

# ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

est. 1791

*The Fifth Sunday of Easter*

*Holy Eucharist: Rite II*

*1 May 2021, 6pm*

*2 May 2021, 8am, 10.30am*



*Share this bulletin without touching:*

*The contents of this bulletin may be found by scanning the QR Code to the left with your smart phone.*

*If you picked up this bulletin, please take it home with you.*

During this season of coronavirus infections, please demonstrate your love for your friends and neighbors by:

1. Wearing a mask (covering both mouth and nose)
2. Remaining six feet apart from anyone you don't live with
3. Refraining from touching, hugging and shaking hands – even during the Peace
4. Singing is only permitted outdoors, six feet apart, wearing masks
5. Service bulletins you have touched must be taken home
6. After the service everyone must disperse with no lingering
7. No sharing of common objects such as pens, paper, etc.

## Welcome to St. Thomas'!

**We are pleased you have come to worship with us today!** St. Thomas' welcomes all regardless of age, abilities, physical or mental health, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity, income, education, political affiliation or faith commitment. The things which bind us are greater than the things that separate us, and the love of God is greater than all our divisions.

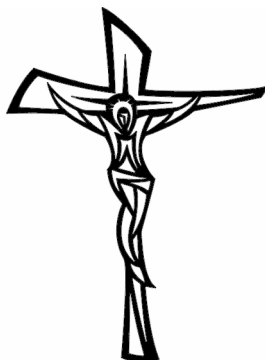
**Children are welcome at all services.** Childcare is not available during this season of Corona virus precautions.

We extend a special welcome to **Rowan students!** We are here to support you in your journey during this season of life.

We understand the **Holy Eucharist**, also known as Communion, as participation in the Body of Christ. As such, it flows from the vows we have made in baptism. It is a weekly reminder and recommitment to continue in regular worship, to repent from evil, to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ, to seek and serve Christ in everyone, and to respect the dignity of every human being. All who seek Christ – of every age and tradition – are invited to share in Holy Communion. Instructions are provided in this bulletin at the appropriate place in the service.

The **offering plate** will not be passed during this season; it has been set out on a table for your convenience. Or you may give by clicking the "Donate" button at [www.stthomasglassboro.org](http://www.stthomasglassboro.org). Thank you for your support of the ministry of St. Thomas'!

*Bathrooms are located in the Parish Hall.*



# *The Holy Eucharist*

*Rite II (BCP 355)*

## **We Gather in God's Name**

### **Greeting**

*Presider:* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People:** **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### **The Collect for Purity**

*Presider:* 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.**

### **Hymn of Praise**

Hymnal S-280

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## Salutation

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Let us pray.

## The Collect of the Day

*Presider:* Almighty God, whom truly to 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.**

## We Hear God's Word

*The people are seated.*

**The First Lesson** Acts 8:26-40

*Reader:* A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards 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.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 22.24-30**      *Deus, Deus meu*

- 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 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

*Reader:*     A reading from the first epistle of St. 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 Saviour 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 judgement, 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.

*Reader:*     The Word of the Lord.

**People:**     **Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand as able.*

## **The Holy Gospel**     John 15:1-8

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

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

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. 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.

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

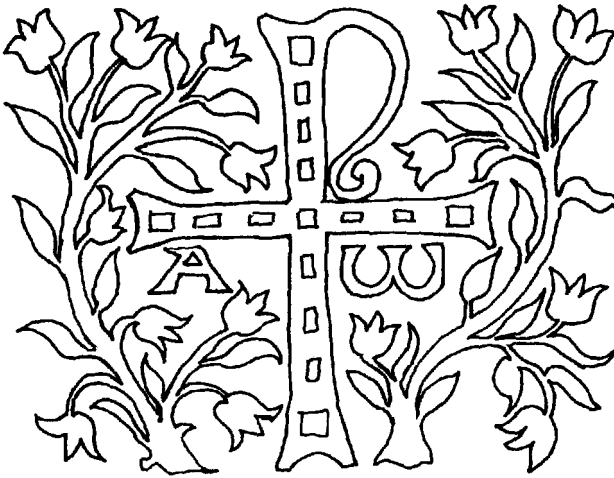
**People:** Praise to you, Lord Christ.

