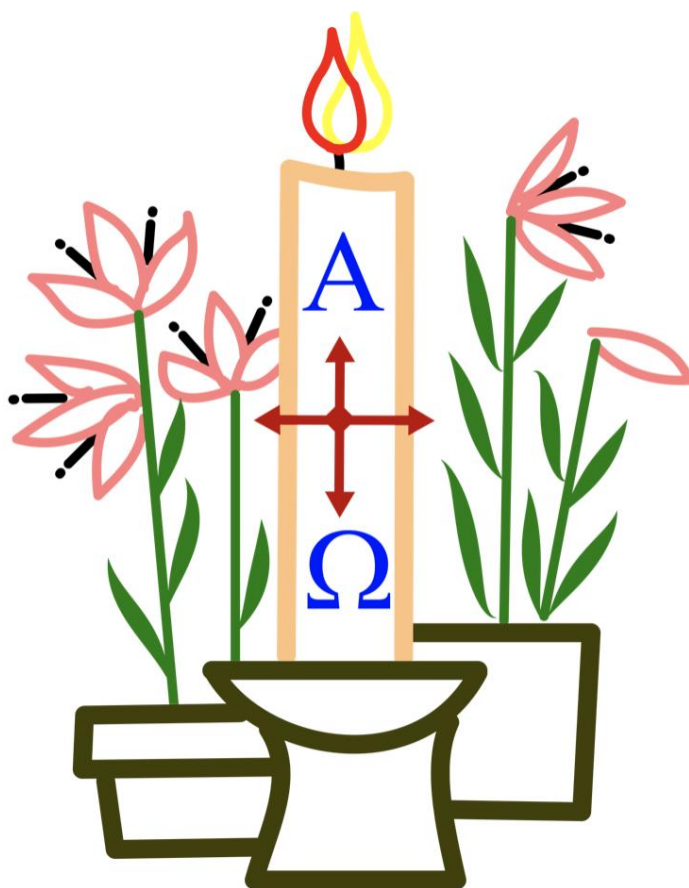




ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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.

Seventh Sunday of Easter



Holy Eucharist, Rite II—10:00 AM

May 12, 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

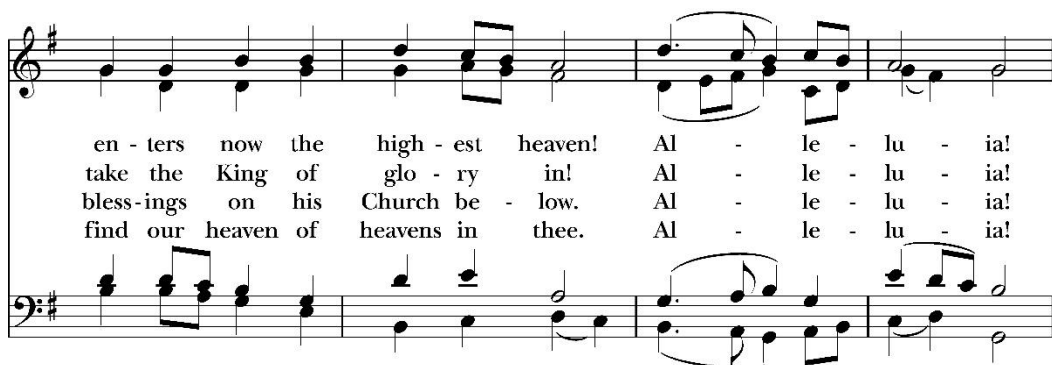
Procession *Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise*

#214 Hymnal 1982

1 Hail the day that sees him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 There the glo - rious tri - umph waits; Al - le - lu - ia!
 *3 See! he lifts his hands a - bove; Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Lord be - yond our mor - tal sight, Al - le - lu - ia!

glo - rious to his na - tive skies; Al - le - lu - ia!
 lift your heads, c - ter - nal gates! Al - le - lu - ia!
 See! he shows the prints of love; Al - le - lu - ia!
 raise our hearts to reach thy height, Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ, a - while to mor - tals given, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Wide un - fold the ra - diant scene; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Hark! his gra - cious lips be - stow, Al - le - lu - ia!
 there thy face un - cloud - ed see, Al - le - lu - ia!



en - ters now the high - est heaven! Al - le - lu - ia!
 take the King of glo - ry in! Al - le - lu - ia!
 bless - ings on his Church be - low. Al - le - lu - ia!
 find our heaven of heav - ens in thee. Al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Llanfair*, Robert Williams (1781-1821).

