



## Second Sunday of Easter

Holy Eucharist B

16 April 2023

**The Episcopal Church of the  
Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio**

Seeking to know and serve Christ  
in loving service to the campus, the  
community, and the world.

Today's printed [Order of Worship](#)

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## Lessons

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**Lessons** for Second Sunday of Easter

New Testament – Acts of the Apostles 2: 14a, 22-32

Psalm – 16 (Sung)

Epistle – I Peter 1: 3-9

Gospel – John 20: 19-31



<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

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## The Collect

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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.

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# The Gospel

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## John 20:19-31

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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

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

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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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."

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



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## The Sermon

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***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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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."***

The central focus of our Gospel reading this morning is the place where the disciples were hiding after the authorities had captured and killed their leader. They worried: would they be next? They did not dare venture out.

There had been much stress and civil unrest in Jerusalem. A man named Jesus had been going about the countryside, telling amazing stories—parables—and he was healing sick people, just by his presence. He even seemed to have brought a dead man back to life!

He had begun to have great crowds follow him; the authorities feared an insurrection.

When the powers-that-be feel threatened, they want to get rid of the threat. So in this story, they arrested Jesus, had a quick trial, found him guilty, and sentenced him to death.

They gave him a heavy cross of wood, made him carry it up a nearby hill, where they tied him to it, put nails in his hands and feet, and strung him up for all to see.

Some friends and family were there and watched it all happen; they could not stop it. They stayed, heard his last words, tried to give him some liquid for his thirst, and watched as he took his last breath. Jesus, called by some as King of the Jews, was dead.

He was taken down from the cross by friends, put into a small cave in the side of a hill. A large stone was rolled across the front. Remembering one of his last words, his friends and family knew: "It is finished."

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This story, as recounted by the apostle John: says that somehow, he who had been nailed to a cross and laid in a tomb, had appeared suddenly to his friends who were gathered in a locked room.

His disciples were in that locked room, and, as we might expect, were astonished! How could it be? This man whom they saw to be dead and buried, stood before them and greeted them with the words we still use—all these centuries later—"Peace be with you."

You know what took place: as it happened, one of the disciples, Thomas, had not been in that upper room when Jesus appeared. Afterward, he said,

“Unless I see the mark of the nails and put my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

Then, a few days later, Thomas and the other disciples were all gathered together, and Jesus suddenly appeared, offering Thomas the chance for the proof he had sought. Thomas, overwhelmed with the wonder of Jesus’ presence, simply said, “My Lord and my God!”

This many centuries later, that incredible life lives on through us, as we celebrate our belief in an event that seems utterly impossible.

What might be said about that moment—that incredible moment—we now celebrate as Easter Day? This is what the columnist, Ross Douthat, wrote: “(Here is) what’s obvious each and every Easter: That in their immediacy and mystery, their lapel-shaking urgency, their mixture of the mundane and the impossible, the Gospels are at least — at the very least — the strangest story ever told.”

Yes, this is the strangest story ever told—and it is one we have committed ourselves to believe.

Now here we are, so many centuries later, always ready to echo the words of the one we call Doubting Thomas, “My Lord and my God,” ready to serve him in this world of God’s creation, where we see the wonders of God’s grace and grandeur—the magnificence of flora and fauna, of story and song: they are all around us. We exult in the handiwork of the Almighty.

If only we could leave it at that—at the exclamation of Thomas, at our wonder in the world of God’s creation.

But if we truly live *in* God’s world, we acknowledge that, as we remember *Jesus’* death, we, too, are bedeviled (and maybe that’s the way to put it!) by *other* kinds of death, where we find so many people living in *our* society’s “locked rooms”: the “locked rooms” of desperate lives where people live in fear of—death, both physical and spiritual, brought about in various ways by

- \* hunger
- \* lack of housing/shelter
- \* loneliness
- \* color of skin
- \* personal faith

These are places of societal deaths, the contemporary “locked rooms” where people are either afraid or unable to leave. Certainly, those parts of peoples’ lives keep them in bondage in one form or another of today’s “locked rooms”, unable to live a fully free and happy life.

