



2nd Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Air

Gathering—Easter reminds us that from the tomb new life is possible, life that is transformed by the love of God in the resurrected Christ. In this Easter season, from now through Pentecost, we will encounter the God who transforms us and renews us. We will see God, follow God, believe God, love God, know God, and ask God. Like the butterfly trapped in a cocoon, God will help us rise from the tomb into the fullness and beauty of life. Let us worship the wondrous God we know in Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Time of Prayer— God of the visible and invisible, we gaze upon roads ahead knowing that you are ahead of us. We seek your presence when the fog is heavy and our hearts are hurting. In the moments of haze, clear the path before us. In the moments of clarity, show your face to us. Allow us to hear your voice in the depths of night as we search for your presence and call.

The Lord's Prayer (unison)—Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Bell Anthem

A Joyful Ring

We Hear God's Word

John 20:19-31 (NRSV)

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus

came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵ So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’²⁸ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’²⁹ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Meditation “From the Tomb”

See God

Hymn

Christ is Alive, #312

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation— We hold many gifts in our hearts and minds. As we sense your presence surrounding us, may we discern ways to use our talents and treasures for the health of your realm.

April Benevolence—Our Church’s Wider Mission

Celebrating Generosity: Stories About Why We Give

Ted Schory

You can mail your offerings to our office or give online at www.zionuccindy.net/donate

Doxology

We Give Thanks— Holy God, Holy Light, even when our surroundings are murky, you shine around us. Even in the long nights of discernment and wonder, you make your presence known, calling us to use all of our gifts to enhance this world. May the gifts we share today and each day hereafter create a Church of grace and a Community of love. Amen.

Hymn

Because He Lives, #447

Benediction— No matter the brightness of the day or the clear skies of night, our God is moving with us, the Christ is calling to us “Peace be with you,” and the Holy Spirit is surrounding us. May Divine Serenity be our companion as we build the realm of God on earth. Amen!

Postlude

Christ Arose