



Window: The Resurrection

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

The Order of Worship for The Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 12, 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.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Lessons**A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

Acts 1:15-17, 21,26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus-- for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us-- one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

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

Psalm 1 *read responsively by half-verse, breaking at the asterisk*

BCP 585

- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.
- 4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- 6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

A reading from the First Letter of John

I John 5:9-13

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

John 17:6-19

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

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

Jesus prayed for his disciples, “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

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 for Mother's Day *adapted from litany by Fr. Rick Morley*

On this day as we remember our mothers, we offer our prayers to our heavenly parent.
Because on this earth we are all children of Eve, we pray for the whole world and the church
universal, that we might behold each other as members of one family. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As Rebecca gave birth to Jacob, and in so doing gave birth to a nation, we pray for our own
nation, for the nations of the world, and for all in authority. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As Rachel's son Joseph was mistreated, beaten, and wrongly jailed, we pray for all who face
trouble of any kind. We pray for all who are poor, hungry, and imprisoned, for victims of war
and all who live in terror's wake. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As Naomi took Ruth into her home, we pray for those who act as spiritual mothers. We pray with gratitude for all who give the gift of love and care. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As many women in the scriptures hoped for children and faced challenges in conceiving, we pray for all who long to be mothers, for those whose longing was not fulfilled, and for all who have lost children to miscarriage and death. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As Hannah, the mother of Samuel, went to the House of the Lord to pray with earnest integrity, we pray for those in this community. We pray for our graduates, whom we celebrate this day, giving thanks for their accomplishments and asking you to grant them wisdom and discernment in the journeys that lie ahead. We pray also for those celebrating birthdays, especially Louise, Jonathan, Norman, Pat, Cindy Ann, Vivian, Laura, and Fred; and those celebrating anniversaries, especially Robert & Kern and Paul & Jane. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As the mother of Peter's wife faced illness and received healing from Jesus, we pray for all who are sick and those with any need, especially St. Thomas parishioners Marie, Jan & family, Alex, Sid, John, the Boyd family, the Decker family, the family and friends of Murray Craig, John, Bob, Neal, Laurie, Gene, Ellen, Cindy, Bernie, Josh, Rick, and Raymond; our homebound members; Ramón, Carol, Bill, Jan, and William and for friends of the parish Mary, Jim, and the family and friends of Lexy McRae. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

And, as Mary stood by the cross and watched her son die, we pray for all who grieve and for all who have died, Norma, Rolene, Mike, Marianne, Mitchi, Sam, Bill, Dixie, Bob, Judy, Murray, and Judy. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, who longed to gather your people as a mother hen gathers her brood, we offer to you our prayers. Accept our gratitude for all who mother us, give all mothers your comfort and strength, and help us live as one family on earth, as we shall be in Heaven. **Amen.**

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

Today we will receive a special offering for CVEM to support people in need in our community.

You may donate by check to St. Thomas Episcopal Church (mark “CVEM” in the memo line),
online or by text by selecting “CVEM”, or by check to CVEM (mail to P. O. Box 5811, Columbus,
GA 31906).

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, through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. After his glorious resurrection he openly appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory.

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.**

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 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*

BCP 366

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.

Recognition of Graduates

Vivian Hostetter, *Columbus High School*

John Lawlor, *Columbus High School*

David Rambo Serrano, *Artist Diploma Graduate Certificate from Columbus State University*

Ian Dooley, *Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art from Columbus State University*

Wilson Ford, *Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Kennesaw State University*

Shayla Holloway, *Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Columbus State University*

Madison Redden, *Bachelor of Science in Education from Columbus State University*

Alaina Harrison, *Master of Counseling from the University of Louisiana-Monroe*

Erin Moore, *Master of Business Administration from Auburn University*

The Blessing of our Graduates

All wise, all loving God, we thank you for all your gifts to us; for making us, for saving us in Christ, for calling us to be your people. Look with love on our graduates and bless them as they complete this stage of education. May your Spirit kindle within them many skills and talents that they may use for your glory and for the good of all people. In your kindness, guide them along paths that are level and smooth, knowing that they go forth in love. We ask these blessings through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Ascension Day Blessing

May the risen Christ who has passed into the heavens clothe you with power from on high; 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 by Missy and Lola Beth James
in honor of Mary Beth James for Mother's Day.