Our faith, however, tells us that as Jesus entered the locked room where the disciples were hiding, so, too, his spirit can enter the “locked rooms” of our lives—even the various kinds of “deaths” we encounter in our day-to-day

lives. There is Resurrection, there are new beginnings. That is what we mean by baptism, by cleansing and being born again.

As people baptized in the name of Jesus, we proceed in his name to bring hope, perhaps even freedom and release, to God's people locked in those rooms of hunger, homelessness, skin color, choice of faith, lack of close friends. As followers of Christ, we seek to serve him in all peoples.

We know of God's mighty works through the lives and struggles of the Jewish people; the life and ministry of Jesus, the Lord; the ministry of the disciples after the Resurrection; and the continuing witness of Christians everywhere—the witness we proclaim, even here, today, that Jesus lives, that God is present in this world—and even if we see despair and death and evil around us, that God will always overcome those deeds and love will triumph.

We have been entrusted, through our baptism in his name, to carry on his work as best we can. We do not demand to put our hands in his side; rather, our baptism propels us to proclaim "My Lord and my God", and to continue to rejoice in the strangest story ever told: the story of the empty tomb—the story that has propelled women and men like you and me for centuries—the story of the Resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.

***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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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."***



Second Sunday of Easter, 16 April 2023 – Sermon by Rev. David McCoy, Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, Ohio

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**Please include in your prayers**

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IN OUR WORLD, we pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, and for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; we pray for peace with justice throughout the Middle East. We pray for all families and law enforcement affected by gun violence. We pray for the victims of the coronavirus. We pray for all people affected by natural and environmental disasters. We pray for the people who



are suffering from war, especially the people of Ukraine, and we pray for all asylum seekers, immigrants and refugees. We pray for Joe our President, Kamala our Vice-President, Mike, our Governor, the Supreme Court and the members of Congress.

IN OUR DIOCESE, we pray for our Provisional Bishop Wayne, the search process for a new bishop, and for Kenneth, Nedi, and Wendell our assisting bishops.

IN OUR PARISH, we pray for Good Shepherd's continued growth, for our Rector Rev. Deborah Woolsey, for our Associate Priests, Rev. Leslie Flemming, and Rev. David McCoy, for our ministry to students, the university, and the community.

THOSE WHOM OUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED: Al S., Bud and Carol, Chris L., Jean R., Lia, Miriam, Sharon, R.C., Douglas and Gwynne Campbell, Ann Carswell, Zelma Coleman, Lee Kembell-Cook, Richard DeNune, Norm Fox, Lindsey and Regina Golden, Debbie Hunsberger, Bob and Nancy Jackson, John Jefferson, Peter Kachenko and family, Christine McGinn, Jeff Maiden, Rev. Ed Payne, Dan and Nancy Reedy, Virginia Richards, Jack Roach, Katyana Sayrs, Annette Secoy, Dale Showman, Michael Vaughn, and we pray for all who care for them. \*\*

BIRTHDAYS: Betty Hollow (4/17), Betsy Larson Wetmore (4/17), Deborah Messinger (4/17), Jack Flemming (4/19), Bethany Miller Callison (4/20), Carlos Walker (4/22)

FOR THE DECEASED: Julie Nehls



\*\* Full names are normally not published online. However for the Sunday 10:30 service we will publish full names unless requested otherwise. If you have a name to be added to the prayer list, Lynn Graham maintains this information. Lynn may be reached at **740-593-5098** or [grahammowery@aol.com](mailto:grahammowery@aol.com).

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## At-Home Worship

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Christ Church Cathedral Cincinnati live streams its services Sundays at 10 a.m. These are saved and can be watched anytime later.

<https://cincinnatiathedral.com/ccc/join-online/>

Washington D C -- there's much to explore at the the National Cathedral's

## Coming up on the Calendar

Sunday, April 23, 9:00 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, April 23, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 30, 9:00 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, April 30, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 30, 3:00 p.m. - - Celebration Concert III

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### Coffee Hour Schedule

April 23      Alex Buckley  
April 30      Lynn Graham

### Open Dates for Altar Flowers

[To Altar Flower Procedure](#)

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## Notes & Announcements (additional items in the Friday Bulletin)



### Julia Nehls

As reported, Julie Nehls passed away peacefully the afternoon of April 11 surrounded by some close friends. Arrangements will be forthcoming. Mother Deborah is away on vacation and is aware of Julia's passing and will be involved in the planning of the service when she and Michael return in a few days. Julie's obituary has been published the Athens Messenger and by the Jagers & Sons Funeral Home. [Please follow this link to the obituary.](#) In light of the number of entities involved the service itself may be delayed for a while.

