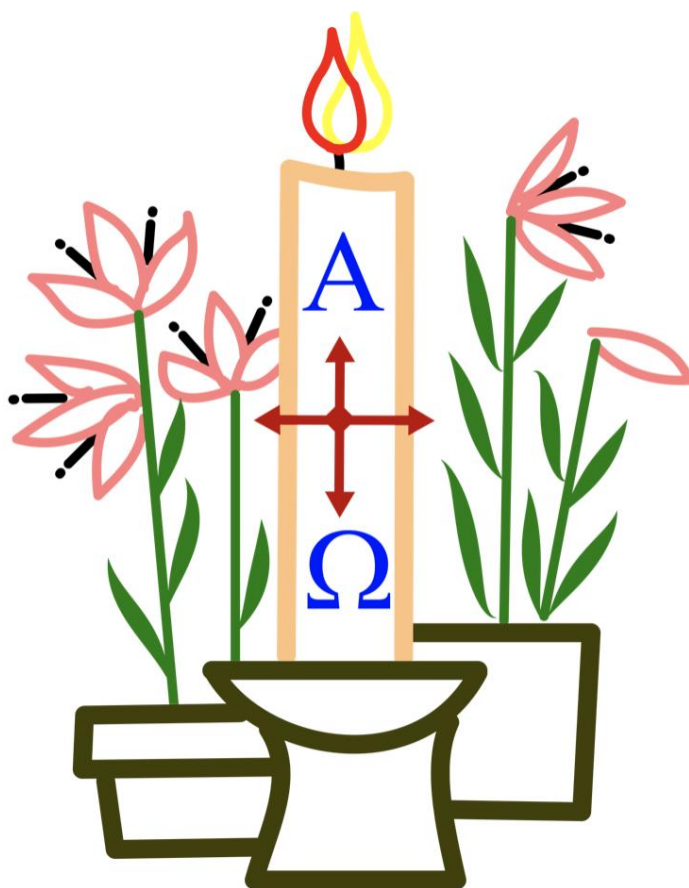




**ST. THOMAS**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We, the baptized ministers,  
declare Christ's Mission for us:  
to grow as a Church  
in the spiritual strength  
of community,  
and to care, reach out,  
and include all people in Christ's love.

# Fifth Sunday of Easter



Holy Eucharist, Rite II—10:00 AM

April 28, 2024

Welcome to St. Thomas! We are so glad that you are here with us. If you are new to our community, we invite you to fill out a welcome card located in the pew rack in front of you, and either place it in the offering plate or hand it to a priest. We also invite you to stay with us for coffee hour after the service.

## THE WORD OF GOD

**Introit**     *Alleluia #1*

**#178 Hymnal 1982**

**Welcome**

**The Rev. Will Drosos**

**Procession**     *Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather*

**#793 Wonder, Love, and Praise**

1. Here, O Lord, your ser - vants gath - er, hand we link with hand;  
*1. Se - ka - i - no to - mo to te o tsu - na - gi,*  
 2. Man - y are the tongues we speak, scat - tered are the lands,  
 3. Na - ture's se - crets o - pen wide, chang - es nev - er cease.  
 4. Grant, O God, an age re - newed, filled with death - less love;

Look - ing toward our Sav - ior's cross,     joined in love we stand.  
*Jyu - ji - ka no mo - to ni     ta - tsu wa - re - ra,*  
 yet our heart are one in God,     on in love's de - mands.  
 Where, oh where, can wea - ry soul     find the source of peace?  
 help us as we work and pray,     send us from a - bove

As we seek the realm of God,     we u - nite to pray:  
*Ka - mi no mi - ku - ni o     me a te to shi,*  
 E'en in dark - ness hope ap - pears,     call - ing age and youth:  
 Un - to all those sore dis - tressed,     torn by end - less strife:  
 truth and cour - age,     faith and power,     need - ed in our strife:

Je - sus Sav - ior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.  
 Shu Ye - su no mi - chi o su - su - mi ju - kan.  
 Je - sus, teach - er, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.  
 Je - sus, heal - er, bring your balm, for you are the Life.  
 Je - sus, Mas - ter, be our Way, be our Truth, our Life.

