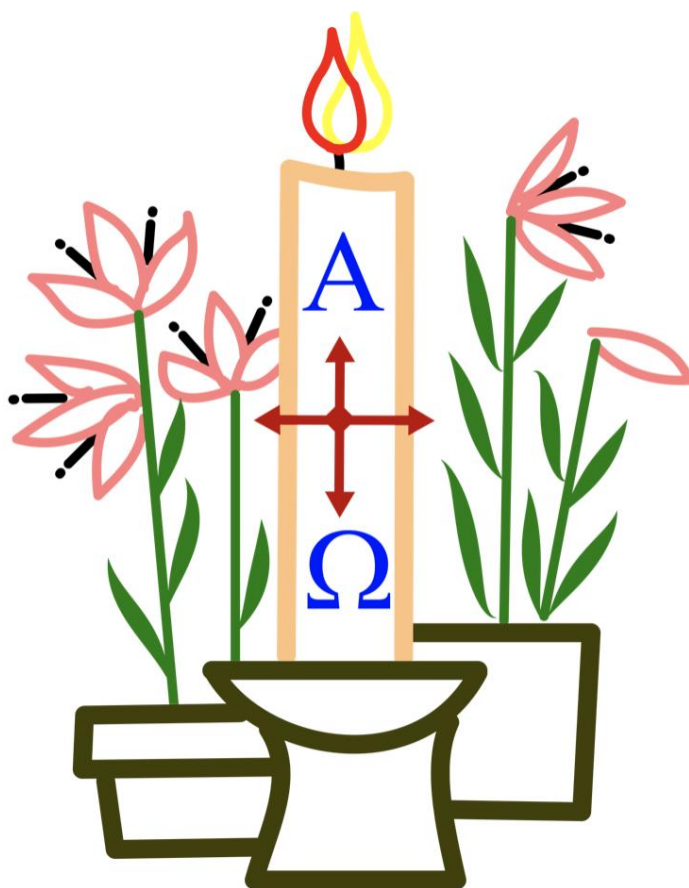




ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter



Holy Eucharist, Rite II—10:00 AM

May 5, 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

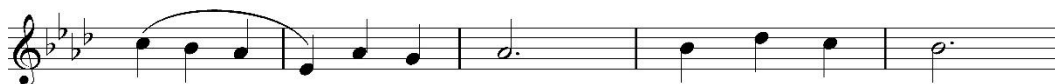
The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith

Procession *Earth and All Stars*

#412 Hymnal 1982



1	Earth and all stars,	loud rush - ing	plan - ets,	sing to the
2	Hail, wind, and rain,	loud blow - ing	snow - storms,	sing to the
3	Trum - pet and pipes,	loud clash - ing	cym - bals,	sing to the
4	En - gines and steel,	loud pound - ing	ham - mers,	sing to the
5	Class - rooms and labs,	loud boil - ing	test - tubes,	sing to the
6	Know - ledge and truth,	loud sound - ing	wis - dom,	sing to the



1	Lord _____ a new song!	O vic - to - ry,
2	Lord _____ a new song!	Flow - ers and trees,
3	Lord _____ a new song!	Harp, lute, and lyre,
4	Lord _____ a new song!	Lime - stone and beams,
5	Lord _____ a new song!	Ath - lete and band,
6	Lord _____ a new song!	Daugh - ter and son,



1	loud shout - ing	ar - my,	sing to the	Lord _____ a new song!
2	loud rus - tling	dry leaves,	sing to the	Lord _____ a new song!
3	loud hum - ming	cel - los,	sing to the	Lord _____ a new song!
4	loud build - ing	work - ers,	sing to the	Lord _____ a new song!
5	loud cheer - ing	peo - ple,	sing to the	Lord _____ a new song!
6	loud pray - ing	mem - bers,	sing to the	Lord _____ a new song!



Refrain
He hath done mar - vel - ous things.



I, too, will praise him with a new song!

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 3rd 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 - une 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.

