



Window: The Resurrection

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
The Order of Worship for
The Third Sunday of Easter
April 14, 2024 † 10:30 AM

Welcome to our first Sunday of worship in All Saints Hall, our parish hall. We began remodeling our Nave this week to Make Room for All and improve accessibility. We expect the work to be completed by Thanksgiving.

Restrooms and a water fountain are available in a hallway behind the drink cabinets to your right as you face the fireplace. Additional restrooms are in a hallway behind the parish hall, accessible via two right turns from the door near the office.

Children are welcome in worship. Care for young children is available in the nursery if needed. Older children are invited to children's chapel before the reading of the gospel. Children's chapel will meet in the outreach center. Should you need to step out at any time, a livestream of the service will be shown in the library, located directly behind the fireplace.

Prelude *There's a land that is fairer than day*

Joseph P. Webster, arr. James Michael Stevens

Welcome

Please stand as you are comfortable at the ringing of the bell

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands
 2 Christ is - a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 Not throned a - bove, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -
 4 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where co - lor,
 5 Christ is a - live! His Spi - rit burns through this and

1 emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 2 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the
 3 moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the
 4 scorn or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet
 5 ev - ery fu - ture age, till all cre - a - tion

1 prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.
 2 here and now and con - quer ev - ery place and time.
 3 midst of life, our Sa - vior with the Fa - ther reigns.
 4 loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.
 5 lives and learns his joy, his jus - tice, love, and praise.

Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), rev. Copyright © 1975 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Truro*, melody from *Psalmody Evangelica, Part II*, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ is risen.

People 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.

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
 peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-
 might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we
 praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus Christ,
 on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
 5. you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-
 ceive our prayer. 6. For
 you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the
 Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of
 God the Fa-ther. A - men.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

Please be seated for the reading of the scriptures

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 3:12-19

Peter addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. “And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

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

Psalm 4 *read responsively by half-verse*

BCP 787

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; *
you set me free when I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 “You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; *
how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?”
- 3 Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; *
when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.
- 4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; *
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.
- 5 Offer the appointed sacrifices *
and put your trust in the LORD.
- 6 Many are saying, “Oh, that we might see better times!” *
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, *
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
- 8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; *
for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety.

A reading from the First Letter of John

I John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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

*Please stand as you are comfortable and remain standing through the gospel reading.
Children may follow the petite cross out to Children's Chapel, to return at the Peace.*

Hymn 306 Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest

Sursum Corda



1 Come, ris - en Lord, and deign to be our guest;
2 We meet, as in that up - per room they met;
3 One bo - dy we, one Bo - dy who par - take,
4 One with each o - ther, Lord, for one in thee,

nay, let us be thy guests; the feast is thine;
thou at the ta - ble, bless - ing, yet dost stand:
one Church u - ni - ted in com - mun - ion blest;
who art one Sa - vior and one liv - ing Head;

thy - self at thine own board make man - i - fest
"This is my Bo - dy"; so thou giv - est yet:
one Name we bear, one Bread of life we break,
then o - pen thou our eyes, that we may see;

in thine own Sac - ra - ment of Bread and Wine.
faith still re - ceives the cup as from thy hand.
with all thy saints on earth and saints at rest.
be known to us in break - ing of the Bread.

Words: George Wallace Briggs (1875-1959), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Sursum Corda*, Alfred Morton Smith (1879-1971). Copyright © 1941, Mrs. Alfred M. Smith.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed *unison, standing as you are comfortable*

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 Please sit or kneel for the prayers*

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 victims of hunger, fear, war, 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, Grace, Roxane, and Darius, our priests, our vestry and church staff, for all bishops, clergy, and lay ministers; for all who are leading the process of *Making Room for All*;

For all who serve God in the Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray for St. Thomas parishioners John, Jennifer and family, the Decker family, the family and friends of Murray Craig, John, Bob, Neal, Laurie, Gene, Ellen, Steve, Cindy, Bernie, Josh, Rick, and Raymond; for our homebound members Ramón, Carol, Bill, Jan, and William; for friends of the parish - the family and friends of Molly Lane, the Ellison family, the family and friends of Samantha Broom, John, Donna, Chris, John, Linda, the family and friends of Lexy McRae, Sam, and Jim; for those who care for them, and for others we name at this time . . . *Silence*. Hear us, Lord; **for your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. Give thanks for the birthdays of Mac, Bebe, Hudson, Steve, Ann, and Ellie; for the anniversaries of Martin & Sandra, Steve & Pat, and Paul & Elizabeth; and other blessings we name at this time. *Silence*. We will exalt you, O God our King; **and praise your name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, especially Norma, Rolene, Mike, Marianne, Mitchi, Sam, Bill, Bob, Judy, and Murray. *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. *Silence*.

