



Window: The Resurrection

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

The Order of Worship for The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024 † 8:30 AM

Welcome

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.

Christ our Passover *unison*

BCP 83

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *
therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *
death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *
but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, *
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by a man came death, *
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, *
so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

The Collect of the Day

BCP 225

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 4:5-12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

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

Psalm 23 *read responsively by half-verse*

BCP 612

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Names' sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

A reading from the First Letter of John

I John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

John 10:11-18

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

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

Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord 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 *Form VI*

BCP 392

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

For all people in their daily life and work;

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

For this community, the nation, and the world;

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

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For 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 Steve, Alex, Sid, 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 Michael, Precious, Mary Louise & family, Steven & Buffy, Emma Duke, Steve, 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 Pam, Dan, April, Beth, Wilson, John, Renee, Mike, Hugh, Ashley, and Max; for the anniversaries of Katie & Michael, and Taylor & Jeremy; 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, Dixie, Bob, Judy, Murray, and Judy. *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.

The Absolution

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offering

St. Thomas welcomes your gifts.

You may mail a check to 2100 Hilton Avenue, Columbus, GA 31906, donate online at our website (<https://www.stthomascolumbus.org/give/>), or use your mobile device by texting **STTCOLUMBUS** to **73256**

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 forever 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,

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.**

**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

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 from any denomination are invited to share in communion. You do not have to be an Episcopalian or a member of St. Thomas in order to receive. Come forward when the usher invites you. Stand or kneel at the altar rail. Hold out two hands to receive bread dipped in wine and then take the wafer as it is given to you. Hold out one hand to receive bread only. As the second chalice passes, you may dip the bread in the chalice or drink from it as you wish. If you prefer not to receive communion but desire a blessing, cross your arms across your chest and a priest will offer a prayer of blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available at the altar by request. If you prefer to receive communion at your pew, please let an usher know.

Postcommunion Prayer *unison*

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.

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.**

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of Murray Craig and Judy Gunter

In our prayers

St. Thomas parishioners: Steve Melton, Alex Gafford, Sid Regan, John Studstill, Jennifer Boyd and 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: Michael Langan, Precious, Mary Louise Grable & family, Steven & Buffy Swinehart, Emma Duke Bleke, Steve Stewart, 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: Pam Feagle 4/21, Dan Wilcox 4/21, April Brown 4/21, Beth Gilbert 4/22, Wilson Ford 4/22, Renee Byrd 4/24, Mike Flynn 4/24, Hugh Redden 4/24, Ashley Becker 4/25, Max Anderson 4/27

Those celebrating anniversaries: Katie & Michael Underwood 4/23, Taylor & Jeremy Mack 4/25

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, Dixie Harmon 12/23/23, Bob Wadkins 1/11/24, Judy Harding 1/22/24, Murray Craig 4/4/24, Judy Gunter 4/6/24

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

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

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 24: Taco bar

News for this week

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.

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 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.

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. May 8: “You Shall Not Commit Murder”

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@stthomascolumbus.org.

Camp Mikell Summer Camp for Children & Youth: Camp Mikell is the Camp and Conference Center of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. Camp Mikell offers week-long summer camps for rising 3rd graders through recent high school graduates. Please visit campmikell.com/summer-camp/ for more information. In addition to scholarships and payment plans offered by Camp Mikell, St. Thomas is able to offer a scholarship for up to 1/3 of the camp cost to children and teens who are members of St. Thomas and who participate in St. Thomas children and youth programming at least once a month. Contact Taylor Mack for more information on scholarships. Some teens may be interested in earning extra money to cover the remaining costs of camp. If you would like to hire a youth to help with yard work, spring cleaning, babysitting, or other tasks please contact Taylor Mack to be connected.

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.



St. Thomas Staff

Director of Music & Organist: Rick McKnight; *Director of Parish Administration:* Patty Slembariski; *Director of Parish & Community Engagement:* Meg Olive-Allison; *Director of Youth & Young Adults:* Taylor Mack; *Interim Director of Children's Ministries:* Maddie Redden; *Kitchen Manager & Sexton:* Seth Burgamy; *Livestream technician:* Nick Williams; *Maintenance & 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