

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ST. PETERSBURG, FL

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Rite II

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We praise God for the Resurrection of His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Prelude "Now the Green Blade Rises" Gordon Young
NOEL NOUVELET

The Entrance Hymn "We Know that Christ is Raised and Dies No More" ENGELBERG
Quartet

Easter Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The 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.

The Gloria William Mathias
Cantors

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

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

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

The Collect of the Day

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

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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord speaks to us in scripture and preaching about how He has saved all humankind from the power of death by raising His Son to life again. We respond proclaiming our belief, praying for the world, and greeting one another in His Name.

A Reading from the Book of Acts

Acts 8:26-40

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.

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

Psalm 22
Quartet

Michael Guimont

[Refrain:] *I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.
My vows I will pay before those who fear God.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
Those who seek the Lord shall praise the Lord.
May their hearts live for ever and ever!*

[Refrain]

*All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations shall bow down in awe.
They shall bow down in awe, all the mighty of the earth,
all who must die and go down to the dust.*

[Refrain]

*My soul shall live for God and my children too shall serve.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come;
declare to those unborn, the faithfulness of God.
"These things the Lord has done."*

[Refrain]

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 Sermon

The Rev. Ryan Whitley

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

In the power of resurrection, let us pray to the Lord, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the whole bright earth, so lovingly created yet so compassionately redeemed, that it may speak

again of the glory and majesty of God, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all nations and peoples of the earth, to whom God shows no partiality, that all may be transformed by mercy to live together in hope; for those in our Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East, and in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, St. Alban's, St. Pete Beach; St. Alfred's, Palm Harbor; St. Andrew's, Boca Grande; St. Andrew's, Spring Hill; St. Andrew's, Tampa; St. Anne of Grace, Seminole; St. Anselm's, Lehigh Acres, and for our Companion Diocese of the Dominican Republic, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the holy church, whose life is hid with Christ in God, especially Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Dabney, our Bishop; Ryan and Ann, our Priests; Martha, our Deacon; Sonia, our Canterbury Chaplain; and Diana, our Seminarian; that in all its diversity witness may be made to one Lord, one faith, one baptism, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all in high places of authority, and living into the resurrection life, that they may be led to govern with equity and justice, bringing life to those in the shadow of death, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who have been baptized and given the garments of light, that they, with the whole church, may be witnesses to the gospel in daily life, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those celebrating their birthdays this week, especially Tricia Schachtel, Quinn Brady, Dave Bernfeld, Cathy Ball, Rene Clark and Curtis Songster, that they may grow in grace as they grow years, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all captives, prisoners, and those condemned to die, with whom the Holy One shares suffering and abandonment, that they may find strength, freedom, and forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all military personnel for a safe deployment, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who suffer in mind, body, or soul, for whom Christ is risen with healing in his glorious wings, that they may be comforted, Mark, Rose, Robert, Jessica, Lindsey, Shirley, Taylor, Lynn, Michael, Charlotte, Christina, Connie, Barbara, Susan, Bill, Caitlin, Mark, Joe, Lillian and Siby, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who have died and for all who grieve, that in Christ who triumphs over death they may find light perpetual and blessed assurance, (especially for _____,) let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all gathered in this assembly, that we, like Mary and Peter and John may see the tomb empty, and joyfully believing, walk in newness of life, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant

Rejoicing in the risen presence of our Lord, we commend all for whom we pray and ourselves to Christ, to whom we give laud and praise now and forever. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

Deacon Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Silence is kept

All **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'

People **Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia!**

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you. Alleluia!**

Community Announcements and Welcome to Visitors



The Offertory Sentence

THE LITURGY OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

Our risen Lord comes to us in His sacrifice banquet, and we receive Him with grateful hearts.

The Offertory Anthem

“Now the Green Blade Rises”
Quartet

arr., Alan Bullard

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that is the dark earth many days has lain; love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green. In the grave they laid him, Love whom we had slain, thinking that he never would awake again, laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen...Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, He that for the three days in the grave had lain; quick from the dead our risen Lord is seen...When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, then your touch can call us back to life again; fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been...[J. M. C. Crum]

†The Great Thanksgiving†

Please stand.

Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Celebrant 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 say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus
Quartet

William Mathias

**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.

(Please stand or kneel)

Celebrant 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,

All **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant 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 St. 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.

People **AMEN.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

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

A period of silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthems Quartet

"Christ, our Passover"

David Hurd

"Lamb of God"

David Hurd

The Communion Music

The Post Communion Prayer

Please kneel or stand.

