

A Service of Hymns and Prayers for the Second Sunday of Easter
Theme for the day: Believing/Belief
Prepared and Offered by the Bishop's Staff



Welcome

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth
Bishop of Ohio

Opening Prayer of the Day

Kyle Mitchell
Farm Manager Bellwether Farm

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Prayer for the Disciple Thomas by Cole Arthur Riley

William Powel
Canon to the Ordinary

God of Thomas,
Please understand that to believe is to risk.
We need you - a Christ with
Dark scarred flesh
To bare his wounds and to push our own calloused skin into yours,
grant that as we touch the wounds of those we love,
that we might somehow, in great mystery, touch the wounds of Christ
and find belief.
Dig your hand into my side here.
I will help you find right where they pierced me.

The scars are here for a reason.

Hymn: "Welcome Happy Morning"

Hymnal 1982 #179

Poem: Dawn Revisited by Rita Dove

The Rev. Brad Purdom
Canon for Congregations

Imagine you wake up
with a second chance: The blue jay
hawks his pretty wares
and the oak still stands, spreading
glorious shade. If you don't look back,

the future never happens.
How good to rise in sunlight,
in the prodigal smell of biscuits -
eggs and sausage on the grill.
The whole sky is yours

to write on, blown open
to a blank page. Come on,
shake a leg! You'll never know
who's down there, frying those eggs,
if you don't get up and see.

Hymn: "The Easter Day Was Joy and Bright"

Hymnal 1982 #193

A Reading from the Book of Acts 4:32-35

Jessica Rocha
Director of Communications

The group of followers all felt the same way about everything. None of them claimed that their possessions were their own, and they shared everything they had with each other. In a powerful way the apostles told everyone that the Lord Jesus was now alive. God greatly blessed his followers, and no one went in need of anything. Everyone who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money to the apostles. Then they would give the money to anyone who needed it.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn: "This Joyful Eastertide"

Hymnal 1982 #192

A Reading from the Gospel according to St. John 20:19-31

The Rev. Margaret D'Anieri
Canon for Mission

The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders, and on the evening of that same Sunday they locked themselves in a room. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group. He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy. After Jesus had greeted them again, he said, "I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven."

Although Thomas the Twin was one of the twelve disciples, he wasn't with the others when Jesus appeared to them. So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But Thomas said, "First, I must see the nail scars in his hands and touch them with my finger. I must put my hand where the spear went into his side. I won't believe unless I do this!"

A week later the disciples were together again. This time, Thomas was with them. Jesus came in while the doors were still locked and stood in the middle of the group. He greeted his disciples and said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands! Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and have faith!"

Thomas replied, "You are my Lord and my God!"

Jesus said, "Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me? The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!" Jesus worked many other miracles for his disciples, and not all of them are written in this book. But these are written so that you will put your faith in Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God. If you have faith in him, you will have true life.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn: "Come Ye Faithful Raise the Strain"

Hymnal 1982 #199

Homily

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Bishop of Ohio
The Rev. Anna Sutterich, Canon for Formation

Hymn: "Now the Green Blade Riseth"

Hymnal 1982 #204

Intercessions for the Christian People

The Very Rev. Bernard Owens
Dean of Trinity Cathedral
Lonnie Gatlin
Chef at Bellwether Farm

On this day we praise our God for the dying which destroyed our death, and we pray for our world in need of life, saying: Lord, have mercy.

The Lord calls us to examine the wounded hands and feet of the risen one and to know the depth of his love for us. Let us approach Christ in faith and share the good news with all we meet. For this let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

The apostles received the Holy Spirit and the grace to lighten the burdens of one another's sin. May the church be faithful to this gift. May all the baptized live with abundant compassion for all, especially for those shut out from the society. For this let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ calls us blest who not having seen, yet believe. May more and more of God's people and all the created order become a sign of the resurrection in the world, and may our faith give courage to the doubting. For, this let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

We are strengthened by Christ's resurrection to share the power of the Spirit with all the suffering. We pray for all in any need. May the power of Christ's resurrection give life to all who have little reason to hope. For this let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

May that morning star which never sets, Christ our light, and find us burning with charity until the world is enlightened with love. For this let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

Take a moment to lift up the prayers on your heart and mind today.

Eternally creative God, give us the faith and courage to recreate the world in your image. We ask this in the name of the risen one, Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Hymn: "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

Hymnal 1982 #207

The Magdalene's Blessing by Jan Richardson

The Rev. Percy Grant
Canon for Ministry

You hardly imagined
Standing here,
Everything you had ever loved
Suddenly returned to you,
Looking you in the eye
And calling your name.

And now
You do not know
how to abide in this hole
In the center
Of your chest,
Where a door slams shut
And swings open
At the same time,
Turning on the hinge
Of your aching
And hopeful heart.

I tell you this is not banishment
From the garden
This is an invitation
a choice,
a threshold,
a gate.

This is your life
calling to you
from a place
you could never
have dreamed,
but now that you
have glimpsed its edge,
you cannot imagine
choosing any other way.

So let the tears come
as anointing,
a consecration,
and then
let them go.

Let this blessing
gather itself around you.

Let it give you
what you will need
for this journey.

You will not remember the words—
they do not matter.

All you need to remember
is how it sounded
when you stood
in the place of death
and heard the living
call your name.

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Members of the Virtual Diocesan Chorale