**Please join us on Sunday,  
April 30, 3:00 p.m. for  
Celebration Concert III.**

**Dr. Gregory Crowell will  
be the guest organist.**



This the third in a series of concerts to celebrate the completion of the restoration of the 1952 Aeolian-Skinner organ will feature guest organist Dr. Gregory Crowell, senior affiliate professor of music at Grand Valley State College and director of music at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. [\(To More Information\)](#)

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## **Vacation**

**Mother Deborah and Michael will be on vacation April 10 – 17.**

**Please contact Alex Buckley the Senior Warden for pastoral emergencies.**

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## **Workers Memorial Friday April 28 at 12 noon**

Mother Deborah will once again be giving the opening prayer for the Athens Workers Memorial on Friday, April 28 at noon at the parking lot next to Attractions on Court Street. Everyone is invited to attend the brief ceremony honoring the people who lost their lives while working. Box lunches are provided for free.

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**For Bishop Transition News and Updates**

**[-- Follow this link --](#)**

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If you want to help the folks who have been negatively impacted by climate disaster and war anywhere in the world (including Ukraine) please consider contributing to [Episcopal Relief and Development \(ERD\)](#) which is the official ministry of the Episcopal Church.



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## Early Spring on the Forest Floor















## Contacts, Information

### Quick Links

[Parish website](#)

### Pandemic Notes:

[Link to the DSO guidelines for in-person worship](#)



[Sermons](#)

[Parish calendar](#)

[Staff](#)

[Campus Interest](#)

[E-News Guidelines  
and Back Issues](#)

[Diocese Southern Ohio](#)

[Bishop Transition](#)

[\[E\]Connections](#)

[Episcopal News Service](#)

[Episcopal Journal & Café](#)

In light of local conditions, we still recommend wearing masks inside the church building **regardless** of vaccination status.

**Office Hours:** 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Masks recommended.

The **Church Building** is not open for public meetings and gatherings but during office hours the thrift shop and chapel are available for individuals. Masks recommended.

CrossRoads Café is temporarily closed.

## Contact Information

**For pastoral needs**, please contact The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 937-689-8895 (cell) or 740-593-6877 (church), or by e-mail at [revdebwoolsey@gmail.com](mailto:revdebwoolsey@gmail.com).

**To find out more about Good Shepherd** and other matters, please contact Alex Buckley, Senior Warden, at 740-593-5513 or by e-mail at [macbuck@yahoo.com](mailto:macbuck@yahoo.com).

**For maintenance matters**, please leave a note at the office or contact Dana Carlson, Junior Warden, at 740-664-2022 or by e-mail at [carlsondana@hotmail.com](mailto:carlsondana@hotmail.com).

**For emergencies**, please call

## [DONATE to Good Shepherd](#)

The above takes you to the Parish page where you can find instructions or donate on-line via PayPal, If you have a preference, please indicate on the the "Add special instructions to the seller" section the purpose of the donation -- e.g. organ fund, plate collection, etc.

Check out the Church's



The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at  
937-689-8895.

**NON-emergency messages**  
can be left on the church's  
answering machine (740-593-  
6877).

**The parish office**  
**administrator** is Barbara  
Martin (740-593-6877) or  
barbara@chogs.org.

**The Episcopal Church of the**  
**Good Shepherd**, 64 University  
Terrace, Athens OH 45701

740-593-6877  
chogs@chogs.org  
[www.chogs.org](http://www.chogs.org)

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**Office Hours:**  
Masks recommended.

10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Monday - Thursday  
740-593-6877  
chogs@chogs.org

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**Blessings !**

Church of the Good Shepherd | 64 University Terrace, Athens, OH 45701

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