

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**April 18, 2021 10:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Eucharist Rite II**  
**Saint Thomas Episcopal Church, Greenville, Alabama Facebook Page**



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
210 Church Street, Greenville, Alabama 36037  
334.382.8914

Clergy and Staff

The Rt. Rev. Russell Kendrick, *Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast*  
The Rev. Linda Suzanne Borgen, *Rector*  
James Warren, *Director of Music*; Gary Mather, *Organist*  
Dent Neilson, *Vergers*  
Noel Seale, *Parish Administrator*  
Julie Smith, *Nursery Nanny*

Vestry

Jean Hancock, *Senior Warden*; Ed McFerrin, *Junior Warden*  
Lori Neilson, *Clerk*; Cemira Powell, *Treasurer*  
Magoo Hamilton, Laura Watts, Mickey Worthington,  
Jim McGowin, Steadham McGowin, Don Jones.

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Opening Hymn

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing (vs. 1-5)*

H 182

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
His cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
His love in death shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
he comes to claim the here and now  
and conquer every place and time.

Not throned above, remotely high,  
untouched, unmoved by human pains  
but daily, in the midst of life,  
our Savior with the Father reigns

In every insult, rift, and war  
where color, scorn or wealth divide,  
he suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, though ever crucified.

Christ is alive! His Spirit burns  
through this and every future age,  
till all creation lives and learns his joy,  
his justice, love and praise.

### Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

**Celebrant** Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

### Celebrant

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.*

### A Song of Praise

S 236

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers;  
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.

Glory to you for the  
radiance of your holy Name;  
we will praise you and  
highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple;  
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

Glory to you, seated between the cherubim;  
we will praise you and  
highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths;  
in the high vault of heaven,  
glory to you.

Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;  
we will praise you and  
highly exalt you for ever.

### **Collect of the Day**

**Celebrant** The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

**Celebrant** Let us pray.

### **Collect**

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **The Word of God**

#### **First Reading Acts 3:12-19**

Peter addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

#### **Psalm 4**

*Cum invocarem*

BCP 587

<sup>1</sup> Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; \*

you set me free when I am hard-pressed;

have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

<sup>2</sup> "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; \*

how long will you worship dumb idols

and run after false gods?"

<sup>3</sup> Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; \*

when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

<sup>4</sup> Tremble, then, and do not sin; \*

speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

<sup>5</sup> Offer the appointed sacrifices \*

and put your trust in the Lord.

<sup>6</sup> Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" \*

Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord.

<sup>7</sup> You have put gladness in my heart, \*

more than when grain and wine and oil increase.

<sup>8</sup> I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; \*

for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

### **Second Reading 1 John 1:1-2:2**

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*            *Thanks be to God.*

### **Sequence Hymn**

*That Easter day with joy was bright (vs. 1-5)*

H 193

That Easter day with joy was bright,  
the sun shone out with fairer light,  
when, to their longing eyes restored,  
the apostles saw their risen Lord.

His risen flesh with radiance glowed;  
his wounded hands and feet he showed;  
those scars their solemn witness gave  
that Christ was risen from the grave.

O Jesus, King of gentleness,  
do thou thyself our hearts possess  
that we may give thee all our days  
the willing tribute of our praise.

O Lord of all, with us abide  
in this our joyful Easter-tide;  
from every weapon death can wield  
thine own redeemed for ever shield.

All praise, O risen Lord, we give  
to thee who, dead, again dost live;  
to God the Father equal praise,  
and God the Holy Ghost, we raise!

**Gospel**      **Luke 24:36b-48**

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

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

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

**Celebrant**    The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

The Reverend Linda Suzanne C. Borgen

**The Nicene Creed**

BCP 358

*All say together*

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.

