

**A Service of Morning Prayer
April 16, 2023
Second Sunday of Easter**



The Incredulity of Thomas 1308-1311, by Duccio di Buoninsegna
Museo dell'Opera del Duomo (Siena, Italy)
from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

Have you believed, Thomas, because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe. *John 20.29*

Hymn CP 252 Spirit Come, Dispel Our Sadness

1 Spirit, come, dispel our sadness;
pierce the clouds of nature's night.
Come, O source of joy and gladness,
breathe your life, and spread your light.
From the height which knows no measure,
as a gracious shower descend,
bringing down the richest treasure
we can wish, or God can send.

2 Author of the new creation,
come, anoint us with your power.
Make our hearts your habitation;
with your grace our spirits shower.
Hear, O hear our supplication,
blessed Spirit, God of peace!
Rest upon this congregation
with the fullness of your grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with you all.

And also with you.

May his grace and peace be with you.
May he fill our hearts with joy.

Almighty God,
**To you all hearts are open,
All desires known,
And from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
That we may perfectly love you,
And worthily magnify your holy name;
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Psalm 16*Refrain:* God will not abandon me to the grave.

16:1 Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

16:2 I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

16:3 As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

16:4 Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

16:5 The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

16:6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

16:7 I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

16:8 I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

16:9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

16:10 For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

16:11 You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

A Reading from Acts 2:14a, 22–32

2:14a But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them,

2:22 "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know-

2:23 this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law.

2:24 But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.

2:25 For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

2:26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope.

2:27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption.

2:28 You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

2:29 "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

2:30 Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne.

2:31 Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

2:32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 655 Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

1 Holy Spirit, ever dwelling in the holiest realms of light;
 Holy Spirit, ever brooding o'er a world of gloom and night;
 Holy Spirit, ever raising those of earth to thrones on high;
 living, life-imparting Spirit, you we praise and magnify.

2 Holy Spirit, ever living as the church's very life;
 Holy Spirit, ever striving through us in a ceaseless strife;
 Holy Spirit, ever forming in the church the mind of Christ:
 you we praise with endless worship for your gifts and fruits unpriced.

3 Holy Spirit, ever working through the church's ministry,
 quickening, strengthening, and absolving, setting captive sinners free;
 Holy Spirit, ever binding age to age and soul to soul
 in communion never ending, you we worship and extol.

A Reading from 1 Peter 1:3–9

1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1:4 and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

1:5 who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1:6 In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials,

1:7 so that the genuineness of your faith--being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1:8 Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,

1:9 for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 231 That Eastertide With Joy Was Bright

1 That Eastertide with joy was bright;
 the sun shone out with fairer light,
 alleluia, alleluia!

when, to their longing eyes restored,
 the apostles saw their risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia,
 alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 He bade them see his hands, his side,
 where yet the glorious wounds abide;
 alleluia, alleluia!

the tokens true which made it plain
 their Lord indeed was risen again.

Alleluia, alleluia,
 alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 From every weapon death can wield
 thine own redeemed forever shield:
 alleluia, alleluia!

O Lord of all, with us abide
 in this our joyful Eastertide.

Alleluia, alleluia,
 alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Jesus, the king of gentleness,
 do thou thyself our hearts possess,
 alleluia, alleluia!

that we may give thee all our days
 the tribute of our grateful praise.

Alleluia, alleluia,
 alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according John

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

John 20:19–31

20:19 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."

20:20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

20:21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

20:22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

20:23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

20:24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

20:25 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."

20:26 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."

20:27 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."

20:28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

20:29 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."

20:30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.

20:31 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.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 6367165 We Believe

1 In this time of desperation
 When all we know is doubt and fear
 There is only one foundation
 We believe we believe
 In this broken generation
 When all is dark You help us see
 There is only one salvation
 We believe we believe

Chorus

***We believe in God the Father
 We believe in Jesus Christ
 We believe in the Holy Spirit
 And He's given us new life
 We believe in the crucifixion
 We believe that He conquered death
 We believe in the resurrection
 And He's coming back again
 (We believe)***

2 So let our faith be more than anthems
 Greater than the songs we sing
 In our weakness and temptations
 We believe we believe

Bridge

Let the lost be found and the dead be raised
 In the here and now let love invade
 Let the church live loud our God will save
 We believe we believe
 And the gates of hell will not prevail
 For the pow'r of God has torn the veil
 Now we know Your love will never fail
 We believe we believe

Ending

He's coming back again
 He's coming back again
 We believe we believe

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven.
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again
 to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People compiled and led by Jody Watson

Let us come into the presence of God with quiet reverence and humble hearts. We pray for Stephen, our Bishop and for our church of St. Peters and all who worship in her, especially for Rev. Alison, our Deacon, and for Nadine, our music director.

We pray for all ministries the world over, whether large or small. Today let us pray especially for the members of St. Peter's Altar Guild both present and past who faithfully serve and have served in this ministry of love and dedication.

We pray for the people of war torn countries the world over where your children are oppressed, living in fear, are hungry, injured or mourning the loss of those affected by the brutalities of war. We ask that you comfort and bless them.

We pray for the dictators of this world and we ask that you soften their hearts.

In prayer we name those who have requested intercessory prayer:

Sandra... Merle..... Mary..... Irene Helen..... Tony and Mary Jean..... Bill.....
 Geraldine.... Florence..... Joan..... Shirley and Cyril..... Lisa..... Marijke.....
 Chrissie, Cathy, and the family..... Diane..... Janelle..... Rosemary..... Roald.....
 Sandy..... Luci

We also remember all those who have asked for our individual prayers on their behalf and for those in need, known only to you, Heavenly Father. Amen

Collect

Almighty and eternal God,
 the strength of those who believe
 and the hope of those who doubt,
 may we, who have not seen, have faith
 and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing,
 who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

**And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
 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 trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

CP 222 All Shall Be Well

1 All shall be well!
 For on our Easter skies
 see Christ the sun
 of righteousness arise.

3 All shall be well!
 The cross and passion past,
 dark night is done,
 bright morning come at last.

5 Jesus alive!
 Rejoice and sing again;
 all shall be well
 for evermore, Amen!

2 All shall be well!
 The sacrifice is made,
 the sinner freed,
 the price of pardon paid.

4 All shall be well!
 Lift every voice on high;
 "Death has no more
 dominion but shall die."

The Dismissal

Have you believed, Thomas, because you have seen me?
 Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe. *John 20.29*

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness working
 in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and
 ever. Amen.

My dear friends, be swift to love, make haste to be kind,
 and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.