Words: Tokuo Yamaguchi (b. 20th c.); trans. Everett M. Stowe (b. 20th c.); phonetic transcription from the Japanese by I-to Loh (b. 1936). Music: Isao Koizumi (b. 1907).

### The Acclamation

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**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.**

*During the singing of the Song of Praise, children from Pre-K to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade are invited to follow the crucifer to Children's Chapel.*

### Song of Praise

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

**#191 Hymnal 1982**

1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts and voic - es heaven - ward raise;  
 5 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high;  
 1 sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, sing to God a hymn of praise.  
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! to the Sa - vior who has won the vic - to - ry;

1 He, who on the cross a vic - tim, for the world's sal - va - tion bled,  
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! to the Spi - rit, fount of love and sanc - ti - ty:

1 Je - sus Christ, the King of glo - ry, now is ris - en from the dead.  
 5 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! to the Tri - unc Ma - jes - ty.

Words: Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885), alt. Music: *Lux eoi*, Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900).

### The Collect of the Day

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

Almighty God, whom truly 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.**

### The Lessons

#### **The First Lesson**

#### **Acts 8:26-40**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this

scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 22:24-30** (*We will pray a portion of Psalm 22 responsively by half verse*)

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*

**I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.**

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: \*

**"May your heart live for ever!"**

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, \*

**and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.**

27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; \*

**he rules over the nations.**

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*

**all who go down to the dust fall before him.**

29 My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him; \*

**they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.**

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*

**the saving deeds that he has done.**

## **The Second Lesson**

## **1 John 4:7-21**

A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

**Sequence Hymn**

*I Love to Tell the Story 1,2 / 3,4*

**#125 Voices Found**

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems  
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat  
 4 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
 than all the gold - en fan - cies of all our gold - en dreams.  
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.  
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true;  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, it did so much for me;  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.  
 and that is just the rea - son I tell it now to thee.  
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill be my theme in glo - ry,  
 to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

**The Gospel**

**John 15:1-8**

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Sermon

Ms. Mary Cushing

### The Nicene Creed

**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, adapted)

Loving God, 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 all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Mark, Gayle, and Bud, our Bishops; Fran, Will, Rishabh, Lori, Joshua, Mary and Nicole, our staff; Mary, our Deacon in Training; Caroline, our Intern; for the teachers at the Early Learning Center; and for the Vestry and Officers of St. Thomas;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, especially Joe, our President, Glenn, our Governor, Jimmy, our Supervisor, and all officials in Fairfax County;

**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**



Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble. Together, we pray for **Ethan, Vincent, Lucy, Baby Vera, Emily and Dave, Lynn, Betsy, Yusuf, Mari, Bruce, Bill, Jack, Caroline, Herb, Bill, Fran, Eddie, Skeets, Lisa, KP, Diane, Carolyn, Olga**, and those whom you would name *[pause]*, praying;

**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

We pray for those who have died, especially those beloved whom you would name *[pause]*.

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.**

We give thanks for all the blessings of this life, especially all those celebrating birthdays this week, those celebrating their wedding anniversaries this week, and those blessings you would name *[pause]*, saying;

**Alleluia! We give you thanks and praise, O God!**

Together let us pray for St Thomas Church.

**Almighty God, by your Spirit the whole body of your Church is governed and sanctified, hear our prayer for St Thomas, build in us a renewed vision of your Church; shape our life according to your will; empower us with the gifts to make us one that together we may grow as a church in the spiritual strength of community and reach out to include all people in Christ's love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### **The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you**

*Following the exchange of peace in the church, peace is exchanged with the congregation on Zoom.*

### **The Offertory**

O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.



