



"Christ Shows Himself to Thomas" by Rowan and Irene LeCompte.

Christ Church **UNITED CHURCH** OF CHRIST

and Rev. Dan Stark

www.uccmke.org

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! On this second Sunday of Easter, we, like the disciples after Jesus' resurrection, find ourselves wondering what the next development will be in our current situation. The first Easter did not take place as a celebration. No, the first disciples experienced grief and fear. We begin this Easter season with the sermon series, "Risen," which explores what life was like for the disciples in the wake of the empty tomb and for us in the wake of an empty church. Today we hear about Jesus' appearance to the disciples and his interaction with Thomas. Jesus invites us to explore our grief and skepticism as an expression of faith.

Words of Welcome

A Song for Today

Emmaus Sunrise

arr. Eric Lewis

Opening Litany

One: We are here as Mary Magdalene, who announced:

All: **"I have seen the Lord!"**

One: We are here as doubting Thomas, who cried:

All: **"My Lord and my God!"**

One: We are here as Simon Peter, who shouted:

All: **"Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."**

One: We are here because so many faithful disciples have listened to Jesus' words:

All: **"Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid!"**

One: Go and tell, Jesus has been raised!

All: **Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!**

A Time for the Child in Us

[The Road to Emmaus](#)

Spark Family Sunday School

Old Testament

[Psalm 16](#)

In the book of Acts 2:25-28, the Pentecost story, the Apostle Peter recites Psalm 16 in his address to the crowds about the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. In doing so, Peter links the death and resurrection of Christ to the words of the psalmist. Psalm 16 can be classified as a lament, in which the psalmist cries out to God in the midst of a turbulent, life-threatening situation. The psalmist speaks of their trust in God's protection and God's steadfastness.

Selected Reading

Thomas

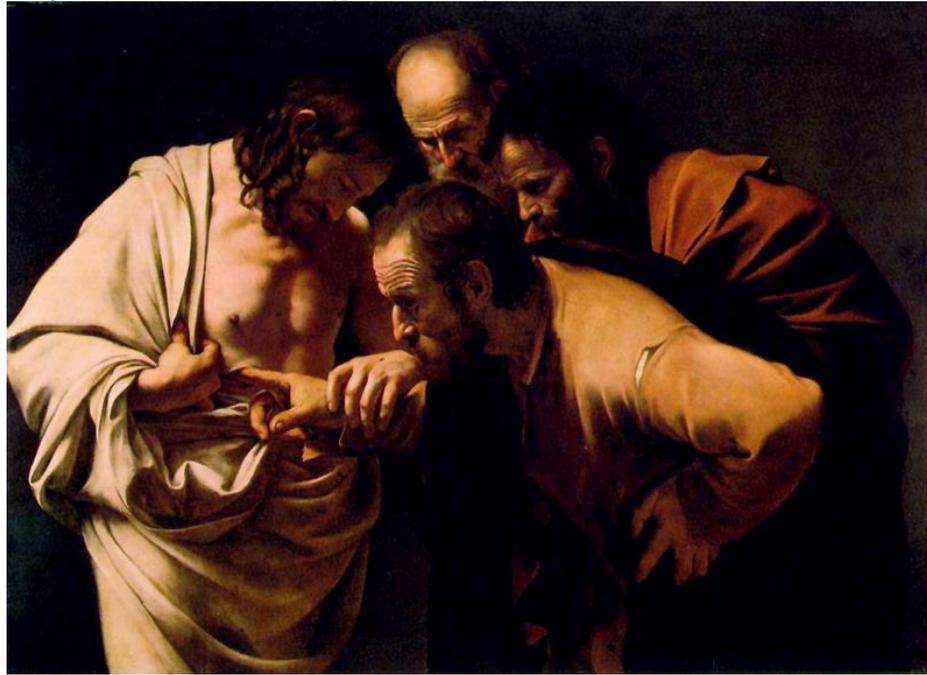
Sarah Are

Thomas, thank God you weren't there
When Jesus moved into the room,
when love conquered death,
when hope outweighed fear.
Thank God you weren't there
When Jesus first showed his scars or held onto those
disciples.
You were missing.
People said you were doubting.
But I wonder—
Is it possible that you were the only disciple brave enough to leave the upper room?
Maybe you weren't missing, maybe you were seeking.
Maybe it wasn't doubt, but irrational hope.
Whatever it was,



"The Incredulity of Thomas" Duccio, di Buoninsegna, d. 1319

You were missing,
So Jesus came back for you.
And if Jesus came back for you,
Then Jesus will keep coming back for
me.
Love is not abstract.
It had your name on it.
It has our name on it.
So thank God you weren't there,
Thomas,
When Jesus moved into the room.