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.

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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus S-128

setting by William Mathias

Ho - ly, ho - ly,

ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Remain as you are, or kneel

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,

We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;

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 *spoken in 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.

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Fraction Anthem S-165

setting by William Mathias



Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

Celebrant 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.

All Christians are joyfully invited to share in communion. You do not have to be a member of St. Thomas or an Episcopalian in order to receive. Come forward down the center aisle when invited by the ushers. Go to the farthest end of the altar rail and stand or kneel. Hold out one hand to receive the bread and then dip the bread in the cup or drink from the cup. If you prefer not to share a common cup, hold out two hands to receive the bread and wine together. If you prefer not to receive either the bread or the cup, cross your arms across your chest. If you need a gluten-free wafer, let the server know. If you prefer to receive communion at your pew, let the usher know.

Music during Communion

Please sit or kneel after receiving communion and during the postcommunion prayer.

Piano *It is well with my soul*

Philip P. Bliss, arr. James Michael Stevens

Hymn 767 Baptized in water

from *Wonder, Love and Praise*

1. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit, cleansed by the
2. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit, dead in the
3. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit, marked with the

blood of Christ our King: heirs of sal - va - tion,
tomb with Christ our King: one with his ris - ing,
sign of Christ our King: born of one Fa - ther,

trust - ing his prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
freed and for - giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
we are his child - ren, joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Words: Michael Seward (b. 1932). Music: Eugene W. Hancock (1929-1994).



1 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, fought the fight, the bat - tle won.
 2 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King; where, O death, is now thy sting?
 3 Soar we now where Christ has led, fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head;



Death in vain for - bids him rise; Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
 Once he died our souls to save, where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?
 made like him, like him we rise, ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Savannah, from *Harmonia Sacra*, ca. 1760.

Postcommunion Prayer *unison*

BCP 365

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing our Journey Together *unison, standing as you are comfortable*

O Lord God, the heavens cannot contain you, yet you are pleased to dwell in the midst of your people, and have moved us to create a space of prayer for all: Accept and bless the work which we have now begun, that it make be brought to completion, to the honor and glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. 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.**

1 Good Chris - tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the
 *2 The Lord of life is risen to - day! Sing songs of
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that
 4 Your Name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to -
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, to God the

1 tri - umph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
 2 praise a - long his way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
 3 life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 4 day with one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:
 5 Spi - rit, al - ways One, we sing for life in us be - gun:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Cyril A. Alington (1872-1955), alt. St. 5, Norman Mealy (1923-1987). Copyright © 1958, renewal 1986, by Hope Publishing company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. St.5, Copyright © 1971 by Walton Music Corporation. Used by permission. Music: *Gelobt sei Gott*, Melchior Vulpus (1560?-1616).

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

St. Thomas Staff

Director of Music and Organist - Rick McKnight
Director of Parish Administration - Patty Slembariski
Director of Parish and Community Engagement - Meg Olive-Allison
Director of Youth and Young Adults - Taylor Mack
Interim Director of Children's Ministries - Maddie Redden
Kitchen Manager and Sexton - Seth Burgamy
Livestream technician - Nick Williams
Maintenance and cleaning - Frances Woolfolk
Nursery – Riley Mullen, Evie Smith, Dorothy Uwanawich, Jenneken Varnum
Sexton assistant - Morgan Camp

St. Thomas Clergy

Associate Rector for Mission - Darius Sudayi
Associate Rector for Pastoral Care - Roxane Gwyn
Rector - Grace Burton-Edwards

In our prayers

St. Thomas parishioners: John Studstill, Jennifer Boyd & family, the Decker family, the family & friends of Murray Craig, John Partin, Bob Chitwood, Neal Fenter, Laurie Mahon, Gene Wells, Ellen Free, Steve Scott, Cindy Godwin, Bernie Sutter, Josh Becker, Rick McKnight, Raymond Campbell

Homebound members: Ramón Capo, Carol Kennon, Bill Pauli, Jan Pittman, William South

Friends of the parish: The family & friends of Molly Lane (*Cindy Godwin*), the Ellison family (*Meg Olive-Allison*), the family & friends of Samantha Broom (*Katie Buckley*), John Guy (*Ena Hunt*), Donna Becker (*Ashley Becker*), Chris Matthews (*Bonnie Ellis*), John Denny (*Ena Hunt*), Linda (*Florence Wakoko-Studstill*), the family & friends of Lexy McRae (*Riley Connery, Taylor St. John*), Sam Delgado (*Kym Futch*), Jim Holder (*Jenny Holder*)

