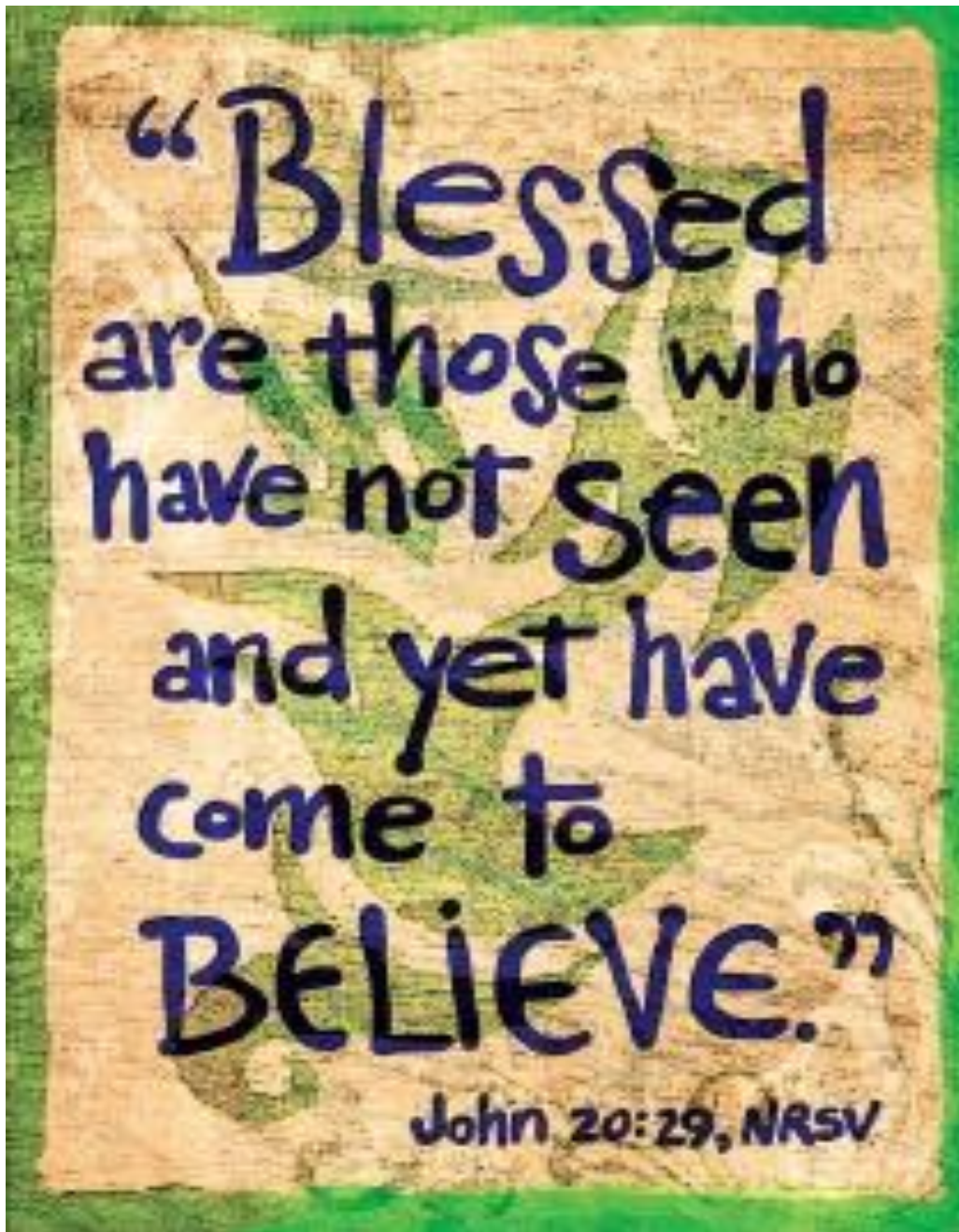


# SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 11, 2021



## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue

St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1

Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661

[www.christlutheransc.ca](http://www.christlutheransc.ca)