**It's Easy to Give Electronically to St. Thomas**

Scan the QR code, or visit the GIVING page on the St. Thomas website:

<https://stthomasmcleanva.org/giving/donate>.

**Offertory Anthem**

*Come, My Way*

**by Mark Schweizer**

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
Such a way as gives us breath;  
Such a truth as ends all strife,  
Such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:  
Such a light as shows a feast,  
Such a feast as mends in length,  
Such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
Such a joy as none can move,  
Such a love as none can part,  
Such a heart as joys in love.

- George Herbert

**The Doxology** *(to the tune of "All Creatures of Our God and King")*

**#400 Hymnal 1982**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

*Gluten free wafers are available on request. As the Eucharist is distributed, all who desire prayers for healing—for themselves or for others—are invited to come to the healing minister behind the lectern on the right as you face the altar.*

**The Great Thanksgiving      Eucharistic Prayer B**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

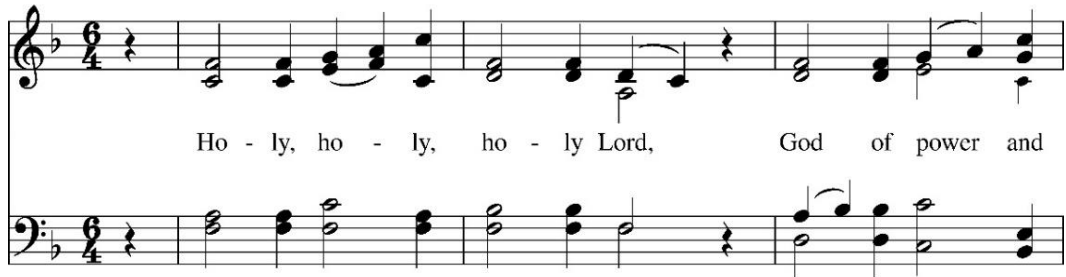
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus: #858 Wonder, Love, and Praise**



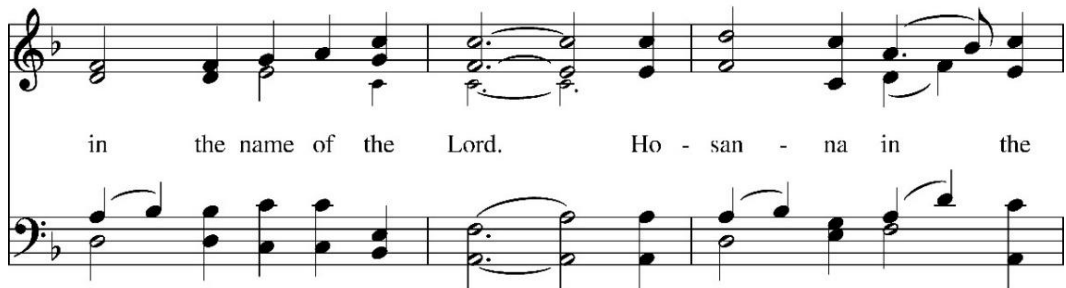
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and



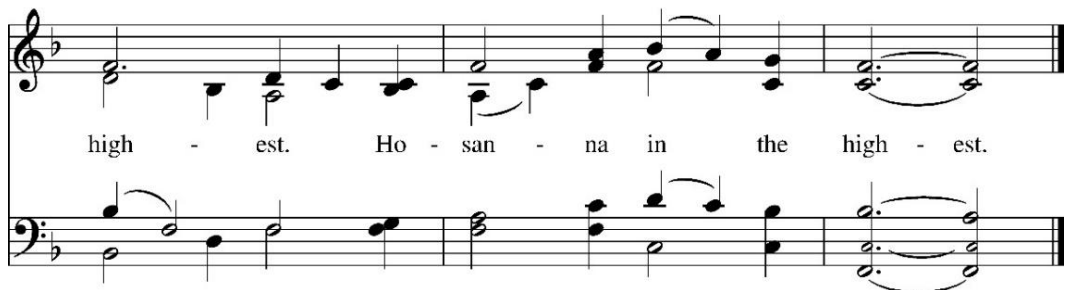
might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. \* Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 Saint Thomas 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,  
**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 Fraction – #866 Wonder, Love, and Praise