*The people are seated.*

**The Homily**

*Silence follows the homily.*

The Rev. Dr. John Hanson



## **We Respond in Faith**

*The people stand as able.*

### **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

Today the response to the prompt, “Alleluia, Christ is risen!” is, “**The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**” The final verse and response, as we “offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ,” is “**To you, O Lord.**”

*Silence*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

*Passing the Peace is primarily a liturgical practice, not a social one. While the threat of Covid-19 is prominent, the peace will be brief. Please do not move around or make contact (shaking hands, hugs) with others. Instead you are invited to look to the person on either side of you and wish them peace with a bow or a wave.*

## The Peace

*Presider:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*We greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

BCP 830

*Everyone celebrating a birthday or anniversary in the month of May, or anyone wishing to stand in for someone close to them celebrating such an event, is invited to stand and tell us your name and the event you are celebrating.*

*A prayer for a birthday:*

**O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## College Graduates

*A prayer for college graduates:*

**May you discover God's blessing waiting in front of you as you pursue new journeys. May the Holy Spirit's gentle influence be evident in the decisions you will make and the passions that you follow. May your hearts and lives always bear within them the life-giving marks of Jesus' love, through whom we pray. Amen.**

## The Announcements

**Offertory Hymn**

*God is Love, let heaven adore*

Hymnal 379

## We Offer Ourselves To God

*The altar is prepared in silence. Then the people stand as able.*

### **The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A**

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*The Presider continues:*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*A Proper Preface may be used here.*

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**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Presider continues:*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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."

*Presider:* Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**People: Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

*The Presider continues:*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

*Presider:* All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.

**People: AMEN.**

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

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*Presider:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**People:** **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Presider:* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## **We Receive the Gift of God**

### ***Receiving Communion during Covid:***

*Please remain where you are, standing or seated in prayer. After the presider has received the Sacrament in both kinds, donned a mask, and carefully sanitized hands, the presider will bring the sacrament to each person in turn.*

*If you wish to receive communion physically:*

- 1. Hold out your cupped hands to receive the bread. The presider will drop the host into your hands without making contact.*
- 2. Wait until the presider has moved away to remove your mask, consume the host, and replace your mask.*
- 3. Communion will be offered in one kind only (just the bread). This is still full communion.*

*If you do not wish to receive communion physically:*

- 1. Cross your arms over your chest. The presider will offer you a blessing instead, again without touching.*
- 2. You are invited to utter the Prayer for Spiritual Communion while communion is being distributed.*

### **Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

*(from The Prayer Book for the Armed Services)*

## The Post-communion Prayer

*Presider:* Let us pray.

**People:** **Eternal God, heavenly Father,**  
**you have graciously accepted us as living members**  
**of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,**  
**and you have fed us with spiritual food**  
**in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.**  
**Send us now into the world in peace,**  
**and grant us strength and courage**  
**to love and serve you**  
**with gladness and singleness of heart;**  
**through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Blessing

**Processional Hymn**    *Lift your voice rejoicing, Mary*    Hymnal 190

## The Dismissal

*Deacon:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

**People:** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

*In order to minimize the possibility of infecting others, please exit the campus immediately.*

*Scriptures from New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition, Copyright © 1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. <http://nrsvbibles.org>*

# Birthdays and Anniversaries at St. Thomas' for May 2021

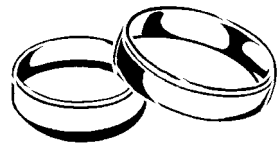
## May Birthdays

- 1 Zenaida Cobián
- 2 Liane Curtis
- 2 Wayne Reehle
- 2 Aaron Hall
- 4 Ajia Hall
- 5 Dan Stecher
- 7 Ethan Ramos
- 8 Gwen Jordan
- 8 Sandra Hickman
- 9 Hannah Gibbs
- 12 Ginny Gage
- 16 Rachel Stuber
- 17 Robert Schiepan
- 23 Elizabeth Moore
- 25 Tal Kramer
- 26 Maryann Schiepan
- 30 Sara Jordan
- 31 Petra Lanier
- 31 Theresa VanMeter
- 31 Jean Mervine



