

Church of the Divine Love
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 24, 2022
10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #492 – **Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness**

Opening Acclamation for Easter page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Acts 5:27-32**

Psalm 118:14-29

Second Lesson: **Revelation 1:4-8**

Gradual Hymn – #184 – **Christ the Lord is risen again!**

Gospel: **John 20:19-31**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Confession of Sin page 360

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #205, vs. 1,3,4 – **Good Christians all, rejoice**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer B	page 367
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 362
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn – #324 – Let all mortal flesh keep silence	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #178 – Alleluia, alleluia!	
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday April 24, 2022

Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; Revelations 1: 4-8; John 20:19-31

Dear people of God,

Every year I come to this day, the Second Sunday of Easter and I wonder what difference last Sunday, Easter Sunday has made. Are our lives and world different because of Easter and, if so, how and in what ways? Look around. What do you see? Has your life changed? Are you living differently today than you did before Easter?

And when I look at the world today it looks pretty much the same as before. Before Easter there was a pandemic. After Easter there's still a pandemic. Before Easter there was illness and death. After Easter there's still illness and death. Before Easter there was pain and brokenness in the world. After Easter there's still pain and brokenness in the world. The list of before and after comparisons could go on and on. Things today look a lot like they did before Easter. What do we do with that?

I know the usual answers. Jesus overcame death. Sins are forgiven. Love prevails. All things are being made new. Alleluia. Christ is risen. I get that. And on most days, I believe it. I'm just not sure what all that means or looks like on a day-to-day basis. And I don't think I'm the only one who struggles with that. I think we all do, and I think that's why every year we come to this day, the Second Sunday of Easter, and hear the same gospel story. Today's gospel is the same one we heard last year on this day, the year before, and the year before that. It's the disciples' story of uncertainty, fear, and struggle with what to do with Jesus' resurrection. And it's our story with those things too.

Easter morning, "while it was still dark," Mary Magdalene discovered the empty tomb. She saw and spoke with Jesus. He called her by name. She left the garden of resurrection, went to the disciples, and told them, "I have seen the Lord." And what did the disciples say and do in response to that good news?

Do you remember? Nothing. They didn't do anything. They didn't jump up and down and shout for joy. They didn't say, "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" They didn't give thanks and praise to God. They weren't filled with courage and hope. They didn't make radical changes in the way they lived. They didn't claim for themselves a new life or a new future. Instead, they locked the doors.

Jesus is free, but the disciples have imprisoned themselves. The tomb is empty, but the house is full. The stone has been rolled back from Jesus' tomb, but the doors of the disciples' lives are closed and locked. And they're afraid of what's on the other side of those doors. That sounds a lot like life today. I wonder what doors of your house you've closed and locked. What are you afraid of? And what will it take to unlock the doors of your house? I'm not asking about the house in which you are social distancing or quarantining. I am asking about the house of your heart, the house of your imagination, the house of your creativity. I want to know about your house of love, your house of compassion and empathy, your house of hope and courage. Tell me about the house of your marriage, the house of your parenting, the house of your forgiving. In what ways have you used or allowed guilt, regret, disappointment, anger, resentment, sorrows and losses, wounds and hurts to lock the doors of your life? What houses your deepest longings and desires? What houses your dreams, delights, and the things that enliven you and make your heartbeat faster? What doors need to be unlocked and opened in order for you to live more whole heartedly?

As long as we remain behind the locked doors of our houses nothing will change. The world today will look the same as it did before Easter. Our lives today will look the same as they did before Easter. If today our lives and world look the same as they did before Easter, then you and I need to start looking for and unlocking some doors. Every time we unlock and open a door in our house we step into our own resurrection. Easter makes a difference. And the Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia. Every time, however, we shut the doors of our life, our mind, or our heart we imprison ourselves. For every person, event, or idea we lock out, regardless of the reason, we lock ourselves in. That's what has happened to the disciples in today's gospel. It is Easter evening, the first day of the week, the day of the resurrection, the day they saw the empty tomb, the day Mary Magdalene announced, "I have seen the Lord." The disciples are gathered in the house, the doors are locked with fear. A week later they are in the same place. It is the same house, the same walls, the same closed doors, the same locks. Nothing much has changed.

Jesus' tomb is open and empty, but the disciples' house is closed, and the doors locked tight. The house has become their tomb. Jesus is on the loose and the disciples are bound in fear. The disciples have separated themselves and their lives from the reality of Jesus' resurrection. Their doors of faith have been closed. They have shut their eyes to the reality that life is now different. They have locked out Mary Magdalene's words of faith, hope, and love. They left the empty tomb of Jesus and entered their own tombs of fear, doubt, and blindness. The locked doors have become the great stone sealing their tomb. They have locked themselves in. The doors of our tombs are always locked from the inside. All this, and it has been only one week.

When St. John describes the house, the doors, the locks he is speaking about more than a physical house with walls, doors on hinges, and deadbolts. He is describing the interior condition of the disciples. The locked places of our lives are always more about what is going on inside of us than around us. What are the closed places of your life? What keeps you in the tomb? Maybe, like the disciples, it is fear. Maybe it is questions, disbelief, or the conditions we place on our faith. Perhaps it is sorrow and loss. Maybe the

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE – DROP OFF IN THE KITCHEN

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Give to all who suffer the refreshing waters of your compassion and healing. Make them dwell in the safety of your care even in the midst of all that troubles them. Especially we remember before you:

Carol K.	Harriet Capers	Bob Curley
Julia	Arlene Goodenough	Celeste
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Grace Schinella
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Robert Sweat
Martinisi Family	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Sylvia
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Laura
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Taylor
Ciara	Gabriel	Aidan
Elodie	Del	Dorothy
People of Haiti	Chrissy Neville	Tim
Theresa K.	People of Ukraine	Amy E.
Nathan Treadwell	Christopher & Family	

Help us to speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them. Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom.
Amen

Prayer before Worship

Almighty God, who pours out on all who desire it, the spirit of grace. Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father I adore you,
Lay my life before you,
How I love you.

(Repeat twice with second verse starting with Jesus and third verse starting with Spirit).

Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions and glory, now and forever. Amen

