



St. Thomas Episcopal Church
The Order of Worship for
The Second Sunday in Easter
April 11, 2021 † 10:30 AM

Window: St. Thomas and the Risen Christ

Prelude Aria from *Water Music*

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Welcome

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Hymn 178 Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord

Alleluia No. 1

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the
 ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give
 Praise to his Name. Name.

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
 4 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

Repeat Refrain

He is the King of cre - a - tion.
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en. Al - le -
 Now we shall live for ev - er.
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sa - vior.

The descant may be sung after stanzas 3 and 4.

Words: Donald Fishel (b. 1950) Music: *Alleluia No. 1*, Donald Fishel (b. 1950) Words, Music (melody): Copyright ©1973, The Word of God.
 arr. Betty Pulkingham (b. 1928), Charles Mallory (b. 1950) and George Mims (b. 1938) Copyright ©1979, Celebration.
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The Collect of the Day

BCP 224

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.**

The Lessons

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles: Acts 4:32-35

RCL 266

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 133

BCP 787

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head *
that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

A reading from the First Letter of John: 1 John 1:1 – 2:2

RCL 267

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



1 We walk by faith, and not by sight; no
 2 We may not touch his hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and
 4 that, when our life of faith is done, in

gra-cious words we hear from him who spoke as
 fol-low where he trod; but in his promise
 may our faith abound, to call on you when
 realms of clearer light we may behold you

none e'er spoke; but we believe him near.
 we re-joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near, and seek where you are found:
 as you are, with full and endless sight.

Words: Henry Alford (1810-1871), alt. Music: *St. Botolph*, Gordon Slater (1896-1979) Copyright © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 20:19-31

RCL 267

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People Form VI

BCP 392

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *Silence.*

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Rob our Bishop, Victor our Companion Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation...*Silence*. Hear us Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life...*Silence*. We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom...*Silence*. Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

The Peace *Stay where you are and wave or bow as an offering of peace to your neighbors*

The Offering

St. Thomas welcomes your gifts.

You may mail a check to 2100 Hilton Avenue, Columbus, GA 39106,
donate online at our website (<https://www.stthomascolumbus.org/give/>),
or use your mobile device by texting **STTCOLUMBUS** to **73256**.

On the second Sunday of each month we receive a special offering for CVEM. You may donate by making a check out to St. Thomas Episcopal Church and marking "CVEM" in the memo line, selecting "CVEM" when you donate online or by text, or by making a check out directly to CVEM and mailing it to P. O. Box 5811, Columbus, GA 31906.

Solo Aria from *Messiah*

Debbie Anderson, *soprano*

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

Job 19:25, 26; 1 Corinthians 40:20

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People **We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Please remain standing or seated at your seat as reserved Sacrament is distributed.

After all has been distributed, the Celebrant will say before we consume together:

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Postcommunion prayer *unison*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Organ Hornpipe from *Music for the Royal Fireworks*

Music Notes

We are so happy to welcome Debbie Anderson this morning to sing one of the most famous arias in the world from one of the most famous oratorios in the world - I know that my Redeemer liveth from Messiah by George Fredrick Handel. Besides being a longtime and valued member of St Thomas Choir she is the Music Director for the Springer Theater, the Music Director of Temple Israel and a voice teacher at Columbus State University.

Following the Handelian theme - all the incidental music for organ this morning is by Handel.

In our prayers

St. Thomas parishioners: Martha Robert, Reggie Brushwood, Ashley Huie-Strong, Mitch Grossman, Nelia Partain, Edward and Charley, Sam and Linda Harmon, the Sudayi family, William South, Henry Morrill, Maeve Morrill, Joe Mills, Jack Tice, Gerald Boyd, Esther Thomas, Darius Slusher

Homebound members: Marianne Baxter, Carolyn Billings, Murray Craig, Charlotte DuPriest, Judy Harding, Jan Pittman, Bill Thomas

Those working in healthcare: Maddie Hanley, Stephen Van Roper (*Charlie & Betty Roper*), Rob Hosey (*Mary Jane Thomas*), Mona Thomas (*Mary Jane Thomas*), Maggie Krawczyk (*Carlene Pawlowicz*), Alex Erickson, Lizzie Venable-Lyashkevskiy, Hayley Walker, Nora Ngo, Henry Ngo, Elizabeth McCann Rickerson, Hannah Davenport, Maryann Rahm, Laura Perkins, Michael Dempsey, Monica Fortson, Tom Fortson, April Jacobs, Deborah Scribner, Ellen Richter (*Marianne Richter*), Andrea Fletcher (*Jennifer Fletcher*), James Fletcher (*Jennifer Fletcher*), LeighEllen Johnson (*Meg Olive-Allison*), Mary Jane Burton (*Grace Burton-Edwards*), Michael Chamberlain (*Patty Chamberlain*), Jordan (*Patty Chamberlain*), Colette Daniel (*Mike Edmondson*), Laura Stoltz, Doug Venable (*Lisa Herring*)