Celebrant and People together say,

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Community Announcements

FACEBOOK LIVE SERVICES

Morning Prayer - M-F, 9 am

Compline - W, 8 pm

Holy Eucharist, Sunday, 9am

ZOOM SUNDAY COFFEE HALF-HOUR

Please join us following virtual worship today for a ZOOM Virtual Coffee Half-Hour; 10:00 am Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: Link is found in the Weekly Draft.

CENTERING PRAYER

Tuesdays at 5:30 pm on Zoom, Led by Tricia Schachtel & Rev. Ann

Join Zoom Centering Prayer

Link is found in the Weekly Draft.

Whether you are more experienced at Centering Prayer or brand new to it, you have a place in the circle. If you have questions, please email Tricia at triciaschachtel@gmail.com or

Rev. Ann at revann@stthomasstpete.org

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Continues on ZOOM, Wednesdays at 7:30 am

The Gospel of Mark, Chapter 12

Join Zoom Meeting: Link is found in the Weekly Draft.

ADULT FORMATION

Living the Resurrection by Eugene H. Peterson

Begins April 21st at 7 pm for 4 weeks: Link is found in the Weekly Draft.

You may purchase the book online at TomboloBooks.com.

WOW, WOMEN OF THE WORD

There will be no WOW on April 29th but please join the Women of the Word Thursday May 6th, in the Founders Room. Fellowship at 9:15 am, prayer and lessons at 9:30 a.m. All women and guests are

welcome. Any questions, ID and password information

call Julie Songster 727-822-6868 or rsvp4julie@aol.com

PUB VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR

This will be a standing weekly event on Thursdays from 6 - 7:15 pm

Join Zoom Meeting: Link is found in the Weekly Draft.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Wednesday - Friday 8:30am -12:30pm

Tuesday - Thursday 1:00 - 5:00pm

If you are not receiving the Weekly Draft newsletter, please contact the church office:

graces@stthomasstpete.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

If you are interested in sending your child or someone you know to Camp this year and have questions, please feel free to contact Courtney. Summer Sessions are listed below!

JUNE 8-11 Half Session Elementary Camp

JUNE 13-18 High School Camp

JUNE 20-25 Middle School Camp

JUNE 27 - JULY 2 High School Mission Camp

JULY 11-16 Full Elementary Camp

JULY 18-23 Middle School Mission Camp

May 9th - We will celebrate receiving First Communion on Mother's Day at the 9 o'clock service.

TO LOVE: TO BE LOVED

A suicide awareness and prevention event.

Wednesday, June 2 at 7:00pm

St. Thomas Parish Hall

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

Spoken Holy Eucharist, Rite II - 9:00 A.M.

MORNING PRAYER

Monday - Friday, Rite II - Live-streamed on Facebook 9:00 A.M.

OUR MISSION

Making a difference for others, because God is making a difference for us.

OUR VISION

To create a safe, loving, and accepting place for all people to grow in their faith and spread love out into the beloved community.



ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1200 Snell Isle Blvd.

St. Petersburg, FL, 33704

The Rev. Ryan R. Whitley, *Rector*

Thanks to those who are helping today ...

Acolyte: Colin Burkhart

Altar Guild: Jean Irwin

Camera Operator: Georgia Mattern

Flower Guild: Teri Coryell

Lector: Mary Ellen Shevlin

Musicians: Ramona Billings, Mike Davis, Gayle Fisher, Rick Smith,

Prayers of the People: Mary Ellen Shevlin

Usher: George Burkhart

Church Telephone: 727-896-9641

Rector's Cell Phone: 727-685-9224

Email: graces@stthomasstpete.org

Website: www.stthomasstpete.org

Facebook: [comeseesthomas](https://www.facebook.com/comeseesthomas)

The Rev. Ann Dieterle, *Assistant Rector*

The Rev. Martha Goodwill, *Deacon*

The Rev. Sonia Sullivan Clifton,

Canterbury Chaplain

Rick Smith, *Director of Music*

Joe Master, *Organist and Director of Finance*

Courtney Crosby, *Youth Ministries*

Grace Smith, *Director of Communications*

Jon Ward, *Sexton*

Vestry Members

Class of 2019-2021

Dick Nelson, *Sr. Warden*

Valery Hendry, *Secretary*

Dee McMahon, *Jr. Warden*

Class of 2020-2022

David Dreisbach

Jay Hill, *Treasurer*

Russ Martin

Class of 2021-2023

Russ Ball

Mike Bice

Michelle Jennings