



St. Thomas Episcopal Church

The Order of Worship for
The Fifth Sunday after Easter

May 15, 2022 † 8:30 AM

Window: The Resurrection

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

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 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

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

Psalm 148 *responsively by half verse*

BCP 805

- 1 Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; *
praise him in the heights.
- 2 Praise him, all you angels of his; *
praise him, all his host.
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon; *
praise him, all you shining stars.
- 4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, *
and you waters above the heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the Name of the LORD; *
for he commanded, and they were created.
- 6 He made them stand fast for ever and ever; *
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.
- 7 Praise the LORD from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing his will;
- 9 Mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 Wild beasts and all cattle, *
creeping things and wingèd birds;

- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, *
princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and maidens, *
old and young together.
- 13 Let them praise the Name of the LORD, *
for his Name only is exalted, his splendor is over earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, *
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!

A reading from the Revelation to John

Revelation 21:1-6

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

John 13:31-35

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

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Nicene Creed *unison*

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*

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, our priest, our vestry and church staff, and for all bishops, clergy, and lay ministers;

For all who serve God in the Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially for St. Thomas parishioners Celia, Tammy, Ellen, Diane, Raymond, Steve, Martha, Donna, Randy & Charlene, and Ashley; for our homebound members Marianne, Murray, Judy, Jan, and Bill; for friends of the parish the Ramirez family, Hal, Betty, the Tervol family, the Lowe & McLemore families, the Corcoran family, Ross & family, the Pillar family, Claudia, Ashlee, and Teresa; 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 Pat, Verona, Cindy, Vivian, Laura, April, Ramon, Celia, Carter, and Jana; and the anniversaries of Marty & Beth, and Larry & Donna; 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 Shane, Charlotte, Lowell, Reginald, Clifford, Sandra, Joe, Charlie, and Darius...*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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offering

St. Thomas is grateful for your gifts.

You may mail a check to 2100 Hilton Avenue, Columbus, GA 31906,
donate online at our website (<https://www.stthomascolumnbus.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.

The Celebrant continues

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 *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.

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 the baptized 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. 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, come to the side of the altar where the priest is serving. Cross your arms across your chest, and the priest will offer a prayer of blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available at the altar on request. If you prefer to receive communion at your pew, please let an usher know.

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.**

Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

In our prayers

St. Thomas parishioners: Celia Page, Tammy Edwards, Ellen Hoag, Diane Berson, Raymond Campbell, Steve Scott, Martha Robert, Donna Sharp, Randy & Charlene Moore, Ashley Huie-Strong

Homebound members: Marianne Baxter, Murray Craig, Judy Harding, Jan Pittman, Bill Thomas

Those working in healthcare: Ansley McKnight (*Rick & Marquette McKnight*), Babs McKnight (*Rick & Marquette McKnight*), Alexa McKnight (*Rick & Marquette McKnight*), Liz Mathis (*Rick & Marquette McKnight*), Maddie Hanley, Stephen Van Roper (*Charlie & Betty Roper*), Rob Hosey (*Mary Jane Thomas*), Mona Austin (*Mary Jane Thomas*), Sean Austin (*Mary Jane Thomas*), Wendy Memmott (*Carlene Pawlowicz*), Maggie Krawczyk (*Carlene Pawlowicz*), Alex Erickson, 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*), Mary Jane Burton (*Grace Burton-Edwards*), Michael Chamberlain (*Patty Chamberlain*), Jordan (*Patty Chamberlain*), Colette Daniel (*Mike Edmondson*), Laura Stoltz, Susie Olive-Allison

Friends of the parish: the Ramirez family, Hal Storey (*Susie Olive-Allison*), Betty Daniell (*Libba Russell*), the Tervol family (*Rebekah Kreyling*), the Lowe & McLemore families (*Sherry Wade*), the Corcoran family (*Meg Olive-Allison*), Ross Chambliss & family (*Barbara Brandenburg*), the Pillar family (*Katie Spencer Sealy*), Claudia Stephenson (*Sherry Wade*), Ashlee Lynn (*Courtney England*), Teresa (*Jenny Holder*)

Those with continuing concerns: Nicole Ceccato, Henry Morrill, Maeve Morrill, Mandy Ochoa, Jessica McComb, Esther Thomas, Joe Mills, Bill & Sandi Pauli, April Jacobs, Jana Speer, Amy Nurnberg, Carlene Pawlowicz, 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: Pat McMahan 5/15, Verona Pistorio 5/15, Cindy Godwin 5/16, Vivian Hostetter 5/16, Laura Perkins 5/17, April Jacobs 5/19, Ramon Capo 5/20, Celia Page 5/20, Carter Moore 5/20, Jana Speer 5/21

Those celebrating anniversaries: Marty & Beth Barr 5/20, Larry & Donna Dooley 5/20

Those who have died: Shane Jolley 8/30/21, Charlotte DuPriest 9/10/21, Lowell Jergens 10/23/21, Reginald Jones 12/4/21, Clifford Swift 12/31/21, Sandra Wood 1/18/22, Joe Russell 2/21/22, Charlie McMahon 3/16/22, Darius Slusher 3/19/22

Soldiers and families at Ft. Benning and St. Thomas members and friends who are deployed: Fr. Edward Lowe, Logan Gorsuch, Stoney Portis, Nick Capo

Announcements

Sermons in Easter season: Rejoice Now! May 15 - Rejoice, Everyone; Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 22 - Rejoice in Creation; Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 29 - Rejoice in Hope

Sundays in the Parish Hall: We are putting the new smart TV in the parish hall to use. Beginning this Sunday, our live stream of services at 8:30 and 10:30 will be shown in the parish hall during worship. If the nave or chapel feels too crowded to you, if your pew starts to get uncomfortable, or if you need to leave during the service but still want to hear the sermon or prayers, feel free to spend part of the service in the parish hall and then come to the altar for communion. A smart TV will be installed in the nursery next week to allow nursery staff and volunteers to view the service and help children become familiar with worship.