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 Lessons

The First Lesson

Acts 10:44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98 (*We will pray Psalm 98 responsively by half verse*)

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
**and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.**

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

The Second Lesson

1 John 5:1-6

A reading from the first letter of John.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn can be found on Page 6

The Gospel

John 15:9-17

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn *As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought 1,2 / 3* #705 Hymnal 1982

Unison or harmony

1 As those of old their first fruits brought of vine - yard, flock, and
 *2 A world in need now sum - mons us to la - bor, love, and
 3 With grat - i - tude and hum - ble trust we bring our best to

field to God, the giv - er of all good, the
 give; to make our life an of - fer - ing to
 thee to serve thy cause and share thy love with

source of bount - eous yield; so we to - day our
 God that all may live; the Church of Christ is
 all hu - man - i - ty. O thou who gav - est

first fruits bring, the wealth of this good land, of
 call - ing us to make the dream come true: a
 us thys - elf in Je - sus Christ thy Son, help

farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind, and heart, and hand.
 world re - deemed by Christ - like love; all life in Christ made new.
 us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

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, 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 Emily Armitage and Dan Wicks celebrating birthdays this week, all 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

If ye love me, keep my commandments,
and I will pray the Father,
And he shall give you another comforter,

If Ye Love Me

that he may abide with you forever,
ev'n the spir't of truth.

Thomas Tallis

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 a single staff with a treble clef. It is divided into four systems. The first system is in 3/4 time and includes parts for Cantor, Choir, and Congregation & Choir. The second system continues the lyrics and includes a double bar line. The third system is in 3/4 time and includes a Cantor part. The fourth system is in 4/4 time and includes parts for Choir and Congregation & Choir. 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

One Bread, One Body

#151 Lift Every Voice and Sing II

One bread, one bod-y,
one Lord of all, one cup of
bless - ing which we bless. And we, though
man - y, through - out the earth, We are one
Last time ⊕
bod - y in this one Lord.

1. Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or
 2. Man - y the gifts, man - y the
 3. Grain for the fields, scat - tered and

1. free, wom - an or man, _____
 2. works, one in the Lord _____
 3. grown, gath - ered to one _____

1. _ no more. _____ One
 2. _ of all. _____ One
 3. _ for all. _____ One

⊕ CODA
 Lord. _____

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

All Creatures of Our God and King

#400 Hymnal 1982



1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
 *2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -
 *3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
 4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our
 5 All you with mer - cy in your heart, for - giv - ing o - thers, take your
 *6 And ev - en you, most gen - tle death, wait - ing to hush our fi - nal
 7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -



1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing
 2 loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing
 3 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -
 4 way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and
 5 part, O — sing now: Al - le - lu - ia! All you that
 6 breath, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! You lead back
 7 ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the



1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,
 2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,
 3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,
 4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:
 5 pain and sor - row bear, praise God, and cast on him your care:
 6 home the child of God, for Christ our Lord that way has trod:
 7 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:

Refrain



O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The refrain may be sung antiphonally, by phrase; all join in the final Alleluia.

Words: St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt. Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 123; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

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

Paso in D Minor

Narciso Casanovas

Worship Participants

Presider	Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith
Preacher	Rev. Will Drosos
Altar Guild	Louise Armitage
Digital Usher	Rev. David Smith
Digital Verger	Chuck Grimes
Children's Chapel	Lael Lyons & Caroline Mitchell
Eucharistic Minister (EM)	Pat Smith & Mary Cushing
Healing Minister	Caroline Mitchell
Flower Guild	Berta Smith
Lector & Intercessor	Ed Rhodes
Usher	Lynne Montgomery
Fellowship Hour Hosts	Cleta Raymond
Counters	Ed Rhodes & Lynne Montgomery

ECW Garden Sharing Plant Sale after church today!

11AM – 12:30PM in the Memorial Garden

Affordable, gorgeous plants (perennials) from our own gardens.

Proceeds benefit ECW Outreach Programs!



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

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

MAY VESTRY PERSON

Chris Forward

christine.m.forward@gmail.com

703-963-6585

Questions, comments, concerns, compliments,
all welcome.

Today is the Last Day to Donate Your Eclipse Glasses!



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.