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**Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon  
**Bulletin Announcements:** Please send to [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca).  
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

**Pastor:** Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) [pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com](mailto:pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com)  
**Parish Assistant:** Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) [parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Business Manager:** Karen McCumber [business.manager@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:business.manager@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Secretary:** Pat Kimpel [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca)  
**SOUL Ministry:** Trinda Rensen/Gillian Leaver  
**Facebook:** Lisa Gall [www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC](http://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC)  
**Bulletin by email:** Judy Mason [chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca)

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## **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Prayer:** Grant, Almighty God, that we who have celebrated the mystery of the Lord’s resurrection may by the help of Your grace bring forth the fruits thereof in our life and conduct; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Sunday Musician:** 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. – Mayumi Munoz  
**Sunday Reader:** 9 a.m. – Nate Kuhl 11 a.m. – Fran Porteous

### **9 AM - Contemporary Worship**

#### **Morning Praise**

Song – Good Christian Friends Rejoice  
Morning Praise responses  
Come let us Worship  
Prayer of the Day  
Psalm 133  
& Scripture Readings  
Gospel Song & Gospel  
Song – We Walk By Faith  
Message  
Easter Song– Because He Lives  
Prayers  
Lord’s Prayer  
Luther’s Morning Prayer  
Benediction  
Closing Song —The Risen Christ

### **11 AM -Traditional Worship**

#### **LSB Divine Service Three alt.**

Song –Good Christian Friends Rejoice  
Confession of Sins & Forgiveness  
Spoken Kyrie & “Now Is the Feast”  
Prayer of the Day  
Scripture Readings  
Gospel Verse & Holy Gospel  
Apostles’ Creed  
Hymn – Come You Faithful  
Message  
Create In Me A Clean Heart  
Prayers  
Lord’s Prayer  
Easter Prayer  
Benediction  
Closing Hymn – The Risen Christ

**Sunday School:** Easter Resurrection Eggs <https://youtu.be/unbliHuvX8I>

**Precious Moments:** Jesus is Alive – <https://youtu.be/ErhXCCGbBk4>

**Children’s Message:** Easter 2 <https://youtu.be/mhFhgDX1GD0>

### **DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:**

Monday: 11 Tim. 1: 6-10                      Wed.: 1 Pet. 1: 22-25                      Friday: 1 Pet. 1: 3-9  
Tuesday: 11 Tim.2: 1-5                      Thurs: 1 Tim. 1: 12-17                      Saturday: Jonah 2: 1-11

**COVID 19 – PROTOCOL:** Dear Brothers and Sisters of Christ Lutheran Church, let us continue to be mindful of COVID 19 by following all safety measures and protocols. If you have any of the symptoms outlined by Public Health, please remain at home. Services are available online.

If attending worship, please:

- **Wear a mask covering both your mouth and nose at all times.**
- **Sanitize your hands frequently**
- **Practice social distancing, 2 metres or 6 feet apart**
- **Ensure you have a temperature check before entering**
- **Ensure your attendance is noted at the entrance doors.**

**COVID RESTRICTIONS:** Hope everyone is healthy and safe. Our church is open at 15% capacity (35 people) for our 9 AM Contemporary & 11 AM Traditional services. All protocols mandated by Niagara Region Public Health will be in place. A video recording of the service will be posted each Sunday at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSg>

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF LUTHER MANOR ST. CATHARINES INC.** will be held Wednesday, April 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM. Please contact Karen McCumber ([luther.manor.inc@gmail.com](mailto:luther.manor.inc@gmail.com)) if you would like to become a member of the Corporation.

