



# Church of the Ascension

April 19, 2020

The Second Sunday of Easter

**To find the video, go to YouTube and search for Ascension Lakewood**

## **Opening Acclamation**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

## **The Collect for the Second Sunday of Easter**

Let us pray.

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.*

## **A Reading from Acts**

**2:14a, 22-32**

Peter stood with the eleven apostles and spoke in a loud and clear voice to the crowd:

Now, listen to what I have to say about Jesus from Nazareth. God proved that he sent Jesus to you by having him work miracles, wonders, and signs. All of you know this. God had already planned and decided that Jesus would be handed over to you. So you took him and had evil men put him to death on a cross. But God set him free from death and raised him to life. Death could not hold him in its power. What David said are really the words of Jesus,

“I always see the Lord  
near me,  
and I will not be afraid  
with him at my right side.  
Because of this,  
my heart will be glad,  
my words will be joyful,  
and I will live in hope.  
The Lord won't leave me  
in the grave.

I am his holy one,  
and he won't let  
my body decay.  
He has shown me  
the path to life,  
and he makes me glad  
by being near me."

My friends, it is right for me to speak to you about our ancestor David. He died and was buried, and his tomb is still here. But David was a prophet, and he knew that God had made a promise he would not break. He had told David that someone from his own family would someday be king.

David knew this would happen, and so he told us that Christ would be raised to life. He said that God would not leave him in the grave or let his body decay. All of us can tell you that God has raised Jesus to life!

## **A Reading from John**

**20:19-31**

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.

## **The Sermon**

*Rev. Vincent Black*

Let us pray.

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **The Blessing**

*Good and gracious God, we pray for all who have yet to know of your love and mercy. May the Church of the Ascension be so inspired by your Holy Spirit that it may serve as a beacon of hope and a witness to the gospel for all people. Grant that we may continually grow in our own knowledge and love of you as we strive to use all that we have and all that we are to follow and imitate your beloved son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

We go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

† † †

Nancy Dittebrand died on April 14th. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Father Vincent will preside at a graveside service for immediate family on Wednesday April 22. Please pray for Nancy and her family.

Condolences may be sent to daughter,

Denene Morris.  
1490 Lincoln Avenue  
Brunswick OH 44212

Donations may be made to Church of the Ascension in her memory.

**Please keep these people in your prayers today and all week long:**

**Our Spiritual Leaders:**

+Michael -our Presiding Bishop; +Mark -our Bishop;  
+Bill, and +Arthur -our Assisting Bishops;  
+Vincent -our Priest; Noah -our seminarian

**Those for whom prayers have been requested:**

Doug Amberman  
Martha Amer  
Bobby Armbrust  
Debbie Armbrust  
Ferdinand Afumbom  
Endrit Bala  
Cathy Barbato  
Beck family  
Raymond Black  
Teddi Black  
Carolyn Borsini  
Larry Carey  
Tom Clark  
Steve Conrad  
Karen Cooper  
Linda Cramer  
Carol Culp  
Joe Farkas  
Don Farrell  
Anne Ferguson  
Bill Fickinger  
Ella Jane Fowerbaugh  
Linda Gardner  
Martha Hartman  
Pat Hendy  
Diane Jackson  
Lisa Jones  
Beverly Kliber  
Kristen Kowalsick  
Delores Kulunigan

Barbara Kutza  
Susan Latham  
Marilyn Little  
June Madden  
MaryAnne  
Lois Melchoire  
David Meschter  
Mueller family  
Nancy Murphy  
Mike Neill  
Corey Niebes  
Sabrina Pewitt  
Mursay Pratt  
Laine O'Donnell  
Keith Robinson  
Miriam Schantz  
Delores Schew  
Pat Scheetz  
Rachel Sexton  
Roselle Sgambellone  
Naomi Singer  
Wendi Stemple  
Jonathan Tallman  
Corky Thacker  
Jeanette Triplet  
Mimi Verberg  
Betty Weber  
Brenda & Jaimie Wells  
Bill Wofford

## Those We Know in the Military

Bill Bobowicz  
Stephen Cline  
Jason Hildebrandt  
McDowell (Mac) Jones

Sydney Kline  
Jason Strater  
Brendon

## The Departed

Nancy Dittebrand  
Bill Hopple  
Bonnie O'Donnell  
Ron Oleksiak

Victor Ruggiero  
Thomas Scheidecker  
Bob Tremlin  
Ed Watts

At 11am all are invited to join in conversation about today's lessons and sermon followed by a virtual coffee hour.

Join the online meeting: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/revvincentblack>  
Online meeting ID: revvincentblack

Dial-in number (US): (425) 436-6300  
Access code: 593523#

For additional assistance connecting to the meeting  
text "Help" to the Dial-In number above. Message and data rates may apply.

## Pledges and offerings to the Church.

Please mail in your pledges/financial offerings so we can continue with the ministries of the church as well as meet our financial obligations.

*or*

YOU CAN USE PLASTIC TO DONATE TO THE CHURCH!

At [theascensionshop.com](http://theascensionshop.com) you can use plastic to donate to the church. Credit and debit cards are accepted. One time, Weekly, Bi-Weekly, and Monthly contributions can be entered. All contributions will show on your annual statement. Just take a look! (With thanks to theascensionshop creator Michael Crowdes; send questions to [crowdes@gmail.com](mailto:crowdes@gmail.com).)

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