



St. Thomas Episcopal Church

The Order of Worship for The Fifth Sunday in Easter

May 2, 2021 † 8:00 AM

Window: The Resurrection

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 173

O Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lessons

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles: Acts 8:26-40

RCL 270

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

Psalm 22:24-30

BCP 612

- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD'S for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

A reading from the First Letter of John: 1 John 4:7-21

RCL 271

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 15:1-8

RCL 272

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Nicene Creed *unison*

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.

Prayers of the People

BCP 328

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; 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 – Shane, Noah, Dell, Barbara, Martha, Reggie, Ashley, Mitch, Nelia, Edward and Charley, William, Henry, Maeve, Joe, Jack, Gerald, Esther, and Darius; our homebound members - Marianne, Murray, Charlotte, Judy, Jan, and Bill; and friends of St. Thomas – Holli, Jodi, Bret, Hilda, Justin, Zion, and Walt.

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*

BCP 331

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.stthomascolumnbus.org/give/>),
or use your mobile device by texting **STTCOLUMBUS** to **73256**.

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: Shane Jolley, Noah Fussell, Del Weeks, Barbara Billings, Martha Robert, Reggie Brushwood, Ashley Huie-Strong, Mitch Grossman, Nelia Partain, Edward and Charley, William South, Henry Morrill, Maeve Morrill, Joe Mills, Jack Tice, Gerald Boyd, Esther Thomas, Darius Slusher

Homebound members: Marianne Baxter, 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-Lyashvskiy, 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: Holli Melancon (*Martha Robert*), Jodi Wisor (*Ashley Huie-Strong*), Bret Woolbright (*Nelia Partain*), Hilda Davis (*Jack Tice*), Justin Creed (*Libby McFalls*), Zion Abrams (*Angie Braid*), Walt Hoskins (*Paul Hostetter*)

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: Bill Pauli 5/2, Gene Wells 5/2, Amaya Chapman 5/2, Judy Harding 5/3, Allen Gordy 5/4, Joann Weeks 5/4, Florence Wakoko-Studstill 5/5, Lauren Godfrey 5/5, Lucy Gray 5/7

Those celebrating anniversaries: Royce & Tamara Ard 5/5, Chris & Bridget Markwood 5/6, Richard & Amy Nurnberg 5/6

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

Saints & Sinners: Saints and Sinners will gather this Friday, May 7 at 11 am by conference call. We will pray noon prayer together and then share brief updates about how we're doing. Plan to share something that is nourishing you in this season at home - a recipe, a prayer, or a practice. Email office@stthomascolumnbus.org for the phone number to call.

Men's Group Happy Hour: Join the St. Thomas Men's Group for a Zoom social on Friday, May 7 at 5:30pm, hosted by Paul Hostetter and Spence Sealy. Have a drink of your choice and unwind with some good conversation and laughter! We'll continue to meet every other week on Fridays at the same time and hope you'll join us for some fellowship! Contact Paul or the church office for the Zoom link.

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.

Easter Season Offerings: St. Thomas invites special offerings for flowers, music, and other ministries during Easter Season. Gifts may be dedicated in honor or memory of someone and will be listed in the Pentecost Sunday bulletin on May 23. Submit your contributions and dedication information by using the envelope that was included in the Holy Week packets and mailing it to the church office, or by making a donation online at our website with the memo "Easter Offering" and emailing the dedication information to patty@stthomas columbus.org. Dedications must be received by May 14.

Tuesday Study Group: May 11 & 25, June 8 & 22. Join the Tuesday Study Group on a journey through our liturgy. Why do we do what we do in worship? More importantly, how does our worship help us live as Christian people? St. Thomas Vestry studied this book last year. Now it is your turn! *Liturgical Life Principles: How Episcopal Worship Can Lead to Healthy and Authentic Living* by Ian S. Markham

Take Action to Celebrate Earth Day 2021. Eco-Faith from Home: 30 Days of Climate Action: April 13-May 13. The climate crisis doesn't take a day off and neither should we; as people of faith we are called to care for all Creation - planet and people. Register for these workshops at <https://secure.everyaction.com> You may pick and choose the workshops that you attend. ALL workshops and events are FREE! Your registration for Eco-Faith from Home gives you access to live Q&A sessions with the workshop leaders and recordings of all workshops

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.

Evening Prayer and Thursday Eucharist: Monday-Friday at 5:30pm and Thursdays at noon. A brief online service of Evening Prayer continues Monday-Friday on Zoom at 5:30. Find the link on our linktree or email office@stthomas columbus.org to get connected. Each Thursday a small group gathers for noon prayer in the Chapel. This is a brief service of Eucharist that offers a midweek check-in. Sign up on Eventbrite or just join when you're able. Everyone is welcome to participate at any time. If you're looking for an opportunity for worship during the week or to connect with a small group at St. Thomas, both of these options are available.

Lectors and 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@stthomas columbus.org to sign up or for more information.

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.