



St. Thomas Episcopal Church

The Order of Worship for The Second Sunday in Easter

April 11, 2021 † 8:00 AM

Window: St. Thomas and the Risen Christ

Welcome

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Collect for Purity

BCP 323

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Easter Hymn *unison*

BCP 46

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; *
therefore let us keep the feast,
Not with old leaven,
neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, *
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.
Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; *
death hath no more dominion over him.
For in that he died, he died unto sin once; *
but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.
Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, *
but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.
Christ is risen from the dead, *
and become the first fruits of them that slept.
For since by man came death, *
by man came also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die, *
even so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

The Collect of the Day

BCP 172

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery hast 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 the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee 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.**

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 326

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.

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Rob our Bishop and Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Victor our Companion Bishop, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Joe, our President, Kamala, our Vice-President, Brian and Kay, our Governors, and Skip and Eddie, our mayors; for members of Congress, state legislatures, and courts; that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially St. Thomas parishioners – Martha, Reggie, Ashley, Mitch, Nelia, Edward and Charley, Sam and Linda, the Sudayi family, William, Henry, Maeve, Joe, Jack, Gerald, Esther, and Darius; our homebound members - Marianne, Carolyn, Murray, Charlotte, Judy, Jan, and Bill; and friends of St. Thomas – the family of Melissa Browning, Lindsey, Judy, Dean, Rachel, Dane, Suzie & Erik, the Cadell family, Will, and Carolyn.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially Marge, Connie, Jack, Harvey, Chuck, and Mike, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

The Confession of Sin *unison*

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

The Absolution

The Peace

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.

The Lord's Prayer *unison*

BCP 336

**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.**

Concluding prayer

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.*

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 Pawlonicz*), Alex Erickson, Lizzie Venable-Lyashevskiy, 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

2nd Sunday Conference Call: Following the 8 am service this Sunday, we will catch up over the phone. Write to office@stthomasolumbus.org for the number.

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.