Those with continuing concerns: Frank & Pam Feagle, Carlene Pawlowicz, Ralph Wimberly, Henry Morrill, Jessica McComb, Esther Thomas, Joe Mills, April Jacobs, Jana Speer, Amy Nurnberg, Debbie & Max Anderson, Art France, Angela Tulloh (*Louise Tulloh*)

Soldiers and families at Ft. Moore and St. Thomas members and friends who are deployed: Krk Malit

Those celebrating birthdays: Mac McKnight 4/14, Bebe Bahnsen 4/15, Hudson Mitchell 4/16, Steve Scott 4/18, Ann McDuffie 4/18, Ellie Underwood 4/20

Those celebrating anniversaries: Martin & Sandra McCann 4/15, Steve Hodges & Pat Daniel 4/17, Paul & Elizabeth Hostetter 4/18

Those who have died: Norma Jergens 7/27/23, Rolene Stewart 8/6/23, Mike Nichols 8/31/23, Marianne Baxter 9/9/23, Mitchi Wade 11/3/23, Sam Harmon 11/25/23, Bill Thomas 11/25/23, Bob Wadkins 1/11/24, Judy Harding 1/22/24, Murray Craig 4/4/24

Announcements

For more information about the ministries of St. Thomas, pick up our latest *Seasons* newsletter or visit our website at www.StThomasColumbus.org.

Sundays

Coffee Time: 8:45-10:15. Homemade and packaged snacks are available in the parish hall.

Formation:

Sunday Stories: 9:30-10:15 in the Outreach Center. Children ages Pre-K – 3rd grade

Tween Time: 9:30-10:15 in the Youth Room. Children ages 4th grade-middle school

Adults: 9:30-10:15

In Search of Justice - April 21 & 28, May 5 & 12 in the library. Themes of justice, righteousness, and fairness abound throughout the scriptures. This study will explore the Justice of God revealed in the scriptures and what it means to live out God's justice in a world filled with so much injustice. Jerry Brown will facilitate these discussions.

Welcome Class - April 21 to May 12, in the Parlor.

Worship:

Children's Chapel: Children follow the petite cross to the Chapel before the Gospel reading and return for Holy Eucharist at the Peace.

Children's lectionary bulletins can be found in the busy bags located under the wooden table at the rear of All Saints' Hall.

Contemplative Healing Service: April 28 at 5pm in the Chapel. Silence, gentle chanting, scripture, candlelight, meditation, healing prayers with anointing, and the Holy Eucharist. Bring your most vulnerable self and be met with the gift of silence and healing.

Wednesdays

Wednesdays Eucharist: 5:30 to 6 in the Chapel. This brief Eucharist focuses on a saint being celebrated that day or week, using an updated version of the Eucharistic prayer with more expansive language for God and people.

Wednesday programming schedule:

5:30 Eucharist in the Chapel
5:30-6:15 Dinner served in the parish hall
6:20 Prayers around tables
6:30-7:30 Formation time for children, youth, and adults
6:45-8:30 St. Thomas Choir rehearsal in the Chapel

(Nursery available from 5:30-7:30; longer if needed by choir members.)

Wednesday Dinner: An entrée with two sides and a simple dessert. (Vegetarian and gluten free options available by request). Suggested cost: \$7.50 per adult, \$5 per child under 12, and \$25 per family, however, we invite you to pay what you can - more or less as you are able. Reservations needed each week by midnight on Monday. Menus are posted on the website, and you can register and pay online for up to a month at a time. Reservation cards also available in the pews.

Menu – April 17: Baked potato bar

News for this week

Second Sunday Offering for CVEM: On the 2nd Sunday of the month we receive a special offering for CVEM. They are helping many neighbors with rent, utilities, and other needs in this time. To give, go to cvemjubilee.org or bring cash or check to the collection box on Sunday.

Welcome Classes: First Steps with St. Thomas - Sundays at 9:30, April 14 to May 12. Our next round of Welcome Classes will take place in Easter season. These are for all guests and new members who would like to learn more about St. Thomas and for long-time members who would like a refresher.

Guiding Lights: Conversations about care for children past and present; Wednesday evenings April 10 to May 15, 6:30 to 7:30 in the Library. Join us for conversation about guiding young people. Each night we pick a theme and share experiences, wisdom, and questions around that theme. Parents of young children, parents of adult children, grandparents, teachers, neighbors - all are invited. All who love and care for children and teens have something to share. **April 17 -** Susie Olive-Allison leads a conversation about social media and internet safety.

