



Midweek Meditation



"After that his brothers talked with him." Genesis 45:15

"When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side."

John 20:20

It takes more than words to convince some people. Joseph's brothers were such people; so were Jesus' disciples. Joseph spoke lovingly to his brothers who had sold him into slavery. But it wasn't until he kissed them and wept upon them that they were drawn out of their fear of him and were able to talk with him. Jesus said *"Peace be with you,"* to His fearful disciples. But it was after He showed them the marks of the nails and spear in His body that they were glad.

What does it take to convince us? God gives us words, but He also gives us signs as He gave His disciples and as Joseph gave his brothers. We need these signs along with His gracious words, for we have treated Him much worse than the brothers treated Joseph. In your Baptism Jesus weeps over you with joy, the water in the font dripping from your head like His precious tears. In His Holy Supper Jesus kisses you as His very body and blood touch your lips. With these signs, Jesus is assuring you that He is at peace with you; that His word of forgiveness is also for you; that you, too, are one for whom He died and rose again. Like His disciples, we can be glad, and like Joseph's brothers, we can draw near and speak to Him in prayer believing that He loves us.

Lord Jesus, by Your sufferings and death you are at peace with every sinner.

Assure me through Your gracious signs that You are also at peace with me. Amen.