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.

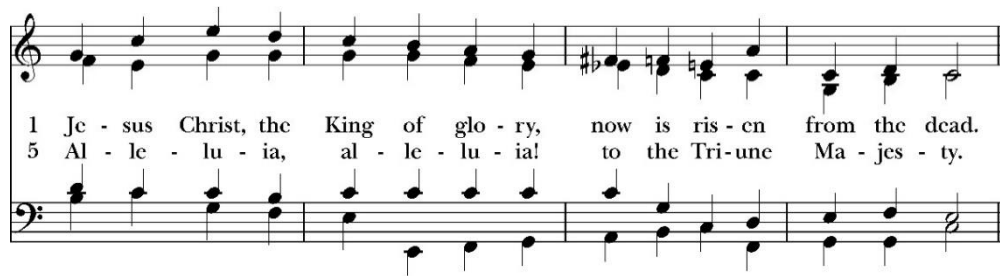
Song of Praise

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;



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, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus-- for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us-- one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1 (*We will pray Psalm 1 responsively by half verse*)

- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.

4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

The Second Lesson

1 John 5:9-13

A reading from the first letter of John.

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn can be found on Page 6

The Gospel

John 17:6-19

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus prayed for his disciples, "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me.

I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn *We are All One in Mission 1,2 / 3,4* **#778 Wonder, Love, and Praise**

1. We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,
 2. We all are called for ser - vice to wit - ness in God's name.
 3. We all be - hold one vi - sion, a stark re - al - i - ty;
 4. Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
 Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent, our pur - pose is the same:
 the stew - ard of sal - va - tion was nailed up - on a tree.
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.

A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,
Yet res - ur - rect - ed Jus - tice gives rise that we may share
We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,
to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so peo - ple of all na - tions may feel God's warm em - brace.
free re - con - cil - i - a - tion and hope a - mid de - spair.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Words: Rusty Edwards (b. 1955). Music: *Nyland*, Finnish folk melody; adapt. and harm. David Evans (1874-1948).

The Sermon

Dr. Caroline Mitchell

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, Herb, Bill, Fran, Eddie, Lisa, KP, Diane, Carolyn, Olga, Cheryl, Amanda, Cleta**, 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 Louise Rosenburgh, Chuck Grimes, Brendan ten Siethoff, and Jeson Ingraham celebrating birthdays this week; Mary Lee and Rick Montfort celebrating their wedding anniversary 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

Eden's Song

Mark Schweizer

A memory of Eden stirs and walks within the warmth of spring;
It whispers every hope God has to life eternal, listening.

Stretch past the gloom of winter's gray, unfurl by faith and not by sight;
to touch the light of lengthening day that calls thee forth to green delight.

The season of new growth begins, embrace the promise we all share;
lift every voice and celebrate, the living God, who's always there.

-Beverly Easterling

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.

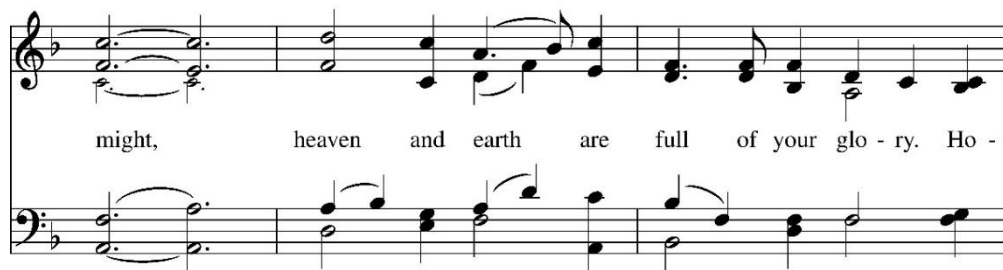
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Hosanna in the Highest'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: '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 five staves. The first staff is for the Cantor, the second for the Choir, and the third for the 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." The music is in 3/4 time and features various melodic lines and rests.

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 are receiving communion at church, those worshiping on Zoom 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.

1 Draw nigh and take the Bo - dy of the Lord,
 2 Saved by that Bo - dy and that ho - ly Blood,
 3 Sal - va - tion's giv - er, Christ, the on - ly Son,
 4 Of - fered was he for great - est and for least,
 5 Ap - proach ye then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,

Ped.

1 and drink the ho - ly Blood for you out - poured.
 2 with souls re - freshed, we ren - der thanks to God.
 3 by his dear cross and blood the vic - tory won.
 4 him - self the Vic - tim, and him - self the Priest.
 5 and take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.