*Intercessor*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially those on our parish prayer list (page 11); give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

**Collect**

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Confession of Sin**

BCP 360

**Celebrant** Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

## Confession of Sin

*All say together*

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

## Absolution

BCP 360

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

## The Peace

**Celebrant** The peace of the Lord be always with you  
*People* And also with you

## The Holy Communion

### Offertory

*The Priest says*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.  
*Ephesians 5:2*

*(Offerings may be mailed or given to the church office,  
or given securely online at [www.stthomasgreenville.org](http://www.stthomasgreenville.org))*

### Offertory Meditation

Gary Mather

### Doxology

H 380, v 3

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, you heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving

BCP 361

**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.

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.

### **Sanctus**

S 130

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.

Then 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,

*Celebrant and People*

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 [\_\_\_\_\_ and] 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.*

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

**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.

*(We will observe distribution of Communion in one kind, which is recognized by the Church as Communion in full.)*

The Bread is given to the communicants with these words

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [*Amen.*]

### **Communion Meditation**

Gary Mather

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

BCP 366

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

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.

## Blessing

Celebrant blesses the congregation saying

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## Closing Hymn

*He is risen! He is risen! (vs 1-4)*

H 180

He is risen, he is risen!

Tell it out with joyful voice:

he has burst his three days' prison;

let the whole wide earth rejoice:

death is conquered, we are free,

Christ has won the victory.

Come, ye sad and fearful-hearted,

with glad smile and radiant brow!

Death's long shadows have departed;

Jesus' woes are over now,

and the passion that he bore—

sin and pain can vex no more.

Come, with high and holy hymning,

hail our Lord's triumphant day;

not one darksome cloud is dimming

yonder glorious morning ray,

breaking o'er the purple east,

symbol of our Easter feast.

He is risen, he is risen!

He hath opened heaven's gate:

we are free from sin's dark prison,

risen to a holier state;

and a brighter Easter beam

on our longing eyes shall stream.

## Dismissal

**Celebrant** Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

**St. Thomas Prayer List**  
**April 18, 2021**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

**Parishioners:** Midge Bennett; Richard Boulay; Brittany Dobbs; Ceil Hamilton; Cissi Jones; Larry Lehman; Gary Mather; Rosa McGowin; Marion Norman; Kenny Parker; Cleve Poole; Suzie Snow; Mickey Worthington.

**Family and Friends of Parishioners:** Mary Ann Arierson; Mary Arnold; Susan Bargainer; Toni Bass; Noah Batistelli; Brad Beasley; Ric Brown; Tony & Peggy Campolo; Teresa Cascio; Anne Bailey Cates; Sarah Sewell Chapman; Deborah Crews; Joey Duncan; June Earnest; Dale Gates; Teresa Green; Butch & Cass Hamrick; Deacon Hatton; Chalice Hutchins; Charlie Jernigan; Kirk Johnson; Mike Lapeyrouse; Ben Martin; Roland McClune; Donnie & Mary Helen McGough; Lucrecia Middleton; Kay Thagard Newman; Michael Owens; Haywood Parrish; Dale Simmons; Shane Simmons; Greg Smith; Edna Steen; Christi Stewart; Lee Tanner; Karen Troppman; Dusk Tucker; Micah Waddell; Tere Williamson; those affected by COVID-19 and those working on the ongoing efforts to address it, and in the Diocesan cycle of prayer for Holy Nativity, Panama City, and for the prison ministry of the Northwest Florida Reception Center & Annex, Chipley, Florida

*Please help us keep our prayer list current.  
Call (334.382.8914) or email ([office@stthomasgreenville.org](mailto:office@stthomasgreenville.org))  
our Parish Administrator with any updates by Wednesday of each week.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Wednesday, April 21, 6 p.m.-** We will meet in person in the parish hall for Lectio Divina.

**Sunday, April 25, 10 a.m.-** We continue to live stream on Facebook as well as the radio transmitter if you would like to come and listen from your car. Communion will be delivered to those in their cars after the dismissal.

**Happy Birthday this week:**

Jim McGowin, April 17<sup>th</sup>

Jean Hancock, April 21<sup>st</sup>