The Gospel

[John 20:19-31](#)

At the time that John's Gospel was written, the Johannian community was still primarily Jewish, but they were at odds with other Jewish groups. John's post-resurrection account in this passage focuses on Thomas, who earlier in John 11 was [willing to go to the death with Jesus](#). After the resurrection, the

disciples were sequestered away in the house where they had previously spent time with Jesus. Despite their grief and bewilderment about Jesus' death and resurrection, they were in imminent danger. Despite the locked doors of the house and their hearts, Jesus appears to them and greets them with a message of peace. Unable to wrap his mind around Jesus' resurrection, Thomas was at first incredulous. However, Jesus invites Thomas to explore his wounds, which leads to a bold confession of his faith: "My Lord and my God!"

Homily A Song of Response

**Risen: Death, Doors, and Doubt
Because He Lives**

Rev. Dan Stark
soloist, Pam Kothrade

Prayers of the People

Brian O'Brien and his family as Brian's father Roger has passed away this week.

Jackie Struck's son-in-law Joe who is still hospitalized at St. Luke's Southshore with COVID-19.

Jackie Struck's granddaughter Jodie who has been released from the hospital and his quarantining at home as she tested positive for COVID-19.

Nancy Kaye's daughter-in-law Tracy as she is in a 14-day quarantine.

Nancy Kaye's daughter-in-law Jill, who has been working directly with Coronavirus patients and will continue to do so in the coming week.

Ken Klockow's sister Kathy, for comfort and healing of health problems as she has now returned home from the hospital.

Betty Budzien as she will soon move to a Senior Living Apartment after living 70 years at the same residence.

All our children who are missing out on a lot and feel like they are being punished.

Laura Pethke and her family as they continue to grieve the unexpected loss of her husband, Todd.

Roland and Loretta Senderhauf as they adjust to Roland living in a nursing home.

The family, friends, and coworkers of Milwaukee County Transit employee Jerry Wasielewski as they deal with the difficult situation of his death after going missing after work.

Andy Oren's tennis friend Tanya while she battles COVID-19.

For a baby that is due to be born soon who will need surgery immediately after birth.

Prayers for This Day

Prayers for All Seasons

Ellen Turnbu

For these prayers, you are invited to clench your fists tightly during the pastor's prayer and then relax your fists during the spoken response.

Everything we hold on to,
that holds us,
shapes us,
controls us,
and makes us doubt your presence (pause)
help us to let go now.
We receive your Holy Spirit.

The memories of hurt,
that speak loudly to us,
that cripple us,
dull us,
and make us doubt your presence (pause)
help us to let go now.
We receive your Holy Spirit.

The words that linger,
that have found a home in our reasoning,
that haunt us,
echo in us,
and make us doubt your presence (pause)
help us to let go now.
We receive your Holy Spirit.

The acts we have done,
that have hurt and abused others,
that linger in us and bound others,
and make us doubt your presence (pause)
help us to let go now.
We receive your Holy Spirit.

The Lord's Prayer Passing the Peace

Although we cannot be physically close to one another at this time, we can be relationally close. This Sunday morning, you are invited to pass the peace with your church family and loved ones by taking a moment to text, write, call, or message the people in your church family to let them know you are thinking of them. May the peace of Christ be with you.

A Song for Sending Sending

Rejoice, The Lord is King

arr. Lloyd Larson

One: Mary Magdalene announced:

All: "I have seen the Lord!"

One: Doubting Thomas cried out:

All: "My Lord and my God!"

One: Peter shouted to Jesus on the shore:

All: "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

One: We are here today because so many faithful disciples from different walks of life have listened to Jesus' words. Go forth and share the good news:

All: Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!

One: Go in peace.

--

If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email pastor@uccmke.org.
Christ Church UCC, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

You can make your offering to Christ Church through [PayPal](#) or by mailing a check to Christ Church,
915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