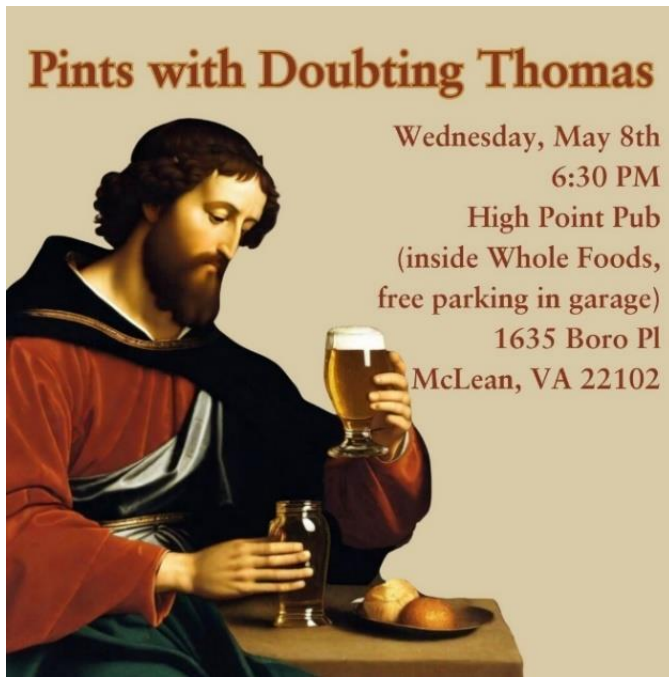


The Annual Parish Retreat to Shrine Mont
will be September 27th to 29th!
More information on registration to come.

Last Living in Christ Class on May 7th

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



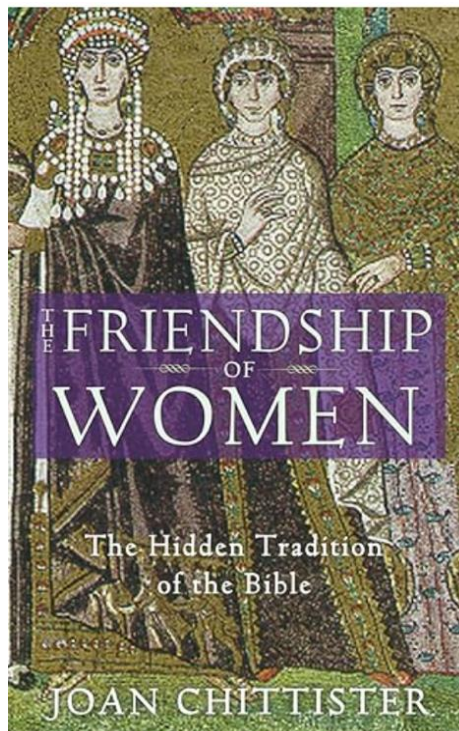
Pints with Doubting Thomas continues on May 8th!

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 9th**, **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 eheilman2003@yahoo.com or mecu1010@aol.com

Join the children of the Early Learning Center for a special Mother's Day concert on May 10th at 9:30 AM in Hudson Hall. There will be light refreshments.

*Please help us support our ELC children and hear some adorable singing!
You can reach out to Susan Gardiner if you have any questions.*

St. Thomas Ladies, you're invited to
Lunch Bunch

**3rd Monday, May 20th at 11:15 AM
Silver Diner**

11951 Killingsworth AV, Reston
<https://www.silverdiner.com/reston>

Want details?

Text Tricia (571) 244-3142
or Audrey at (813) 956-7550



You can find the current list of Most Needed Items for SHARE on our website:





July 12, 13, 14, 20 & 21 2024
Shakespeare + Verdi's Macbeth

Enter the dark world of the Scottish play, where witches, warriors and even the woods themselves are emboldened by prophecies foretelling expected greatness leading to unexpected and untimely ends. Verdi's operatic masterpiece and Shakespeare's legendary antiheroes entwine in this spellbinding tale of lust for power steeped in blood. These popular intimate performances often sell out-get your tickets now! shakespeareoperatheatre.com

Following Up on "Common Ground" and Creation Care

The movie that we viewed on Sunday, April 21st, "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

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.

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