ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 7, 2023

The Holy Eucharist Rite Two

It is the custom in the Episcopal Church to present ourselves to our Lord in silence before the service begins. Please turn off your cell phones.

Prelude
Simple Gifts — Wilbur Held

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Hymn in Procession
Holy God, we praise thy Name — Hymn 366

Opening Acclamation — BCP 355
Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
People **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The celebrant says
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.**

Hymn of Praise Gloria in excelsis — 8:00 Hymn S-280, 10:30 Hymn S-278

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

Please be seated.

The First Reading **Acts 7:55-60**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

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

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to `shame; *
deliver me in your `righteousness.

2 Incline your `ear to me; *
make haste to de`liver me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my `stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and `guide me.

4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly `set for me, *
for you are my tower of `strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my `spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of `truth.

15 My times are in your `hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who `persecute me.

16 Make your face to shine upon your `servant, *
and in your loving-kindness `save me.

The Second Reading **1 Peter 2:2-10**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to

be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner",

and

"A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

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

Sequence Hymn 10:30
Come my way, my truth, my life Hymn 487

The Gospel **John 14:1-14**
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Children's Moment 10:30

Children may come forward to the step in front of the altar as we sing the refrain & verse 1 of 'All Things Bright and Beautiful,' Hymn 405.

The Sermon The Rev. Ranie Neislar

The Nicene Creed **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.

The Prayers of the People – Form III BCP 387

Father we pray for your holy Catholic church.
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Michael our Presiding Bishop, Glenda our Bishop, and Brian our Assisting Bishop; for Donavan, Ranie, and Jeannie our clergy and for all bishops, priest, and deacons.
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for Joe our President, Kay our Governor, and Tommy our Mayor and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world.
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays today or the week ahead, especially Patricia Johnson, Betsy Hill, Andy Bestor, Ron Deston, Ben Spurlock, Erin Slagle, Ben Williams, Sara Rock, Ben Cathcart, William Mann, Samantha Nielsen, and Ella Jossey.

And for our Colonia Episcopal Students Yosli, Joseline, Oscar, Andrea, Escarleth, Jeimy, Anthony, Wilson, Josselin, Eric, Ana, Seylin, Kenzie, Genesis, Grodvan, Derek, and Sarai.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

We pray for Harvey Adams, Cindy & Tom Atkins, Paula Atkinson, Natalie Brock, Darlene Davis, Mary Gant, Overton Gibson, Belinda Greenaway, Pat Johnson, Lydia Kreider, Larry Hill, Diane Hutson, Ann Knowles, Pamela Lloyd, Thad Mauldin, Janet McAlister, Bill McCoy, Larry Meyer, Linda Mixon, Bronwen Murray, Lip Moy, Diane Powell, Dan Seaman, Connie Sharp, Jean & Jack Simon, Brenda Smith, Al Stokes, Kay Strobel, Elizabeth Tagg, and Jane Williams.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble.
That they may be delivered from their distress.

We pray for those who have died, especially Lois (A. Taylor's mother).
Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The people may add their own petitions silently or aloud.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**
The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory Anthem 10:30
Christ is Our Corner-Stone — David Ogden

Please stand

Presentation Hymn *tune: Lasst uns erfreuen* Hymn 400

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer D BCP 372

The people remain standing.

Chanted by celebrant and people at 10:30am Eucharist

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Sanctus 8:00 Hymn S-129

10:30 Hymn S-128

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 people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you And through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right

hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People
We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.

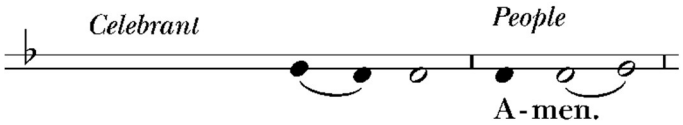
The Celebrant continues
Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, matriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with St. Thomas and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**



And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer 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
The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem Hymn S-155

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion in The Episcopal Church. If you do not wish to receive, you are welcome to receive a blessing. Come to the altar, cross your arms over your chest, and the clergy will provide a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Communion Hymn 10:30
He is the way Hymn 464

Postcommunion Prayer 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 Easter Blessing

Hymn in Procession
Thou art the Way, to thee alone Hymn 457

The Dismissal
Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Postlude
Regal Trumpet David Paxton

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of National Nurses' Day, May 6, by Dewana Lindsey.

