strong, lasting love.**

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND
OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY
SPIRIT. AMEN.**

Prayer Three

The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Reflection: *This Sunday - the second
Sunday of Easter - is now known in the
Church as Divine Mercy Sunday...*



The idea of Divine Mercy came from a polish nun called Sister Faustina, who lived in the early part of the 20th century. The idea is to pray for those who do not know God, and for those who have turned away from God and from living good lives. It is also a prayer that we can show mercy to others and that we can have faith in God's goodness to us.



Final Prayer

God our Father, in this time of Easter when we celebrate the story of our faith, we pray for all those who do not know you.

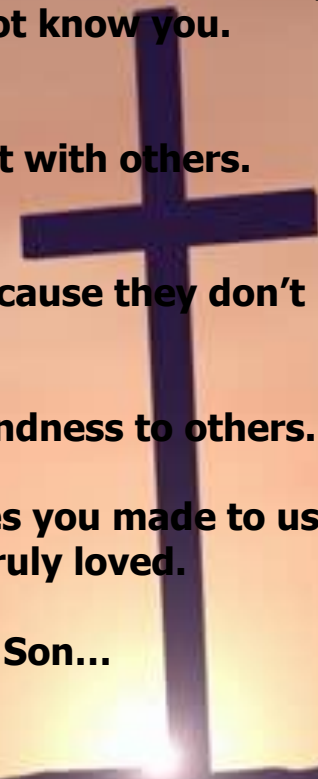
We pray for everyone who is living in conflict with others.

We pray for everyone who is unhappy in life because they don't know they are loved.

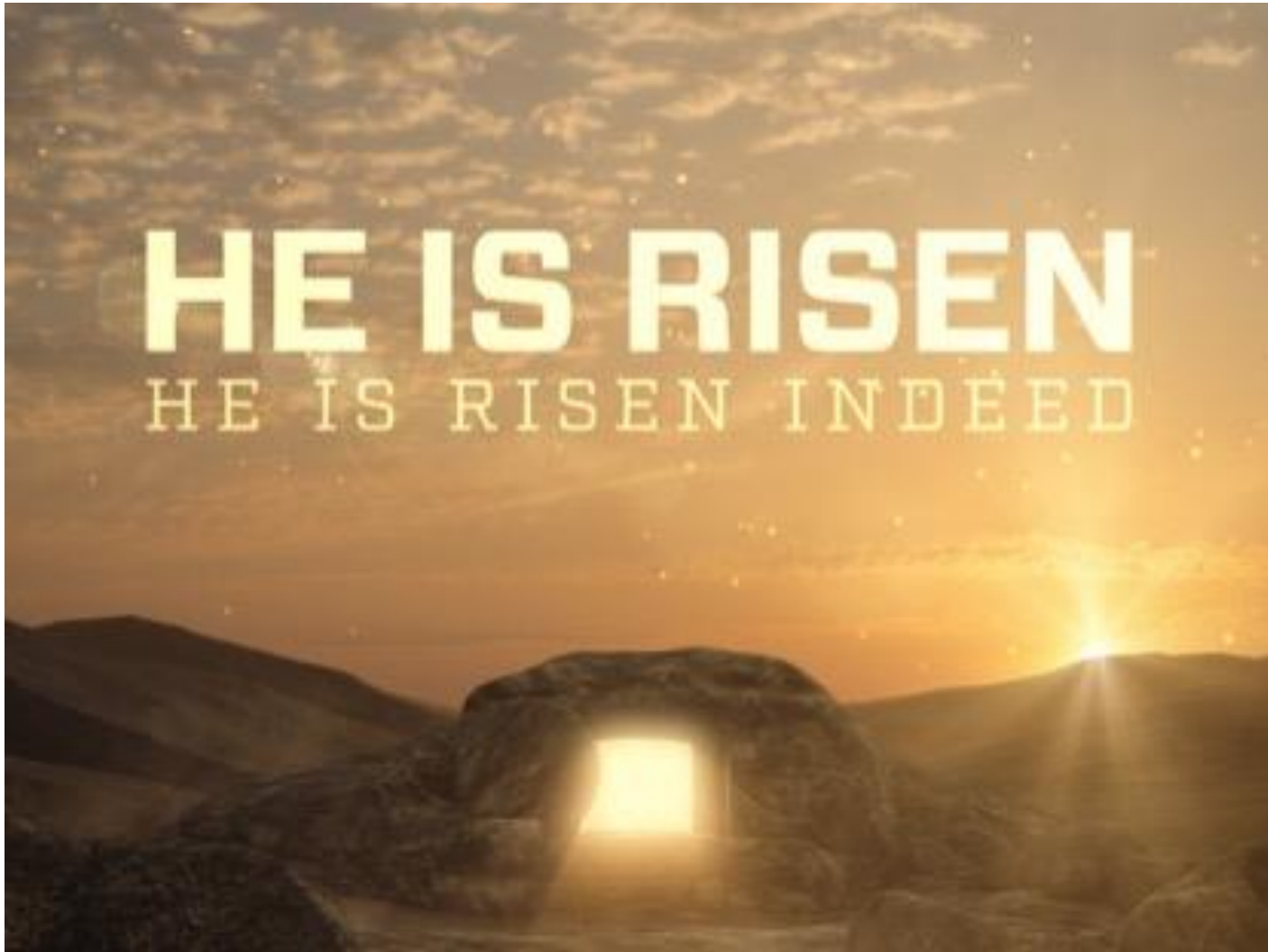
We pray that we can always show mercy and kindness to others.

We pray that we can always trust in the promises you made to us, and that we can live as people who are truly loved.

In the name of the Father and of the Son...



Final Thought...



Next weeks theme: Realisation