The musical score is written on four staves. The first staff is for the Cantor, the second for the Choir, and the third and fourth for the Congregation & Choir. The music is in 3/4 time and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Music: Owen Burdick (b. 1954). Copyright © 1997 Trinity Episcopal Church.

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.

### **A note about the distribution of the Eucharist:**

*We offer both the common cup and a cup for intinction. If you would like to receive by intinction, please go the left side of the altar rail and the presiding priest will dip the bread in the cup for you. If you would like to sip from the common cup, please go to the right side of the altar rail where the bread and the cup will be offered separately.*

### **Prayer for Spiritual Communion on Zoom**

*While some members of our congregation are receiving communion at church, those members gathered to worship on Zoom will say the following prayer:*

**In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you. Since I cannot receive you sacramentally today, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

**Communion Hymn**

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

#439 Hymnal 1982



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to  
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this that  
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll



caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my  
is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.  
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.  
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

**Post-communion Prayer for a Multi-located Congregation**

Let us pray. **God of abundance, we gather as your faithful people near and far. We believe you are present with us as we are united with Christ and one another in prayer and sacrament. We thank you for feeding all of us with your love and for making us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.** *Written by the Rev. Dorota Wright-Pruski, adapted by the Rev. Will Drosos*

**The Blessing**

May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Announcements**

**Recessional Hymn**

*God Is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him*

**#379 Hymnal 1982**

1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let  
2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in  
3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him  
one em - brace: with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,  
hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun-  
ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are  
guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through  
break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that  
nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.  
self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.  
Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

**The Dismissal**

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit! Alleluia, Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Postlude**      Improvisations on *Nyland*

**Worship Participants**

Presider	Rev. Will Drosos
Preacher	Mary Cushing
Altar Guild	Kittie Ellis
Digital Usher	Bruce Allan
Digital Verger	Walter Lazear
Children’s Chapel	Lael Lyons & Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith
Eucharistic Minister (EM)	Pat Smith & Caroline Mitchell
Healing Minister	Mary Cushing
Flower Guild	Melinda Fairchild
Lector & Intercessor	Pat Smith
Usher	Jan Hamilton
Fellowship Hour Hosts	The Regan Family
Counters	Jim Ventorini

**APRIL VESTRY PERSON**  
**Tanya Coogan**  
[Tanya.coogan@gmail.com](mailto:Tanya.coogan@gmail.com)  
703-727-9816  
Questions, comments, concerns, compliments,  
all welcome.



The Annual Parish Retreat to Shrine Mont  
will be September 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>!  
More information on registration to come.



**LUNCH BUNCH**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**Let's Celebrate!**

**Monday, April 29**  
**11:15 at Red's Table**

(South Lakes Shopping Ctr.)  
11150 S Lakes Drive in Reston  
<https://redstableva.com/menu/>

Text Audrey at 813.956.7550  
or Tricia at 571.244.3142 for info.



**Donate Your Eclipse Glasses by May 5<sup>th</sup>!**



Astronomers Without Borders (AWB) will distribute donated, used eclipse glasses to people in countries scheduled to have a future solar eclipse. **Warby Parker**, opticians, is collecting used glasses at any of their locations and will send them to AWB. **St. Thomas is collecting glasses through Sunday, May 5**, and will deliver them to Warby Parker in Tysons Mall. There is a collection box in the Narthex.