6 He that his saints in this world rules and shields
to all believers life eternal yields;

7 with heavenly bread he makes the hungry whole,
gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

8 Alpha-Omega, unto whom shall bow
all nations at the doom, is with us now.

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.**

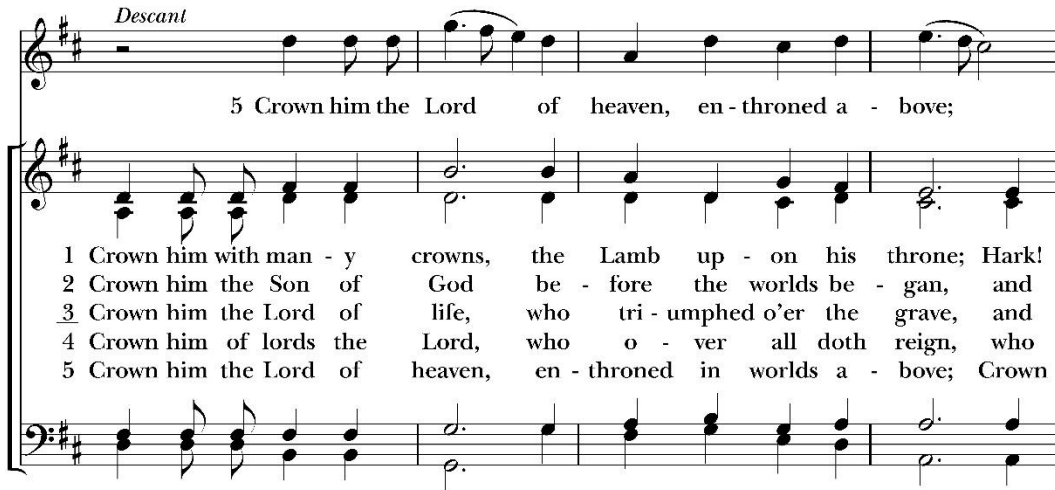
Announcements

Recessional Hymn

Crown Him with Many Crowns

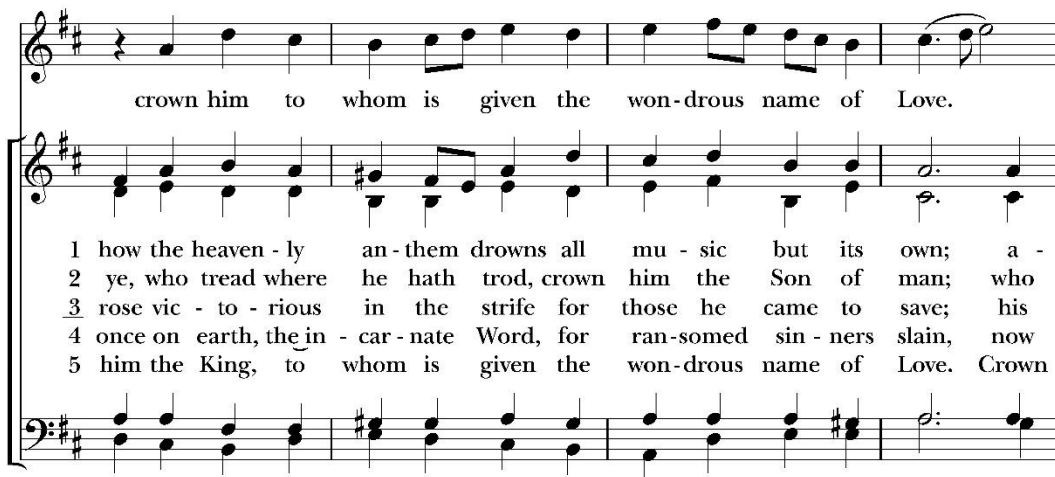
#494 Hymnal 1982

Descant



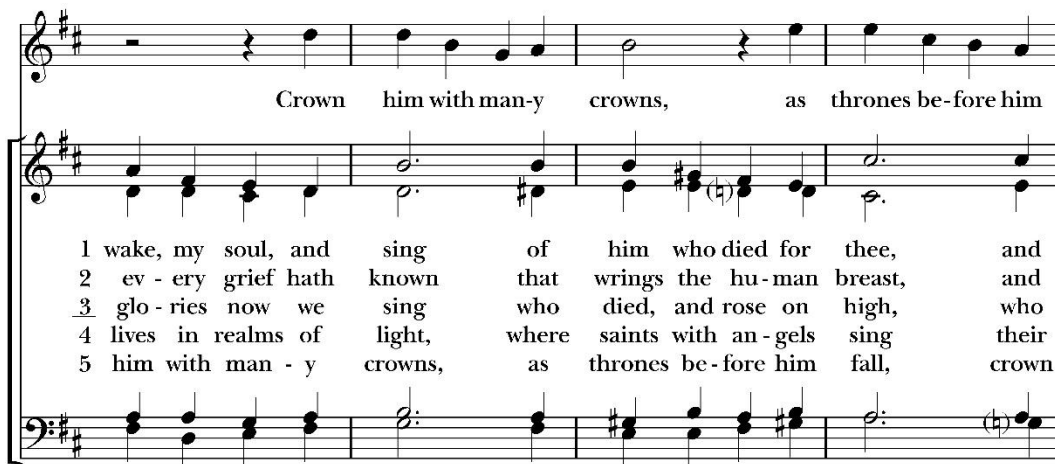
5 Crown him the Lord of heaven, en-throned a - bove;

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne; Hark!
2 Crown him the Son of God be - fore the worlds be - gan, and
3 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave, and
4 Crown him of lords the Lord, who o - ver all doth reign, who
5 Crown him the Lord of heaven, en - throned in worlds a - bove; Crown



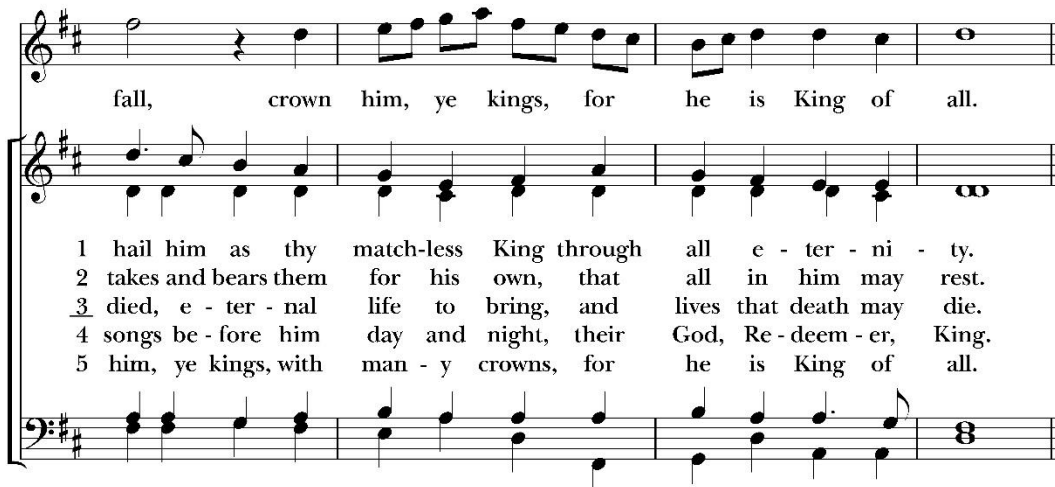
crown him to whom is given the won-drous name of Love.

1 how the heaven - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own; a -
2 ye, who tread where he hath trod, crown him the Son of man; who
3 rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save; his
4 once on earth, the in - car - nate Word, for ran - somed sin - ners slain, now
5 him the King, to whom is given the won-drous name of Love. Crown



Crown him with man-y crowns, as thrones be-fore him

1 wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and