## May Anniversaries

- 7 Richard & Kelly Rocco
- 23 Glenn & Trudy Garwood
- 26 John & Susan Helsel
- 26 Chuck & Jo-Ann Toldt
- 30 Jeremy & Sandy Oliver
- 31 Father Todd & Becky Foster



*If your birthday/anniversary is not listed, please contact the office so we can add it! [office@stthomasglassboro.org](mailto:office@stthomasglassboro.org)*

## Announcements

The Diocese, following the advice of the CDC and medical professionals, has given us permission to use our **hymnals** once more! The hymnal you received has been untouched by anyone else for at least four days, and will remain untouched for at least four days after you turn it back in. This period of quarantine is believed to nearly eliminate chances for transmission of the coronavirus by surface contact. If you would prefer not to take a hymnal, the lyrics for our hymns are available, along with the entire liturgy, on <https://sharedprayers.net>. Just scan the QR code on the front of this bulletin to go straight there!

Please return the hymnal where you received it when our liturgy has ended. Please offer a friendly thanks to the person handing them out: would you like to volunteer to help with this next week?

**Rowan Students** have finished their classes for the semester. Today may be your last chance to express goodbyes and well wishes to those who are headed home for the summer and those who are going off to new adventures. We wish all students at Rowan a successful conclusion to their semester and God's blessing as they continue their journeys.

**Graduating High School Seniors** will be recognized by St. Thomas' on 16 May at the 10.30am service. Please plan to attend! Additionally, the Diocese of NJ is recognizing seniors with a Diocesan Baccalaureate at 3pm on 23 May. Join us online!

**Kitchen of Hope** is distributing food this weekend. Please contact Vivian H. (or leave a message at the church office) to find out how you can help out!

The next **American Red Cross Blood Drive** at St. Thomas' will be this week on Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 2PM – 7PM. Appointments are strongly urged. Call 1-800-REDCROSS or go to [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and use sponsor code: "St. Thomas Glassboro" We thank our dedicated volunteers who host this important event.

## This Week at St. Thomas'

Monday	5/3	4.00pm 7.00pm	Centering Prayer (Zoom) Book Group (Zoom)
Tuesday	5/4	2.00pm 6.30pm 7.00pm	Red Cross Blood Drive (PH) Small Group Bible Study (Zoom) Work Crew
Wednesday	5/5	5.30pm 7.00pm	Holy Eucharist (Lychgate) Foundations of the Faith (Zoom)
Friday	5/7	8.00am	Kitchen of Hope Setup
Saturday	5/8	10.00am 6.00pm	Kitchen of Hope Food Distribution Holy Eucharist (Nave)
Sunday	5/9	8.00am 9.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Eucharist (Parish Hall, Zoom) Sunday School (Zoom) Holy Eucharist (live, outdoors) Youth Group (online)

Lectionary readings for next week: *Acts 10:44-48, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17, Psalm 98*

Please continue in your daily prayers for: *Dennis, Marge, Joann, Andrea, Bob, Jimmie, Chuck, Jimmie, Jerry, Gary, Carl, Bill, Jeannie, Zenaida, Kass, Joan, Michael, Dee, Carmela, Howard, Kass, Sandy, Floss, Butch, Mary-Esther, Patty, Dean, David, Lois, Michael, Bianca, Kayla*

### Parish Leadership

Vestry: Jim Gibbs, Carl Kinsley, Sarah Ternay, Jo-Ann Toldt,  
Dr. Barbara Cadogan, Stacey Noll, Wayne Rowbotham

Eric Cephas, *Senior Warden*  
[seniorwarden@stthomasglassboro.org](mailto:seniorwarden@stthomasglassboro.org)

Joe Rizzuto, *Junior Warden*  
[juniorwarden@stthomasglassboro.org](mailto:juniorwarden@stthomasglassboro.org)

The Rev. Todd Foster, *Rector*  
[fathertodd@stthomasglassboro.org](mailto:fathertodd@stthomasglassboro.org)

The Rev. Dr. John Hanson, *Deacon*  
[deaconjohn@stthomasglassboro.org](mailto:deaconjohn@stthomasglassboro.org)

### St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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*Prayer Requests: [prayer@stthomasglassboro.org](mailto:prayer@stthomasglassboro.org)*  
*Emergency Pastoral Care: 856.881.2841*