## Order a St. Thomas T-shirt

As we think about evangelism, we believe it's helpful to have both parishioners and staff at events be easily identifiable. I have designed St. Thomas T-shirts to help with that identification. From now on, staff will wear our St. Thomas shirts when we are representing St. Thomas at public events. I am inviting everyone to do the same.

And, even if you aren't able to volunteer at events, it's just fun to have a shirt that promotes St. Thomas and invites others to join us here. ☺ From now on, at Shrine Mont retreat, when working in the pumpkin patch, or at the grocery store, you can let your St. Thomas flag fly!

I've designed both crew neck, for those who prefer a straight fit, and a V-neck, for those who prefer a more fitted look. The design looks like this:

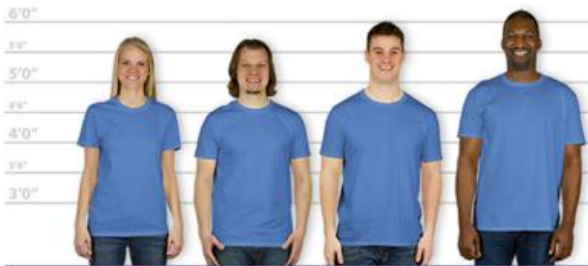


## Crew Neck Size Chart

Gildan Softstyle Jersey T-shirt - Sizing Line-Up<sup>SM</sup> - Standard Sizes

close X print

garment fit



**S**      **M**      **L**      **XL**

name:	Susan	Jeremy	Jason	Damien
height:	5'8.5"	5'8"	5'11"	6'2"
weight:	127 lbs	162 lbs	190 lbs	210 lbs
chest:	34.5"	40"	42"	40"
waist:	27.5"	33.5"	34"	38"

garment measurements (inches)



	YXS (2-4)	YS (6-8)	YM (10-12)	YL (14-16)	YXL (18-20)	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL
length	18	20.5	22	23.5	25	27	28	29.25	30.25	31.25	32.5	33.5	34.5	35
width	14	16	17	18	19	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32
length (shoulder seam at collar to bottom hem)														
width (side to side at 1" below the sleeves)														



## V-Neck (front on the left, back on the right)



## V-Neck Size Chart

Bella Women's V-Neck T-shirt - Sizing Line-Up<sup>SM</sup> - Standard Sizes

close X print

garment fit

6'0"

5'6"

5'0"

4'6"

4'0"

3'6"

3'0"



**S**

**M**

**L**

**XL**

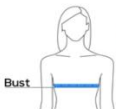
	Katie	Alyssa	Casey	Katie
name:	Katie	Alyssa	Casey	Katie
height:	57"	5'6"	57"	5'6"
weight:	140 lbs	144 lbs	178 lbs	235 lbs
dress size:	4	8	12	14
chest:	32.25"	38"	42"	45"
waist:	28"	30"	38"	43.5"

garment measurements (inches)



	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL
length	25	25.75	26.5	27.25	28	28.75
width	18.5	20	22	24	26	28
length (shoulder seam at collar to bottom hem)						
width (side to side at 1" below the sleeves)						

body measurements (inches)



	S	M	L	XL	2XL
size	0-4	6-10	10-14	14-18	18-20
bust	30-32	32-33.5	33.5-35.5	35.5-37.5	37.5-39.5
bust Measure under your arms around the fullest part of the bust					



**In order to have our shirts here for McLean Day, the first batch of orders must be in by May 1<sup>st</sup>.**

You can click [here](#) to place your order (one order for each shirt you'd like), or you can put this form (Page 20) in the collection plate on Sunday. The shirts cost \$10 for a youth size or \$20 for either adult style. Shirts can be paid for by check (T-shirt in memo line) or by going to the giving page of our website and choosing PAY FOR T-SHIRT.

