

Sebastopol United Methodist Church  
Sunday, April 19, 2020 – Second Sunday of Easter  
Order of Worship

*Seasonal Theme:*

Jesus is out of the grave and alive, and He is with us.

*Theme for the day:*

Thomas's proof led to faith.

*Call to worship:*

Come into God's presence with hope, with longing, and with love. In Christ, we have an inheritance that cannot be defiled, and it never fades -- it brings new life.

*Prayer of Illumination:*

Father God, you have revealed to us that Jesus Christ is your son and our Savior. Strengthen our faith, that we may have life in him. Send your Holy Spirit upon the word, so it shows us the path of life; and lead us into your kingdom here on earth where there is fullness of joy. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

*Readings from Scripture:*           **1 Peter 1:3-9**           **John 20:24-31**

*[texts of Scripture follow the service, beginning on page 2]*

*Message:*    **THE HOLINESS OF BELIEVING!**

*Pastoral Prayer*

*Without the breath of life, we are nothing; and without the word of God, we are dust. Let us offer our lives and offering to God (which you may send by mail, if you wish).*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:*

O Generous God, we rejoice that you are our chosen portion. You are our cup that overflows with eternal life. Bless the gifts we offer you today. Bless and multiply our offerings and pledges, that they may bring the joy of your presence more deeply into the world. In Jesus's name and way we pray. Amen.

*Blessing and Benediction*

Trust the Lord. Love the Christ you cannot see. He will bring you joy. He will give you new birth into a living hope.

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Scripture Readings – April 19, 2020

*first reading – 1 PETER 1:3-9*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

*second reading – JOHN 20:24-31*

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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*Thank you for worshipping with us today.*