

## **Second Sunday of Easter**

Sunday, April 12, 2026

### **Introduction to the day**

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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 in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-32**

A reading from Acts.

*After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.*

### **PSALM: Psalm 16**

In your presence there is fullness of joy. (Ps. 16:11)

### **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9**

A reading from 1 Peter.

*This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.*

### **GOSPEL: John 20:19-31**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.*

### **GOSPEL MESSAGE - SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - Be Curious**

The hit Apple TV series *Ted Lasso* became a cultural phenomenon as the first season was released in August 2020, in the thick of the global pandemic. This sports-comedy-drama told the story of the title character, an American college football coach turned professional English soccer coach with zero experience in that sport. Ted's genuine positivity was hilariously infectious amid the real challenges he faced in his work and relationships. He encouraged people not to make assumptions of one another and to "be curious" in life.

In many ways, the disciple Thomas could have been an acolyte of Ted Lasso. Though he is often dubbed "the doubter," Thomas's disposition was really one of curiosity. After all, how could he not be curious? He was

the one disciple who missed out on Jesus' first resurrection appearance in that locked house. Who wouldn't feel the sting of missing such a sight, and hope to share in a similar experience? Thomas, in his faithfully curious way, desired to put his hands in Jesus' pierced hands and side. His belief in the resurrection was contingent upon the quenching of his curiosity. That is, without his inquisitiveness, the story lacks its climactic revelation: Thomas's proclamation, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

We could go on labeling Thomas a doubter, but such a title is unfortunately riddled with disparaging connotations. Perhaps we would do well to claim him as "Thomas the curious," recognizing that doubt and belief intersect along curiosity's pathway. Thomas may just be our example of how to perceive the resurrection in our midst, thereby leading us into a deeper understanding of life with the risen Christ. After all, it is his proclamation we share in the Easter season as we declare Jesus crucified and risen. May we, too, be curious as we look for signs of Easter among us.

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way especially Chris Burchat, Natasha Gagnon-Burchat, Shirley Glickman, Donna L. Hoffman, Glenda Panke, Marilyn Schneider, Doug Sell and those in long term care facilities and senior residences. Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. In this moment of silence, we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts, those who need your healing touch. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant. Today, we remember our brother, the Rev. David Metzger. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL (ELW p. 222)**

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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**Announcements:**

**Sunday April 12th - Easter 2**

10:30 AM – Grace - SOW  
Sunday School

**Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 to 3:00 PM – Grace Quilters  
4:00 PM - Confirmation  
5:00 PM – Grace Youth Group – Messy Church

**Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 AM – Grace Bible Study

**Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM - Cuddles and Hugs

**Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 – 11:30 – Toy Bus  
9:30 AM – Grace Choir

**Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Pastor's Day Off**  
9:00 – 11:00 – Toy Bus Parents

**Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

9:00 AM - Bonnechere – Holy Communion  
10:30 AM – Grace – Holy Communion  
Sunday School

***Whitewater Wesleyan Puppeteers***

*We are really looking forward to having the puppeteers come to Grace on Sunday, May 3, 2026. Their presentations will be a part of our worship time. Details are being finalized.*

***Effective immediately, any committee, group or sponsor wanting to include information in our May /June newsletter will need to submit information to the church office electronically no later than Tuesday, April 21, 2026. Any submissions after this date, will not be included.***