**St. Thomas T-Shirt Order Form**  
**ORDERS DUE BY MAY 1, 2024**

Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

**T-shirts Ordered**

V-neck or Crew Neck	Size (charts on reverse)	Quantity (if more than one)

Number of adult shirts \_\_\_\_\_ @\$20 = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of youth shirts \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Paid by check
- Paid online

## Great News about Mary Cushing, our Deacon in Training

Friends, I am delighted to share with you that Mary Cushing has moved one step closer to becoming ordained as a deacon in the Episcopal Church. Mary met with Bishop Harris last week and was approved as a candidate for Holy Orders. While nothing has been finalized, an ordination date has been tentatively scheduled for somewhere in the Diocese of Virginia in August!

As you may know, deacons serve under the direction of the Bishop. And, in recent years, bishops have used a combination of their own sense of what placement might best suit a new deacon, where the needs for diaconal ministry are strongest, and the deacon's own sense of call, to make those placement decisions. I have let Mary know that we would be delighted to have her continue to serve at St. Thomas as our deacon. And she is prayerfully discerning whether continuing on as our deacon would be a good fit for her. She's also been inspired by our former deacon Mary Beth Emerson, to consider serving as a regional deacon. There are currently no deacons in the Arlington Region, where Mary lives. Finally, Mary might be able to use her Spanish language skills to serve one of the Spanish-speaking congregations in Northern Virginia.

Wherever Mary is ultimately called to serve, I am confident that God will use her many gifts and skills to further the kingdom of God. And I feel profoundly grateful that we have had the privilege of having her with us at St. Thomas for these last two years. Please join me in giving thanks for Mary - and in praying for good discernment for her and for the Bishop.

I feel profound gratitude for Mary and her ministry among us and look forward to celebrating her ordination, God willing and the people consenting, this summer.

Blessings,  
Fran

## Following Up on "Common Ground" and Creation Care

The movie that we viewed on Sunday, "Common Ground," offered a powerful look at the forces that shape much of the food we consume. It provoked many reactions:

- Dismay at the prevalence of insecticides and pesticides in modern agriculture, which inevitably find their way into our food.
- Indignation at the plight of farmers who are pressed to use these poisons, thereby incurring both health risks and financial debt.
- Frustration that this approach has edged out more common-sense farming practices that preserve biodiversity and the land and even sequester carbon.
- And yet, hope: because so-called "regenerative agriculture" is a more sustainable approach to farming that is gaining traction.

Individuals can do their part by supporting local regenerative farmers, buying products with certified regenerative labels, sharing their support on social media, and more. The film's producers have a website with additional guidance and information [here](#). I'd be interested in exploring next steps for the parish, whether related to food or other aspects of creation care. Please let me know if you'd like to chat!

- Mary Cushing



**May 5th 2024 | 5:00-7:30 PM**  
**An Evening to Remember: Concert and Picnic**

Hear beautiful operatic and sacred music in a spring garden atmosphere. Tickets are free, but space is limited! Reserve your tickets at [shakespeareoperatheatre.com](https://shakespeareoperatheatre.com)

Picnic food and drink for sale, donations accepted online or in person.

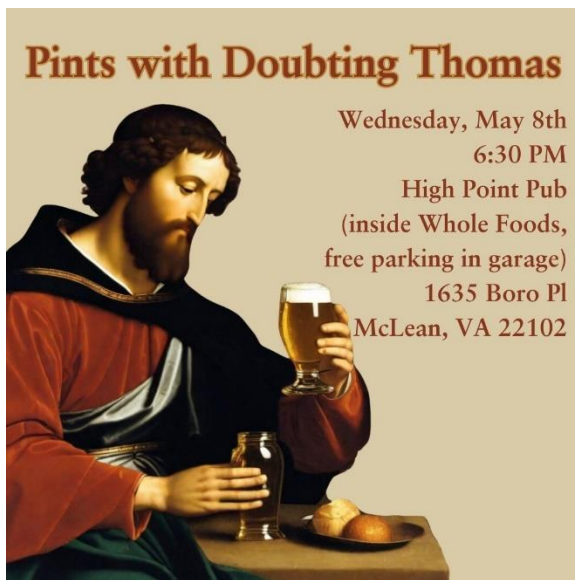
**ECW Plant Sale on May 5<sup>th</sup>!**



**Last Living in Christ Class on May 7<sup>th</sup>**

Our Living in Christ class resumed after Easter. We have one more meeting on Tuesday evening, May 7 at 7:30 on Zoom. I will be sending out each resource and zoom link about a week before we meet. I'm excited to meet with you and continue our study! If you have any questions, let me know.