**Last Sunday Attendance:** April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 9 a.m. -40 ; 11 a.m.- 32; 1 p.m.-33; Total:105

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or - (--)</u>
Current:	271,175.00	5,214.90	4,439.00	55,280.69	(22,618.90)
Missions	20,000.00	384.62	587.00	4,935.00	(449.62)
Property Improvement:			407.00	1,786.50	

**FLOWERS** have been placed on the altar this morning to the glory of God by Andy & Bette Vasko in loving memory of Susanna Vasko.

**A MEMORIAL DONATION** has been given to Christ Lutheran Church in memory of Elke Laumann by Clyde & Josie Knoll.

**A SINCERE THANK YOU** to everyone who served in large and small ways last Sunday. Our people adjusted quickly to the shut-down changes which needed to take place. A warm and celebratory Easter weekend was enjoyed by all. From the "take away breakfast" to the sanitizing, from the work taking place behind the scenes to the organizing and helping set up to all the family members who supported those workers involved, I say, thank you very much. Your servant in Christ, Pastor Todd

**FLOWERS FOR ALTAR:** If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please sign your name at the back of the church or email: [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca). Cost is \$25/bouquet

**COLLECTION NOTE:** At this point we are not 'collecting' any craft materials for the church (i.e. milk bags for mats; SOUL bingo prizes; Christmas cards for Sunday School or SOUL, puzzles for exchange, etc.)

**SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC:** It's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate even when you are not comfortable attending service.

**1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS:** Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing at:

[http://christlutheransc.ca/?page\\_id=96](http://christlutheransc.ca/?page_id=96) and then mail the form along with a voided cheque to:

Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation,  
275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3  
Attn: Darryll Holland

**2. BY MAIL:** cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church  
140 Russell Ave. St. Catharines, ON L2R 1W1

or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

**3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA:** Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church:

<https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com/?pageId=donation-edit&categoryId=10972>

select "St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ).

This opportunity will be in effect until the COVID-19 emergency is over.

**The First Lesson:**     *Acts of the Apostles 4: 32-35*

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.     This is the Word of the Lord.     **Thanks be to God.**

**The Epistle:**     *1 John 1:1—2:2*

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

This is the Word of the Lord.     **Thanks be to God.**

**The Holy Gospel:**     *St. John 20: 19-31*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter:     **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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.     This is the Gospel of the Lord.     **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**REV. TODD HOEFFS**

**Easter 2 (series B)**

**Scripture: St. John 20: 19-31**

**April 11, 2021**

It wasn't supposed to end like this.

If ever there was a sure thing, Jesus should have been it. He's the messiah, the one Israel spent generations waiting for. He covered many miles, and spent his precious moments healing the sick, casting out demons, verbally challenging the religious institution, and raising the dead.

He was incredible. He should have been king.

Yet, here the disciples sit behind closed locked doors. Their leader got crucified-dying a shameful death reserved for the lowest of criminals. If Rome had their say, they were going to prove this Jesus of Galilee was no king.

The followers of the king now spend their fear-drenched moments huddled together in a room filled with worry concerning their own eventual crucifixion; fearing the ones who desired to end this movement of the man from Galilee.

Fear was thick and tangible that evening in the room. Surrounding everyone, and filling each word and look. We know this fear.

Every single day we're told to be afraid. That is, if you're a person who reads, watches or hears the news now. From slow vaccine roll out, to unemployment, terrorism to isolation, rising COVID cases from the appearance of shootings & immigration issues south of the border, we're a people living in and around fear.

We're reminded that nations are on the brink of nuclear war with countries vying for control.

We're told to be afraid of immigrants.

We're afraid of sickness. We're afraid of loss.

We're afraid of what we lack. We're afraid of our failures.

We're afraid of our past. We're afraid of each other. Anyone different.

We're in a church body with fears. Numbers, people in the pews, finance, changes, structuring....Church building closures threaten all denominations. No one is exempt. Like the disciples in those early moments after Jesus' death, we've locked ourselves in a room, waiting for the other shoe to drop.