2 ev - ery grief hath known that wrings the hu-man breast, and
3 glo - ries now we sing who died, and rose on high, who
4 lives in realms of light, where saints with an - gels sing their
5 him with man - y crowns, as thrones be-fore him fall, crown



fall, crown him, ye kings, for he is King of all.

1 hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 2 takes and bears them for his own, that all in him may rest.
 3 died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 4 songs be - fore him day and night, their God, Re - deem - er, King.
 5 him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, for he is King of all.

Words: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894). Music: *Diademata*, George Job Elvey (1816-1893); desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).
 Descant, Copyright © 1970, Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

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 Variations on *Hyfrydol*

Worship Participants

Presider	Rev. Will Drosos
Preacher	Caroline Mitchell
Altar Guild	Deborah Forbes
Digital Verger	Chuck Grimes
Children's Chapel	Lael Lyons & Mary Cushing
Eucharistic Minister (EM)	Louise Armitage & Caroline Mitchell
Healing Minister	Mary Cushing
Flower Guild	Jan Grimes
Lector & Intercessor	Louise Armitage
Usher	Jan Hamilton
Fellowship Hour Hosts	Becky & Jim Ventorini, Jan Hamilton

MAY VESTRY PERSON

Chris Forward

christine.m.forward@gmail.com

703-963-6585

Questions, comments, concerns, compliments,
all welcome.