THE WORSHIP TEAMS FOR MAY 7, 2023

Celebrant	The Rev. Donavan Cain, Rector
Preacher	The Rev. Ranie Neislar, Associate Priest
Organist	Melanie Payne
Choir Director	Kathy Heim
8 a.m.	
Eucharistic Minister	Todd Jurhs, Renee' Redfield
Lector	Barbara Meyer
Ushers	Bryan Dodson, Rene' Dippolito
Greeters	Kathy DeLancey, Diane Wick
10:30 a.m.	
Eucharistic Minister	Gretchen Mauldin, Thad Mauldin
Acolytes	Brady Jones, Brylie Colvin, Penelope Reid, Grayson Brewer
Lectors	Betsy Hill, Charlie Erwin
Ushers	Cynthia & Gregg Geis
Greeters	Linda & John Hanson (Evie Wilson – Offering)
Vestry on Duty	Ted Evans, Elysa Jones
Flower Guild	Carey McIntyre, Ruth Erwin
Altar Guild	Pat & Al Johnson, Penny Nielsen, Barbara Meyer
Breakfast	Cursillo
Refreshments	Ulla Allison

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The Staff of St. Thomas

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2023 Vestry Members

George Harriman, Senior Warden Ted Evans & David Hattaway, Junior Wardens
Mike Bestor, Linda Lou Hardison, Elysa Jones, Scott Moore
John Hanson, Donna Palumbo
Grace Casey, Kathie Clayton, Richard Williams
Wyn Patterson, Vestry Clerk Bob Thurber, Parish Treasurer

St. Thomas Episcopal Church Contact Information

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The Week at-a-Glance

Sunday, May 7	
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Nave
9:00 AM	DOK Meeting, Conf. Room
9:15 AM	Breakfast, Parish Hall
9:30 AM	Adult Formation Class, Book Study with Ranie, Conference Room Children's Christian Formation, Hiers Hall Rector's Forum, Parish Hall
10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist, Nave
3:30 PM	Youth Event, Youth Room
3:30 PM	Treble Choir Rehearsal
5:00 PM	Laid Back Holy Eucharist Service followed by supper
Monday, May 8	
10:00 AM	Book Club Meeting, Parlor
6:00 PM	Young Adult Pub Theology
Tuesday, May 9	
6:00 PM	EfM, Conference Room
Wednesday, May 10	
9:30 AM	Bible Study, Conference Rm 1
11:00 AM	Bible Study, Conference Rm 1
7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal, Hudson Hall
Thursday, May 11	
10:30 AM	Bell Choir Rehearsals, Hudson Hall
Saturday, May 13	
8:00 AM	Farmers Market, Y'all Come!

- The next **Daughters of the King** meeting will be today**,** 9am—9:30 am in the Conference Room.

- **Today at 3:30 PM**, our new youth activity coordinator, Noah Bowen will be having a **youth event** in the youth room. Weather permitting, we'll have indoor and outdoor activities. Then we'll join the 5 PM laid back service and supper following. Parents are invited, too.

- **Bailey Cove Farmers Market has begun! If you didn't make it yesterday, please come support our farmers this coming Saturday. The market opens at 8 AM.** We are still in need of volunteers. **Please volunteer** by signing up on the poster on the bulletin board in Information Hall. We sincerely appreciate your willingness to help.

- On **May 8th** the **St. Thomas Book Club** will meet in the Parlor at 10am. We are looking forward to discussing *10 Big Ones by Janet Evanovich. And coming up on **June 12** we will discuss The Three Mothers by Anna Malike Tubbs.*

- **Young Adult Pub Theology is gathering this Monday from 6-7:30 PM** on the patio of Mellow Mushroom. Please contact Ranie at associate@stthomashuntsville.org is you have any questions. We will be discussing how to view our sacred texts.

- **Choral Evensong for the Eve of Ascension Day: Wednesday, May 17, at 6 PM** Our own St. Thomas choir will be leading a special Choral Evensong in the Nave. This will be a wonderful service of music and prayer as we prepare for the Feast of the Ascension and move into the final week of the Easter season! Join us.

- **Silver Saints Movie Matinee is set for May 18 at 1 PM.** Our movie this month is The Lion, The Witch, & The Wardrobe. Call Jack or Becky Stokes at 256-881-4748. Please call 24 hours ahead if you will need a ride. Please come join us.

- **The St. Thomas Children's and Youth Ministries** invite all children, youth, and their families to celebrate the end of the Sunday School year with a **pool party and pizza on Sunday, May 21 from 3:30pm-6:30pm.** Join us at the pool and clubhouse across the street from 700 Marina Park Drive, Huntsville 35803.

- Scan this code to find links to all the Epistles. Here you'll find more in-depth articles about these topics as well as others that didn't fit here.

SCAN ME