May is our Month! May is one of the months when St. Thomas is asked to provide extra support for the Wynnton Neighborhood Network Food Pantry, which is housed at St. Thomas. Specific needs for this month include boxes of cereal, canned goods - particularly fruit and meat, and also corn, tomatoes, and green beans. Financial contributions are also needed to support the work of utility assistance. To learn more or volunteer, contact the church office to connect with this ministry.

Sunday Adult Formation in Easter Season: Sustaining Creation Care during Eco-Crisis - 9:30-10:15 in the Church library and on Zoom. This Sunday: The Interconnectedness of Life. Brian Schwartz, CSU Biology Professor and St. Thomas member, will guide us in looking at some examples and principles underlying interactions between living

& nonliving things and our relationship with creation. Coming May 22 - Codi Norred, Executive Director of Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL) - "Advocating for Action". Mr. Norred will also speak at the 10:30 service.

Children's Chapel: Join Ms. Erin, Ms. Katie and friends as we follow the Revised Common Lectionary with The Sunday Paper which features one lesson, usually the Gospel. It offers big, bold artwork, a simple story line, and an activity page designed to stir children's imaginations and spirituality. Children will follow the Petite Cross at the sequence hymn to the Outreach Center and return in time for communion.

Vacation Bible School: Tuesday, May 31 - Friday, June 3rd, 8:45-11:45 AM; ages 4 years old - 5th Grade. Register online at stthomascolumnbus.org/vbs-2022. We will gather for a journey of "Living into God's Dream" and recognizing that all of God's people are made in God's image and worthy of love. We will learn to value diversity and differences as beautiful and intended by God.

Outside Workday: Saturday, May 21, 9am-12pm. The Grounds Committee invites you help clean the grounds around St. Thomas. We'll work from 9-12 on one more Saturday this fall. Wear a mask and bring gloves and hand tools. For more information contact Martin McCann.

Rogation Sunday: May 22. The Sunday before the Ascension is traditionally a time to bless fields and gardens and give thanks for the bounty of the earth. On this Sunday, a guest from Georgia Interfaith Power and Light will be our guest preacher to highlight ways we can care for this "fragile earth, our island home."

Baby Shower for Anne & Ashley Huie-Strong: Baby Soren will be here soon! Everyone is invited to a drop-in baby shower after church on May 22 honoring Anne and Ashley Huie-Strong. Anne and Ashley are registered at Target and Amazon.

Chattahoochee Valley EYC Kick-Off to Summer: Sunday, May 22, 5:40-8:30 PM. Bring a towel and join us at St. Thomas for food, fun, and fellowship to kick off summer! This event is open to all Episcopal youth in the Chattahoochee Valley to celebrate the end of the school year.

Striving for Justice Film Series: CVEM invites the congregation to an online discussion about respecting the dignity of the transgender community as part of their Striving for Justice film series. The conversation is on Sunday, May 22 from 6:30-8 p.m. Simeon Bruce, who has been facilitating workshops for Episcopal audiences on the intersection of faith and transgender identity for many years, will be the guest facilitator in May. This meeting -surrounding Pride celebrations in June -- kicks off a Striving for Justice three-month focus on LGBTQIA+ issues of justice. To join the conversation, register for the May 22 Zoom link at cvemjubilee.org (click on links for the Striving for Justice series), and follow links there for a podcast episode and videos to watch which will be part of the discussion.

Israel Interfaith Adventure: Join Rabbi Beth Schwartz and Rev. Cindy Cox Garrard on an adventure of faith and learning as we explore the Holy Land together. Highlights include Qumran (where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found) and Masada, Jericho and the Mount of Temptation, the Kotel and Rabbis' Tunnel, the Mount of Olives, Beth She'an (one of the Decapoli), Sfad (the "city on a hill") and Zippori, a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, and a geopolitical Jeep tour of the Golan! Oct. 31-Nov. 13, 2022. Contact garrard_cynthia@yahoo.com with questions or for a brochure.

Zoom Evening Prayer: Join us for Evening Prayer on Zoom at 5:30 on Tuesday and Thursday. Contact church office for the link or find it on our Linktree.

Scenic Overlook: The optional Scenic Overlook session occurs Tuesday, 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Zoom for Journey group members who want to follow-up or explore more deeply issues from previous sessions. The link is provided in the Journey Group Prep email sent out last Friday. Send issues you'd like to explore to denny@stthomascolumnbus.org. This week will be last Overlook session until the fall.

Baptism Sundays: A baptism is always an occasion for great celebration. We enhance that celebration by scheduling baptism on days in the Church Year that call us to remember and live our baptismal promises. Our next scheduled Baptism date is the Day of Pentecost on June 5. To schedule baptism, contact Rev. Grace. We can also schedule baptism on other dates if these are not feasible.

Make Altar Flower & Greenery Dedications online! The giving of Altar Flowers or greenery on Sunday is a wonderful way to celebrate a special occasion or remember our loved ones. Dedications and donations for flowers and seasonal greenery can now be made online. For more information and to sign up visit stthomascolumnbus.org/altar-flowers/