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

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





The next meeting of the ECW is Sunday, May 26th at 11:30 am in the ELC Conference Room and on Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89302088143?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89302088143?pwd=Ym5oQVcwTnlLOTY4OG9GRjVaODRUQT09)

[pwd=Ym5oQVcwTnlLOTY4OG9GRjVaODRUQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89302088143?pwd=Ym5oQVcwTnlLOTY4OG9GRjVaODRUQT09)

Meeting ID: 825 4634 4403

Passcode: 685393

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)



"World, you are beautifully dressed"
-William Brighty Rands 1823-1882

These words express what awaited the congregation of St. Thomas Church on Sunday, May 5th. In our Memorial Garden were the most beautiful flowers and shrubs dug from our very own gardens for sale! Thanks to everyone who dug, who shared, who were our customers; you were an inspiration to us all. The ECW raised over \$600 and those funds will be used for our outreach ministries.

Thank you everyone!
St. Thomas ECW

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



SHARE Garden Is Being Resurrected!

Who wants to help? We are looking for volunteers, especially those who are interested in gardening (or interested in learning how to garden)! It's a great way to help our local food pantry. Reach out to Louise Armitage for more information or to join up!



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

Great News about Caroline Mitchell, Our Intern

Friends,

I am delighted to share with you that Caroline Mitchell has moved one step closer to becoming ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church. Caroline 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 July!

Caroline is now beginning the process of seeking her first job. Happily, Caroline will continue as our Intern for a while longer. And, no matter where she is serving, Caroline is going to lead our parish Shrine Mont retreat at the end of September.

Wherever Caroline is ultimately called to serve, I know that God will use her many gifts and skills to further the kingdom of God. And I am very glad that we have had the privilege of having her with us at St. Thomas this year. Please join me in giving thanks for Caroline and pray for her discernment as she looks for her first call as a priest.

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

Blessings,
Fran

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*

The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith, <i>Rector</i>	540-532-5665 – fran.gardnersmith@stthomasmcleanva.org
The Rev. William Drosos, <i>Associate Rector</i>	513-638-8800 – will.drosos@stthomasmcleanva.org
Dr. Lori Lind, <i>Minister of Music</i>	443-226-8270 – lori.lind@stthomasmcleanva.org
Br. Joshua Waits, CFC, <i>Minister of Evangelism</i>	470-791-0251 – joshua.waits@stthomasmcleanva.org
Ms. Mary Cushing, <i>Deacon in Training</i>	703-772-7457 – mecu1010@aol.com
Dr. Caroline Mitchell, <i>Intern</i>	970-417-8417 – kfshplp@gmail.com

THE VESTRY

Jan Grimes	Senior Warden	jangrimes5@outlook.com	571-213-5460
Melinda Fairchild	Junior Warden	meldavid7815@gmail.com	240-274-4741
Steven Miles		smiles19930@gmail.com	202-639-7951
Janette Thode		jlthode@hotmail.com	919-583-1542
Tanya Coogan		Tanya.coogan@gmail.com	703-727-9816
Chris Forward		christine.m.forward@gmail.com	703-963-6585
Lynne Montgomery		lkrmontgomery@gmail.com	703-298-7181
Rick Howe		rhowelaw@gmail.com	515-229-8414
Chris Johnston		cjldr@yahoo.com	410-299-9776

OTHER LEADERS

David Alton Smith	Register	dapy.smith@gmail.com	703-488-0442
Pat Smith	Treasurer	pysmith51@gmail.com	703-338-0974
Steve Wickman	Diocesan Delegate	wickmansb@msn.com	571-393-8544
Becky Ventorini	Alternate Delegate	beckyventorini@gmail.com	202-390-4412

STAFF

Rishabh Bajekal	Parish Administrator	Rishabh.bajekal@stthomasmcleanva.org	703-442-0330
Mary Cyrus	Accountant	accountant@stthomasmcleanva.org	703-442-0330
Nicole Warga	Cribbery Caregiver	ncwarga00@hotmail.com	703-476-9476