

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:1-12

Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection. —Watchman Nee

It's Easter Sunday when we are reminded that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the very heart of our faith. More than that, Easter triumphantly proclaims that God is always at work, bringing life amid death, hope amid despair.

To that end, let's think of a metaphor. In a peaceful meadow, there was a caterpillar who lived a simple and content life. She was unaware that a great transformation awaited her.

One day, she entered a deep sleep, all while weaving an intricate cocoon around herself. She remained there for many days, hidden away and quiet. The other creatures of the meadow wondered if she had died, and some even grieved their loss.

But after some time, the cocoon began to move, and shortly thereafter, a monarch butterfly emerged. The transformation had not been easy, and the butterfly's gossamer wings were weak and fragile at first. She struggled to fly, and for a time, she remained on the branch to which the now-discarded cocoon was still attached.

Then, slowly, the butterfly's wings grew stronger. With the sun shining down on her and the wind encouraging her, she spread her wings and took to the sky. The other creatures of the meadow marveled at how death had been transformed into life; how the earthly had been transfigured into something beautiful; how what had been old had miraculously become new — dazzlingly new!

There are parallels to what is going on at Easter. *Theologically*, like the butterfly's cocoon, the tomb seemed like a place of death and loss. But in the resurrection of Jesus, what seemed like an end became the ultimate beginning — a new life for all believers. Just as the butterfly was transformed, we, too, are transformed by the power of the resurrection, given new hope and life.

But *experientially*, the message of Easter is that even in the darkest moments, when all seems lost, there is always the promise of renewal and resurrection, just as the butterfly emerges from its cocoon to soar into the sky.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for the victory of life over death, hope over despair, and love over fear. Through Jesus, you have given us the promise of eternal life, and the assurance that no darkness is too great for your light to overcome. We thank you for the new beginnings you offer us, for the power of your redeeming grace. May we live in the joy and freedom of your resurrection, sharing your love and hope with a world in need. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Luke 7-9
- Monday:** Joshua 19-21
- Tuesday:** Joshua 22-24
- Wednesday:** Judges 1-4
- Thursday:** Judges 5-8
- Friday:** Judges 9-12
- Saturday:** Psalms 37-39

EASTER WORD HUNT

Directions: Look for ten (10) words related to the Easter season. Words can be read forwards or backwards or either direction vertically. Answers below.

T	D	W	M	H	H	T
E	Y	D	N	A	C	E
N	E	C	H	I	C	K
N	Q	T	N	U	H	S
O	L	I	L	Y	G	A
B	U	N	N	Y	G	B
P	A	R	A	D	E	F

NAME THE STATE

In the space provided, write the names of the states in which the following three-letter words are found:

EXAMPLE: OUT/ SOUTH DAKOTA

ASK:

SIP:

ORE:

EGO:

WAS:

ASH:

TON:

GIN:

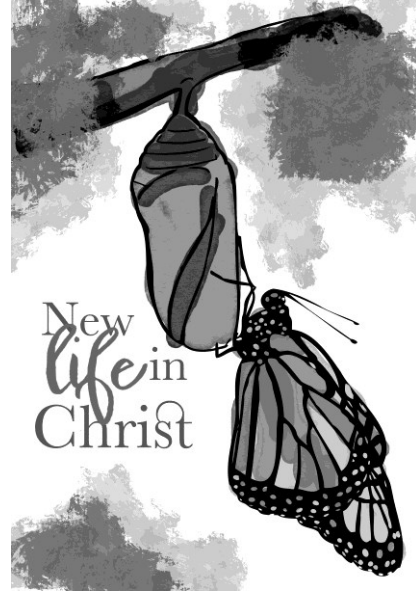
CUT:

SEE:

INN:

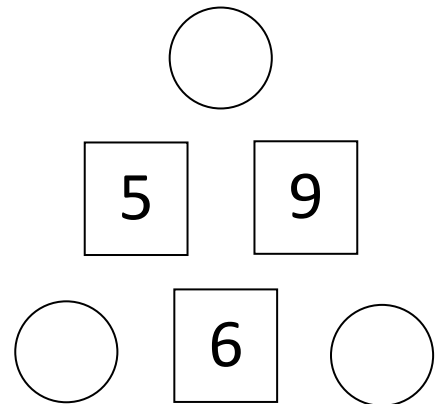
USE:

SET:



ARITHMOGRAM

Place a number in each of the circles on either side of the squares so that the sum of the numbers in the adjoining circles equals the number in the square.



ANSWERS TO NAME

- THE STATE:**
 ASK=Nebraska, or Alaska
 SIP=Mississippi
 ORE=Oregon
 EGO=Oregon
 WAS=Washington
 ASH=Washington
 TON=Washington
 GIN=Virginia
 CUT=Connecticut
 SEE=Tennessee
 INN=Minnesota
 USE=Massachusetts
 SET=Massachusetts

ANSWER TO

ARITHMOGRAM:
 Clockwise from the top circle — 4, 5, 1

Answers to Easter Word Hunt: lily, parade, chick, bunny, candy, hunt, dye, basket, egg, bonnet