Friends of the parish: the family of Melissa Browning (*Meg Olive-Allison*), Lindsey Roberts (*Libby McFalls*), Judy Thomas (*Cindy Garrard*), Dean Griffith (*Michelle Young*), Rachel Davis (*Tasha Jones*), Dane, Suzie & Erik Westerlund (*Freeman McCluskey*), the Cadell family (*Freeman McCluskey*), Will (*Tasha Jones*), Carolyn Billings

Those with continuing concerns: Bill Pauli, Mandy Ochoa, April Jacobs, Jana Speer, Amy Nurnberg, Carlene Pawlowicz, Sandra Wood, Gene Wells, Debbie & Max Anderson, Art France, Lexy McRae (*Jennifer Fletcher*), Mark Jones (*Tanya Edwards-Jones*), Greg & Bonnie Feagle (*Pam Feagle*), Mike & Jill Venable (*Marquette McKnight*), Angela Tulloh (*Louise Tulloh*), Andrew Meyers (*Carole Hill*), Alex Watford (*Martha Robert*)

Those celebrating birthdays: Mary Jane Whisnant 4/11, Norma Jergens 4/12, Mary Free 4/12, Justin Selway 4/12, Isiah Harper 4/12, Mary Scribner 4/16

Those celebrating anniversaries: Susan & Ami Connery 4/11, Martin & Sandy McCann 4/15, Bob & Mary Jane Wadkins 4/16, Steve Hodges & Pat Daniel 4/17

Those who have died: Marge Henly 5/28/20, Connie McEwen 8/21/20, Jack Blalock 8/31/20, Harvey Hisaw 11/5/20, Chuck Bentfeld 1/27/21, Mike Edmondson 2/10/21

Announcements

St. Thomas Parking Place Party: April 11, 2-3:30pm. A socially distanced “parking place party” - tailgate style! If you don’t have a tailgate, throw a couple of chairs in the trunk, a cooler with non-alcoholic beverages for the family, food donation for WNN, some sidewalk chalk for the kids, etc. We will play some socially distant games like corn hole and limbo! We will even take song requests and highlight some dancing!

Spring Workday: April 17, 9am-Noon. The Grounds Committee invites you to help spring clean the grounds around St. Thomas. We'll work from 9-12 on April 10. Everyone should wear a mask and bring gloves and hand tools. For more information contact Ann Johnston.

Worship in Easter Season: 8:00am, 9:15am, 10:30am, and 4:00pm. Join us for worship in Easter season. We will continue to offer 8 am online from the chapel, 9:15 outside at the labyrinth, and 10:30 inside and online from the Nave. In addition, on first Sundays, join us at 4 for Communion (Under Special Circumstances) by Car. On second Sundays, join us at 4 for Eucharist and Labyrinth Walk. And on third Sundays at 4, join us for Family Eucharist on the Lawn, a service focused on helping children worship and learn together.

CVEM Offering: 2nd Sunday of every month. On Second Sundays we receive a special offering to support the work of Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministry in caring for our neighbors. CVEM is positioned to offer targeted direct support to prevent eviction and assist neighbors in taking steps toward greater security. Thank you for your generosity!

Forward Day by Day: The May/June/July issues of Forward Day by Day have arrived. Contact office@stthomascolumnbus.org by Monday, April 12 if you would like to have one mailed to you.

Zion Bluesfest: April 24, 10am-6pm. Enjoy a socially distanced outdoor event at Historic Zion Church in Talbotton with live blues, food trucks, and tours of the church building. Musicians include 2020 Grammy Nominee Jontavious Willis and Javy Hopp, Talbotton's own Neal Lucas, and the CSU Blues Quintet. Tickets on site are \$15 per person, \$10 for 3 or more.

Lectors & LEMs: As our worship schedule and limitations continue to evolve, we're ready to begin incorporating more lay leadership in worship. If you are interested in serving as an LEM (serving communion) and/or Lector at the 9:15 labyrinth service or 10:30 in the Nave please let Meg know. Virtual lectors are also needed to record themselves reading a lesson from home. Email meg@stthomascolumnbus.org to sign up or for more information.

Virtual Journey to the Holy Land: Sundays in Easter Season. 9:30-10:15am. Join us on Sundays in Easter season as we (virtually) journey to the Holy Land with St. George's College in Jerusalem. Each week we will view together a Pilgrim Talk led by representatives from the college on a particular place in the Holy Land. We'll discuss these videos and different aspects of life in the Holy Land in both the ancient period and today.

St. Thomas Day School Enrollment: St. Thomas Day School is now enrolling for early registration for the 2021-2022 school year. Ages range from 6 weeks to 5 years old. We currently have 1 infant room, two toddler rooms, two 2 year old rooms and 1 three year old class and 1 Pre-K class. Church and Military Discounts are given. For more information, please call Kym Futch in the school office at 706-324-1268.