



St. Thomas Episcopal Church
The Order of Worship for
The Fifth Sunday in Easter
May 2, 2021 † 9:15 AM

Window: *The Resurrection*

Prelude In the garden

arr. Dan Miller (b. 1954)

Welcome

Hymn 379 God is love: let heaven adore him *sung by the cantor*

Chris Barbee, *cantor*

1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let
2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in
3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him
one em - brace: with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,
hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind-ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun-
ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are
guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through
break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that
nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.
self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.
Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Collect for Purity *unison*

BCP 355

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

The Collect of the Day

BCP 225

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, 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.

Hymn 513 Like the murmur of the dove's song *sung by the cantor*

Bridegroom



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's Bo - dy, to the
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the



chal - lenge of her flight, like the vig - or of the
branch - es of the Vine, to the Church in faith as -
cease - less voice of prayer, with the power to love and



wind's rush, like the new flame's ea - ger
sem - bled, to her midst as gift and
wit - ness, with the peace be - yond com -



might: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.
sign: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.
pare: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.

Phrase 1 of each stanza may be sung by one group, with a contrasted group singing phrase 2, and all joining for the final phrase.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944) Copyright ©1982, Carl P. Daw, Jr. Music: *Bridegroom*, Peter Cutts (b. 1937) Copyright ©1969, Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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 to you, Lord Christ.**

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 to you, Lord Christ.**

The Nicene Creed *unison*

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

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**.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer B*

BCP 367

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.**

The Lord's Prayer *unison*

BCP 364

**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*

BCP 365

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.**

Music Notes

Welcome to Chris Barbee, our soloist and cantor this morning. Chris the choral director at Rainey-McCullars School of the Arts and a member of the choir.

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-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: 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 with 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@stthomasolumbus.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.