Fear is all that's real to them. They forgot their purpose, identity and mission. Fear turns every person inward, and as we succumb to this fear, the call to an outward life of Christ-likeness turns inward.

Jesus knows their need as He knows our need. It's into this self-preservation and self-imposed prison that Jesus steps into. He so perfectly understands fear and gives the only thing that wipes it away: HIS PRESENCE.

Standing among them, walking bodily through locked doors, He speaks "Peace be with you!" Making His hands and feet noticeable, nail print scars and all. His disciples are overjoyed. Again Jesus said, "Peace Be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

Peace. Like the Hebrew word "Shalom." Words meaning peace, wholeness. Fullness. Harmony.

Wholeness. Completeness. Living in the way and living out of the life and identity we're created for...the desire of Jesus to restore real peace in our world. By His cross all people win peace.

Thomas wasn't there in the Upper Room when Jesus came and amazed them.

Thomas just couldn't believe it.

Thomas is a Greek name, meaning twin, though his twin never appears. Perhaps we are, each one of us, his twin. For all have nagging doubts that sometimes prompt us to get

up and investigate a situation that needs our attention, and that sometimes hold us back. If Thomas' doubts are the most persistent, then we have so much in common with him. For our doubts persist, and at times are insistent, and they have the ability to lead us to new discoveries about ourselves and in our relationship with all that is holy.

Doubt was part of the entire Easter picture, beginning Holy Thursday night. At the Last Supper the disciples drew back from Jesus' foot washing – doubting his gesture, questioning his meaning and shrinking from the changes to their own intentions, still intent on glory. Outside his trial, Peter shrank into famed betrayals, unable to leave, unable to step forward, doubt and love struggling within him.

All the disciples were paralyzed by grief, the intense doubt that overwhelmed Jesus' message that He must die and rise....hard to believe until Joseph of Arimathea actually handled the details of burial. They needed Jesus' gift of peace and the Holy Spirit to shake the fearful shadows and embrace the life of renewal and restoration Easter life gives.

The word doubt is so common for Thomas especially, but its important to note that he had faith. He believed, but needed so much help with his un-belief. He wants to encounter the living Lord just as his brothers in the faith.

Jesus gives him what he desires. He re-visits and offers the same peaceful presence. But He adds a command: "Do not doubt but believe." The intent of the original language is "do not be ANTI-BELIEVING but BE BELIEVING!" To which Thomas is moved to confess "MY LORD AND MY GOD".

Doubt works against faith. Doubt doesn't trust in what believing already knows. Thomas didn't trust what His brothers (and Mary Magdalene a week earlier) saw. And the only remedy to clear away the shadows of doubt is....Jesus. More Scripture. More Sacraments. Convince him that his God-given faith IS enough. Faith is all we need to carry us through – because faith takes hold of God's promises of salvation in Christ!

We as Jesus' followers have so much to learn from this. When we as baptized believers live in fear, life goes from living for others to living only for one's self. It's a lot like Survival mode. We fear the wrong things. We're not living in a war zone, and yet we forget the spiritual war fighting to overcome us and squelch our faith lives. Fighting to join the hellish ranks which thought they'd rejoice over a dead Jesus. Only to find out that His descent into hell before rising from the dead finally put Satan in his rightful, powerless place.

Jesus' physical appearance squelching out fear and worry also shows the value of the human body. Jesus deliberately shows Himself off with His glorious resurrected body. He's not a ghost or a spirit but the living Lord they knew and loved, yet scared with His cross borne wounds. In the era where John wrote this Gospel, sects breaking off from the followers of Jesus saw the body as a bad, evil thing. Bodies get sick, experience limitations, decay and eventually die. Such groups deemed the body as useless, something too difficult to try and care for. But human bodies are important. Created by God with senses and feelings and thoughts and faith. We take care of our bodies. We also protect and help others in their bodily needs. We even confess in the Apostles' Creed, "I believe in the resurrection of the body." In Jesus' death and resurrection, God redeems all of creation. Easter embraces all of who we are, body and soul. For one day all bodies and souls will be reunited on the Last Day. Jesus gives us a picture of this possibility today to bring all believers His deep abiding peace.

