

THE SEASON OF EASTER

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY!

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



The 2nd Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Gathering—Alleluia! Christ is risen! Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice. Do not worry or fear, for Christ is alive! In this place, we find hope and joy. Alleluia! Christ is risen! Let us worship the one who brings new life.~

A Time of Prayer— God of the risen Jesus, we praise you for the great love that you have shown to redeem us by sending your Son Jesus. Help us today to embrace the New Life that the resurrected Christ is giving us. A Life beyond our doubts, faith over fear, courage over confusion, belief over disbelief, and trust to follow your guidance. As we worship today, help us to feel the presence of resurrected Jesus in our midst, reminding us of your love and our purpose.+

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.

Special Music

I Walked today Where Jesus Walked

Martha Main accompanied by Judy Prosch

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

Because He Lives

Hymn

He Lives, 302

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation— Through the resurrection of Christ, we have been given new birth and a living hope. In thanksgiving and praise, let us bring our gifts to God.~

April Benevolence—Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries (CUE)

Doxology

We Give Thanks—Holy One, we give you thanks and praise for your promise of new life. We thank you for these gifts. As we offer them into your hands, may they bring hope and new life to those in need. In the name of the resurrected Christ, we pray. Amen.~

Hymn

Because He Lives, 447

Benediction— Let us step out into the world knowing that we are not alone. When doubts and fears surround us the Risen Christ is with us empowering and encouraging us to transform our wounds into sources of liberation. May the power

of resurrection, the divine peace, and the empowering grace of the Triune God be with us now and forever more. Amen.+

Postlude

Psalm 50: The Mighty One, God the Lord