The Ten Commandments: An Interfaith Conversation With Rabbi Beth Schwartz and friends; Select Wednesdays in April and May; 6:30 to 7:30 at St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church (4026 Macon Rd). Join Rabbi Beth Schwartz, the Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards, and friends in Luther Hall at St. Matthew Lutheran Church for dialogue with the Ten Commandments. The course will explore the Ten Commandments through the lenses of Judaism and Lutheran, Episcopal, and Presbyterian liturgical and catechetical traditions of interpreting and applying them. This is a continuation of a discussion that began at St. Matthew before Lent. **April 17:** "Honor Your Father and Your Mother"

April YACT Social: Thursday, April 18, 7:00pm. Join Young Adults from St. Thomas for a Columbus Lions game! RSVP to Taylor@stthomascolumbus.org.

Women's Group: April 19, 6:30, Mabella Midland. Gather with women from St. Thomas for fellowship and meal. This group meets once a month and typically alternates between meeting for lunch or dinner at a restaurant. All who identify as women are welcome to gather. The next women's group dinner will be on Friday, April 19 at 6:30 pm at the new Mabella in Midland. RSVP on the website or at the church office by April 17.

Altar Flowers 101: Thursday, April 25, 3 pm. Join David Benefield from Highland Hall for inspiration and training about arranging altar flowers for our temporary altar in All Saints' Hall. All are invited - experienced floral designers and beginning artists. The workshop will include a tour of where our floral supplies are located and an opportunity to sign up for a Sunday - on your own or with a member of the flower guild. We would love to have beautiful flower arrangements every week in All Saints' Hall, so we are eager to expand this team. Sign up online to let us know you'll attend.

April Excursion: Strawberry Festival - Sat. April 27. Carpool to Reynolds GA, all ages welcome, for this famous annual event. To check out all the fun events lined up for the day visit <https://ga-strawberry.org/>. Free admission. Depart church at 9:30, be back by 3:00 or so. Contact Roxane by April 22 to sign up.

Graduation Sunday: Join us May 12th for a blessing and celebration of all the high school, college, and graduate school graduates. If you are graduating, please send your name, school, and accomplishment to Taylor Mack by April 28th.

Upcoming & Ongoing

Women's Lectionary Bible Study: Thursdays from 10-11am in the St. Thomas Library and on Zoom. April 18 and 25, May 2 and 9. Study the lectionary readings for the following Sunday in this one-hour class taught by the Rev. Cindy Cox Garrard. All women are welcome; you don't have to be a member of St. Thomas or even of any church at all. A study sheet is sent to each participant a few days before class. Contact the church office to register.

Youth Workday: May 4, 9am-12:30pm. Calling all youth for a workday to fix up the courtyard and firepit on the morning of May 4th! This will be an opportunity to improve our outdoor space, get to know other members of the St. Thomas community, and show appreciation for the church. Lunch will be provided.

May Excursion: Voices of the Valley Concert - Sat. May 11 at 7:00 pm. The Voices of the Valley Children's Chorus presents "A Servant's Heart," featuring many voices from St. Thomas. Details in Monday's newsletter but mark your calendars now.

Vacation Bible School: July 22 – 26. All children (rising preK-5th grade) are invited to participate in ReNew: The Green VBS. ReNew is about hope, opportunity, and service. Kids will have the chance to grow in faith as they play, learn, and sing all while serving their community and demonstrate that being green can be easy, faithful, and fun. Registration coming soon! Volunteers are needed to offer the best VBS to the children of our community! Youth (rising 6th-12th grade) are encouraged to volunteer as shepherds. Adults are needed to lead classes, help with food preparation, and manage drop off/pick up. If you are interested in volunteering, please email taylor@stthomasolumbus.org.

Evening Prayer: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 - 5:45 or so on Zoom. We gather on Tuesdays and Thursdays online at 5:30 for a brief time of prayer in the evening. The link is available on our LinkTree.

Prayer Group: The St. Thomas Prayer Group meets weekly to offer all kinds of prayers, including Prayers of the People shared on Sunday mornings. We also pray for those who have asked for prayers but wish them to be private. This list is confidential to the Prayer Group. Contact the church office to request prayers or to find out about being a part of the Prayer Group. The group meets in person in the Chapel at St. Thomas the first Monday of each month and online on other Mondays.

QR Code for signups! Use the QR code to find a list of current signups at St. Thomas including Wednesday night dinners! New to QR codes? Open the camera on your smartphone (or a QR reader), point at the black and white code box, when prompted push the link that shows up on your screen.