-David Smith



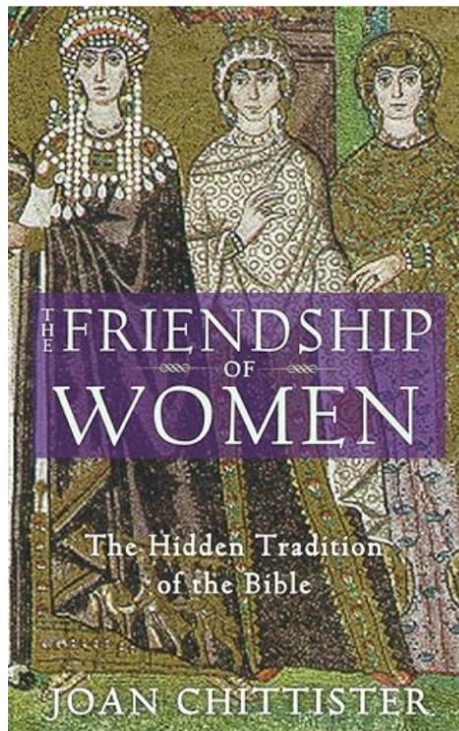
## Pints with Doubting Thomas continues on May 8<sup>th</sup>!

*What the Hell is Salvation?*

We will continue our discussion on all things salvation. In our first session, we covered different views on how are saved. In the coming sessions, we will go over views on what salvation looks like, who receives salvation, and what salvation has to do with why we are Christian.

**All are welcome, please join us!**

## WOMEN GATHERING ZOOM MEETUP



Ladies, please join us on **May 9<sup>th</sup>**, at **4:30** as we finish reading *Friendship of Women* by Joan Chittister. We'll be talking about Anne, Miriam and Mary Magdalene (pages 65-84). Mary, our Deacon in training, will lead the discussion as we discuss how Chittister explores the sacred dimension of friendship through the lens of faith, tradition, scripture, and the social sciences, and reveals the often-overlooked voices and experiences of women in the Bible. The book is available on Amazon. For inquiries and the Zoom link, you can email Betsy or Mary at [ehelman2003@yahoo.com](mailto:ehelman2003@yahoo.com) or [mecul010@aol.com](mailto:mecul010@aol.com)

**Join the children of the ELC for a special Mother's Day concert on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM in Hudson Hall. There will be light refreshments.**

*(We are looking for a volunteer to help make coffee. Please reach out to Susan Gardiner)*

## ***PRAYER FOR ST. THOMAS CHURCH***

*Almighty God, by your Spirit the whole body of your Church is governed and sanctified. Hear our prayer for St. Thomas: build in us a renewed vision of your Church; shape our life according to your will; empower us with the gifts to make us one, that together we may grow as a church in the spiritual strength of community, and reach out to include all people in Christ's love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **MINISTERS**

The Baptized Faithful of St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
The Most Rev. Michael Curry, *Presiding Bishop*  
The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, *Bishop*  
The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, *Assistant Bishop*  
The Rt. Rev. James Joseph "Bud" Shand, *Visiting Bishop*

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Dr. Caroline Mitchell, <i>Intern</i>	970-417-8417 – <a href="mailto:kfshplp@gmail.com">kfshplp@gmail.com</a>

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Chris Johnston		<a href="mailto:cjldr@yahoo.com">cjldr@yahoo.com</a>	410-299-9776

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