

St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 3, 2026 8:45 a.m.

Welcome Guests & Visitors!

We are glad you are here. If you are new to St. Thomas, please stop by the Welcome table and identify yourself to our clergy and greeters so we may properly welcome you. You may also fill out an “I’m New” card located on the backs of the chairs in the church. If you need assistance with the order of service, feel free to ask the person next to you.

Auditory Assistance is available – ask an usher or a greeter to obtain a hearing device.

To request prayers, please fill out the “Pray” card located on the backs of the chairs. We invite you to list your specific concerns and leave them in the offering plate or box by the doors, bring to the church office, or hand to one of the clergy. Prayers of the People are written weekly. They are offered for three weeks, but any request may be resubmitted as needed.

Nursery care is available on Sunday for children ages 6 months through 4 years from 8:15am - 12:15 (or conclusion of the 11 a.m. service).

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prelude

Opening Music: *All Are Welcome*

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:



All are wel-come,



all are wel-come, all are wel-come in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

Let us build a house where love is found In water, wine and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

Easter Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

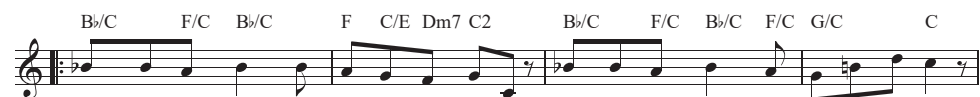
Collect for Purity

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.**

Gloria

Praise band sings verse; Congregation joins in chorus

B \flat /C F/C B \flat /C F C/E Dm7 C2 B \flat /C F/C B \flat /C F/C G/C C



Great is the Lord, and wor-thy of glo-ry. Great is the Lord, and wor-thy of praise.
Great are You, Lord, and wor-thy of glo-ry. Great are You, Lord, and wor-thy of praise.

B \flat /C F/C B \flat /C D G E Am Dm F6 Gsus G

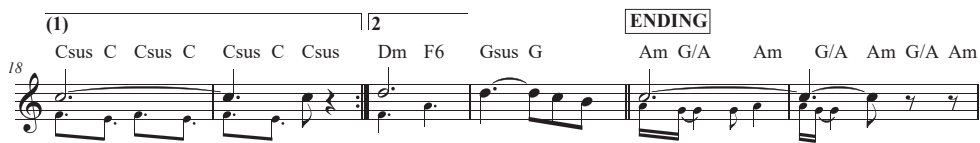


Great is the Lord, now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice: Great is the
Great are You, Lord, I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice:

(1) | 2

ENDING

Csus C Csus C Csus C Csus Dm F6 Gsus G Am G/A Am G/A Am G/A Am



Lord! Great are You, Lord!

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.**

Children preschool through 3rd grade may process to Children's Church

The Lessons

The First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see

the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”
⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then 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. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

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

**²Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.**

**³Be 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.**

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

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

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

**¹⁶Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your lovingkindness save me.**

The Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵like 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. ⁶For 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.” ⁷To 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,” ⁸and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a

do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do 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. ¹¹Believe 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. ¹²Very 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. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Alleluia Response

The Sermon

Nicene Creed

All stand.

**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

All remain standing.

Presider or Deacon ... We Pray to the Lord

Response after each petition: **Hear our prayer.**

The Presider adds a concluding collect.

The Peace

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Children return from Children's Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn: *10,000 Reasons*, Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman

♩=73

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;

Wor-ship His ho - ly name. Sing like

nev - er be - fore, O my soul; I'll wor-ship Your ho - ly name.

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Worship Your holy name
Lord I'll worship Your holy name

Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name
Worship Your holy name
Worship Your holy name

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Offertory

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.
People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

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 Him thanks and praise.**
Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dore you! My
San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi

heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly, Lord!
co - ra - zón te sa - be decir: ¡San - to e - res, Se - ñor!

The people stand or kneel as able. The Celebrant continues,

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant

**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

A period of silence is kept.

<i>Celebrant</i>	Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
<i>People</i>	Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.
<i>Celebrant</i>	The Gifts of God for the People of God.
<i>and may add</i>	Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

We invite everyone who has been baptized by water in any Christian tradition to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine.

If you have a wheat allergy, please tell the person administering communion and we will see that you receive a rice wafer instead.

Communion Anthem: *Cornerstone*, Edward Mote, et al.

Sending Forth

When a Lay Eucharistic Visitor is to take the sacrament to those hospitalized, ill at home or home-bound, the following is said:

In the name of this congregation, go forth bearing these holy gifts; that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

Congregation **We who are many are one body,
because we all share one bread; one cup. Amen.**

Postcommunion Prayer

**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.**

Blessing

Closing Hymn: *The Summons*, Graham Maule & John L. Bell

Will you come and follow Me
If I but call your name
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same
Will you let My love be shown
Will you let My name be known
Will you let My life be grown
In you and you in Me

Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same
Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare
Will you let Me answer prayer
In you and you in Me

Will you let the blinded see
If I but call your name
Will you set the prisoners free
And never be the same
Will you kiss the leper clean
And do such as this unseen
And admit to what I mean
In you and you in Me

Will you love the you you hide
If I but call your name
Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same
Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around
Through My sight and touch and
sound
In you and you in Me

Lord Your summons echoes true
When You but call my name
Let me turn and follow You
And never be the same
In Your company I'll go
Where Your love and footsteps
show
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In You and You in me

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the spirit.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

Postlude

