

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**May 17, 2020 10 a.m.**  
**Virtual Worship – Holy Eucharist Rite II (Alternative Form)**  
**[www.stthomasgreenville.org](http://www.stthomasgreenville.org) or**  
**Saint Thomas Episcopal Church, Greenville, Alabama Youtube Channel**



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*; Lori Neilson, *Junior Warden*  
Laura Watts, Jr., *Clerk*; Cemira Powell, *Treasurer*  
Kenneth Edwards, Ed McFerrin, Lucy McGowin,  
Magoo Hamilton, Travis Powell and Mickey Worthington

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Proclamation Hymn

*How firm a foundation (verse 1)*

H 637

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!  
What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?

### 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

BCP 356

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.

### Collect of the Day

**Celebrant** The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

**Celebrant** Let us pray.

## Collect

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## The Word of God

### First Reading Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The Word of the Lord.

*People*            *Thanks be to God.*

### Psalm 66:7-18

*Jubilate Deo*

BCP 673

- <sup>7</sup> Bless our God, you peoples; \*  
    make the voice of his praise to be heard;  
<sup>8</sup> Who holds our souls in life, \*  
    and will not allow our feet to slip.  
<sup>9</sup> For you, O God, have proved us; \*  
    you have tried us just as silver is tried.  
<sup>10</sup> You brought us into the snare; \*  
    you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.  
<sup>11</sup> You let enemies ride over our heads;  
    we went through fire and water; \*  
    but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.  
<sup>12</sup> I will enter your house with burnt-offerings  
    and will pay you my vows, \*  
    which I promised with my lips  
    and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.  
<sup>13</sup> I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts  
    with the smoke of rams; \*  
    I will give you oxen and goats.

- <sup>14</sup> Come and listen, all you who fear God, \*  
and I will tell you what he has done for me.
- <sup>15</sup> I called out to him with my mouth, \*  
and his praise was on my tongue.
- <sup>16</sup> If I had found evil in my heart, \*  
the Lord would not have heard me;
- <sup>17</sup> But in truth God has heard me; \*  
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
- <sup>18</sup> Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, \*  
nor withheld his love from me.

## Second Reading 1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

*People Thanks be to God.*

## Piano Meditation

Gary Mather

## Gospel John 14:15-21

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

*People Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

**Celebrant** The Gospel of the Lord.

*People Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## Sermon

The Reverend Linda Suzanne C. Borgen

*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.

**Prayers of the People****Form I**

BCP 383

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord,  
saying "*Lord, have mercy.*"

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us  
pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all  
peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For Michael, our presiding Bishop, Russell, our Bishop, for Linda Suzanne, our priest, and for all the  
clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For Donald, our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all those in authority, that they  
would make wise decisions according to God's will, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For Kay, our Governor, for the state of Alabama, and for all who guide the governance of states in  
these, our United States, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For Dexter our mayor, for the city of Greenville, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, remembering especially today those on our prayer list and those suffering from COVID-19, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For all medical personnel and first responders, for their health and protection as they care for others, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, especially remembering Camille Vaughn, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

*Lord, have mercy.*

In communion with Thomas and all your saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

*To thee, O Lord our God.*

Silence.

### **Collects**

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, the source of all health; So fill our hearts with faith in your love, that with calm expectancy we may make room for your power to possess us, and with grateful hearts accept your healing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **Confession of Sin**

BCP 360

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

*The people kneel as they are able.*

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

## **The Holy Communion**

### **Offertory**

*The Priest says*

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

### **Piano Meditation**

Gary Mather

### **Doxology**

H 380, v 3

**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 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**

S130

*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 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 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.

Look on them in remembrance that Christ died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### Celebrant and people together, in place of the Post-Communion Prayer

Lord of the Feast, we thank you for gathering us as your people. We call to remembrance the many times we have been fed at your table, and we wait with joyful expectation until we again share the bread of life and cup of salvation. Be present Lord Jesus as you were present with your disciples; may your Holy Spirit sustain us and all your Church. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. We ask this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

### Blessing

May this Easter season find your hope renewed and your heart filled with love for God and all those He calls you to serve. May you know the love of Christ more deeply and find your faith strengthened. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

### Recessional Hymn

*How firm a foundation (verse 4)*

H 637

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

### Dismissal

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