In our prayers

St. Thomas parishioners: Marie Massey, Jan & family, 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, 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: Mary (*Roxane Gwyn*), the family & friends of Lexy McRae (*Riley Connery*), 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: Louise Tulloh 5/12, Jonathan Walz 5/12, Norman Easterbrook 5/14, Pat McMahon 5/15, Cindy Godwin 5/16, Vivian Hostetter 5/16, Laura Perkins 5/17, Fred Barlow 5/18

Those celebrating anniversaries: Robert & Kern Wadkins 5/12, Paul & Jane Westburg 5/13

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.

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: May 26th 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 outreach center
6:20	Prayers around tables
6:30-7:30	Formation time for children, youth, and adults (Welcome party for Shayla!)
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 are also available in the pews. **Menu – May 15th:** Chili dogs and toppings. **This is our final night of Wednesday activities before taking a break for summer.**

News for this week

Welcome Classes: First Steps with St. Thomas – Final class at 9:30, this morning. These classes 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.

Graduation Sunday: Today at 10:30. Join us after the 10:30 service for a blessing and celebration of all the high school, college, and graduate school graduates.

Lunch Bunch: Tuesday, May 14, 11:30am at Parker's Pantry. All women are invited to gather for lunch on the second Tuesday of each month. We will meet at Parker's Pantry at 11:30. After each person orders in the line, we will gather in the private dining room. At noon, there will be a

brief prayer and devotion. This is a new gathering in addition to the Women's Group. Hope to see you there!

Welcome New Staff Member: May 15, 5:30 to 6:15 in Outreach. Join us on May 15 for a welcome party for Shayla Holloway who is joining our staff as Director of Children and Family Ministries. Chili dogs and all the fixin's will be served in Outreach from 5:30 to 6:15. Games, snow cone truck, and more will be outside in the newly revamped fire pit courtyard. The playground will also be open for children and families to play. This will be our last Wednesday night for the school year. Join us to welcome Shayla and welcome summer!

May YACT Social - Rafting! Saturday, May 18, 11:00 AM. Join Young Adults from St. Thomas for a rafting trip. Contact Taylor for more info! If rafting isn't for you consider joining the group for lunch at Banks Food Hall at 1:30.

The Day of Pentecost: Sunday, May 19. Wear red and gather to celebrate the birth of the Church and the work of the Spirit. 8:30 am Eucharist in the Chapel as usual, 9:30am Pentecost puzzle activities for all ages in the Outreach Center, 10:30 am Eucharist in the Parish Hall. We will also take pictures this day to update the online church directory. Pictures will be taken outside the Office and Parish Hall doors from 9-10:15 and following the 10:30 service. If you can't be here for a photo on the 19th, you can email the church office a photo at any time. Contact Meg for more information.

Upcoming & Ongoing

Church Camp Out! May 25, 5 pm to Sunday morning! Join us Memorial Day Weekend for a Church Camp Out. Bring campers or tents and camp in the church's backyard! For those who prefer the comfort of your own bed, bring games or other campfire fun and come to eat and fellowship as long as you like. We'll enjoy a renovated fire pit area and fun together as the summer kicks off. Contact Meg more information.

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.

TAP 2024: June 24-28, 8:45 a.m. to Noon at the Rankin Arts Center, 1004 Broadway. It's time to register for TAP 2024! TAP is an interfaith, intercultural arts program hosted by Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministry. Children ages 6-11 are invited to join us for TAP: A Recipe for Compassion. Teens ages 12 & up are invited to serve as teen interns/mentors during the program, with training the week before. cvemjubilee.org/tap/

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

Administrative Assistant: Lupe Ortiz-Sanchez; *Director of Children and Family Ministries:* Shayla Holloway; *Director of Music & Organist:* Rick McKnight; *Director of Parish Administration:* Patty Slembarski; *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