And we are also important as JESUS' BODY of believers all over the globe.

We were created to be together, living in community with one another, sharing life together, forgiving one another, and inviting each other into the Kingdom of God. Fear short-circuits this calling. We stop seeking justice, fighting for reconciliation, and advancing the Kingdom of God.



As Jesus breathed on the disciples, giving them His Spirit, He's positioning them for the great gift at Pentecost....and the way to serve the future church: "If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." The office of the keys, the mission and business of the church.

Through His Holy Spirit we as the church receive HIS PRESENCE THROUGH GIFTS of GRACE—Baptism, Forgiveness and Holy Communion. For His real presence never departs. Though He doesn't join us in bodily form within our sanctuary, He is with us in the Bread and Wine, in the hymns, prayers and Scripture readings. He comes to life in your face and the face of every believer, whenever 2 or 3 are gathered in His name. Giving the same peace, dispelling the same fears and worries.

Jesus is saying, yes, I understand you're afraid, but here is peace. For you aren't helpless. You aren't hopeless. You aren't alone. Do not be anti-believing, but BE BELIEVING. Trust in this faith, God gave it to you, it's enough, live in the power of the Holy Spirit. Live in trust and hope, not fear. Know that you're not going at this alone, and as you do it, know that even the power of sin and death cannot hold you.

Easter is new life. This is the good news, how the story ends. In death there is life. In Jesus' death there is never-ending life. So there's nothing to fear. Life's not about hiding or escaping, but confidently walking in the power of God's love centred in Jesus. Where we find Jesus' presence and say along with Thomas in faith and hope, "My Lord and my God."

Amen.

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# RESURRECTION SUNDAY

Mark 16:1-8

April 4th, 2021



On Easter morning,  
the women went  
to the tomb  
in sadness. They  
were there  
to take care of  
Jesus' body.  
But when they  
looked in  
Jesus wasn't there.  
**HE HAS RISEN!**

## CHRIST IS RISEN!

### HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!

On Easter we say "Alleluia"  
A word that literally means:  
"Praise the LORD"



### DID YOU KNOW?

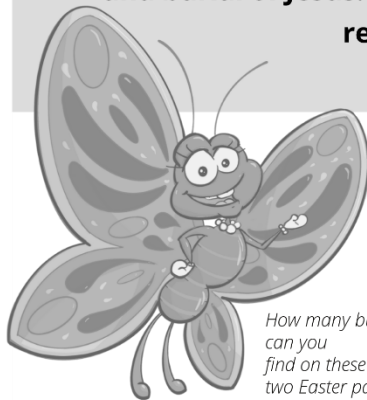
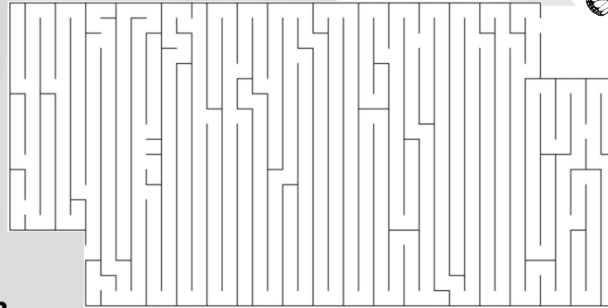
Did you know the Butterfly is a symbol for Easter? The life cycle of a butterfly reminds us of Jesus and His resurrection.

The butterfly begins as a caterpillar, which stands for Jesus life on Earth.

Then it goes into cocoon, symbolizing the crucifixion and burial of Jesus.

Then it breaks forth as a butterfly, reminding us of Jesus raising from the dead in glory.

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead".*



How many butterflies can you find on these two Easter pages?

