

	<b>Jesus appears to his disciples</b>	
<b>Presence of God</b>	Considering how God looks at me.	
<b>History</b> John 20, 19 – 23	<p>19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.</p> <p>21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”</p>	
<b>Petition</b>	<i>Lord, may I know you more clearly, love you more deeply and follow you more nearly in this time of triumph and jubilation!</i>	
<b>Contemplation</b>	<p><b>v 19 The disciples are with the doors locked</b>  <i>The disciples had witnessed the horror of Jesus’ death and feared to suffer the same fate. So they were together with the doors locked, the lights off, still, in silence... and their hearts were fearful and sorrowful.</i>  <i>Imagine the disciples...scared to death. Try to imagine the house they were staying in... What did it look like? How did they feel? What did they think?</i></p> <p><b>vv 19 – 20 Jesus comes to console us</b>  <i>The doors were locked but Jesus came and stood among them. He appeared before them. When Jesus resuscitated, He entered the dimension of God, which is not bound by time or space but encompasses it all. He is everywhere, always with us, but on that occasion He became visible and greeted them saying “Peace be with you!” He did not reproach them for having abandoned him; on the contrary, He wished them “peace”, love, joy. According to the gospels, the disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Imagine Jesus appearing to the disciples... What did his face look like? What was He wearing? What did his wounded hands look like? How did the disciples feel?</i>  <i>Imagine you are one of the disciples ...you look at Jesus and Jesus looks at you and shows you his hands and his side.... What do you feel? What do you do?</i></p> <p><b>vv 21 – 23 Jesus sends his disciples</b>  <i>Jesus did something very nice: He breathed on his disciples. And with this breath which came from his heart, He shared his Spirit, the Spirit of love, the Holy Spirit, with his friends. When He did so, He told his friends that his Father had sent him to earth to save us; and that now He would give them the strength of the Spirit, of the love of God and send them to share the word of God – the good news of salvation, the forgiveness of the sins, reconciliation – with every man.</i>  <i>Imagine that you are there and Jesus breathes on you... feel the Spirit of love getting into you and filling you with strength, light, joy, warmth, the intention of being good and sharing the word of God and the good news of Salvation.</i></p>	<p>The disciples were experiencing just what mankind experienced before Salvation: fear, sadness, shame, disloyalty. We have all experienced times when we feel “locked in”, with our doors closed and too weak to stand on our feet.</p> <p>Jesus comes and stands among them. He, once resuscitated, appears before his people and their communities, families, groups, friends. Sometimes we feel that we are blessed to go through certain experiences in life, and on those occasions, we can strongly feel the presence of Jesus alive, acting; the Savior coming amidst mankind.</p> <p>Jesus sends us all and this is an act of deep love and trust. The Lord gives us his biggest treasure: the Spirit of love that binds Him to his Father. He makes us part of that love and sends us to share his Word, the good news of Salvation.</p>

**Colloquy**

*Let's sit on the carpet, on the promised land, near Jesus, to hear him in the silence of our hearts. Imagine you are hugging Jesus who is full of life, light, love, peace, strength, and glory. Imagine that Jesus breathes his Spirit on you and asks you to become his disciple. After a little while, tell him how you feel.*

