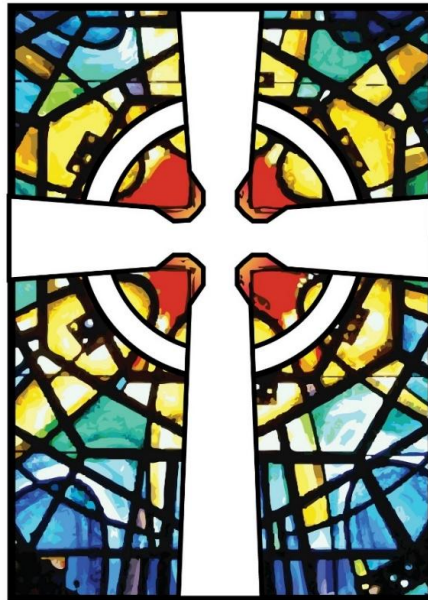


ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 10, 2026 at 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Kids in Charge at 10:30



He is Risen!

He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Matthew 28:6

Kids in Charge services give young people at St. Thomas a voice in worship. Today you will see them serving as ushers, acolytes, readers, musicians, and oblation bearers. All children and youth will be invited to come forward and stand around the altar during the Eucharistic Prayer. The translations of today's readings are from "God's Word, My Voice: A Lectionary for Children" and are approved for use at St. Thomas by the Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes, Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia.

Welcome to St. Thomas Episcopal Church!

We warmly welcome you to our parish and are glad you are worshipping with us today. Our ushers and welcome team are ready to assist you and answer your questions.

Guests

If you are new, visiting, or a guest, please scan this QR code to connect with us! We would like to greet you by name. Please see our welcome team for a nametag.



Children

Children are welcome in all our services! Activities for them are available in the narthex (lobby). Childcare is also available in our nursery for children up to age five. Just ask an usher.

Restrooms

Gendered restrooms are located in the hallway off of the parish hall. A non-gendered and accessible restroom is available in the same hallway. An usher can guide you.

Hearing Assist Devices

Hearing assistance devices are available in the narthex (lobby).

Service Notes

Today you will see and hear cues to stand, kneel, and be seated. Instructions are printed in *italics* and spoken congregational responses in **bold**. Feel free to observe these traditions as you are able, but please, do what works best for you. Be comfortable here in God's house. Our services are streamed live on YouTube. Any hymns not included in this bulletin can be found in your pew hymnals, most often The Hymnal 1982 (blue). All music is used by permission under One License #A-717375 and CCLI #21653437.

Today's Offering

Our work as a church continues by your generosity in all ways. Thank you for your support. For online giving, visit stthomaschesapeake.org/giving or scan here:



Our Mission and Core Values

St. Thomas Episcopal Church is a diverse community that seeks unity with God and each other in Christ.



Muffins With Mark+

If you feel new to St. Thomas, come enjoy some baked goods and an informal chat with Rev. Mark and other newcomers.

The next date is June 14. Muffins With Mark+ is held every few weeks, after the 10:30 service. You can reach Mark anytime by calling the church office at 757-547-4662, ext. 6.

GATHERING SONG: Amazing Grace

1982 Hymnal 671 (blue), 10:30 only

- 1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
 that saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost but now am found,
 was blind but now I see.

- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
 and grace my fears relieved;
 how precious did that grace appear
 the hour I first believed!

- 3 The Lord has promised good to me,
 his word my hope secures;
 he will my shield and portion be
 as long as life endures.

- 4 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
 I have already come;
 'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
 and grace will lead me home.

- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
 bright shining as the sun,
 we've no less days to sing God's praise
 than when we'd first begun.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Sing verses 1, 4, 5, and 7

- 1 All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voices, let us sing:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Bright burning sun with golden beams,
pale silver moon that gently gleams,
*O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

- 4 Dear mother earth, you day by day
unfold your blessings on our way,
O praise him, Alleluia!
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,
let them his glory also show:
*O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

- 5 All you with mercy in your heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
O sing now: Alleluia!
All you that pain and sorrow bear,
praise God, and cast on him your care:
*O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

- 7 Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
*O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Alleluia! Christ has risen.
People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
 peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-
 might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we
 praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus Christ,
 on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4, you
 take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
 5. you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-
 ceive our prayer. 6. For
 you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the
 Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of
 God the Fa-ther. A - - - - - men.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider 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 FIRST LESSON: Acts 17:22-31

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul stood in front of everyone and said:

As I was walking through your beautiful city of Athens, I noted how extremely religious you all are. I even found an altar with this written on it: "To an unknown god."

I have a God I know well. This is what I know about my God: My God doesn't live in shrines we humans build. My God gives life itself to everything. My God made the first man and woman, and all the people of the earth are related to that one couple. My God made the boundaries of space and time and planted in each of us a space that only God can fill. We all search for God, even though God's not very far at all from each of us. "In him we live and move and have our being," someone once said. And "we too are his offspring."

God is not something we can hold, like gold or silver or stone, and no one has ever painted a picture of God. God wants us all to turn toward him, and know that we are right with him because of Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 66:7-18 *Read responsively*

Shout it LOUD, people. Bless you, God!

You hold our souls in your hands

and won't let us slip through your fingers.

Come and listen, friends, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

You have tested us, God, just as silver is tested.
We've been in traps and had heavy burdens on our backs.
We've had enemies ride their horses over our heads.
Come and listen, friends, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

We walked through fire and water and you brought us through all of it,
to a beautiful place of refreshment.
I will come to your house with gifts and make good the promises I made
when I was in trouble and you helped me.
I will bring you anything you want.
Come and listen, friends, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

I yelled to God for help and now I yell God's praises. Bless you, God!
You didn't find evil in my heart when you looked.
You have heard my voice.
Bless you for not throwing me and my prayers out.
Come and listen, friends, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

THE EPISTLE: 1 Peter 3:13-22

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

If you are anxious to do the right thing, can anyone hurt you? Well, maybe. But even if you get into trouble for doing the right thing, you are blessed. Don't be afraid. Don't let them bully or scare you. In your hearts, you know Christ is Lord. If someone asks you why you have hope, make sure you have an answer for them. But answer them gently and respectfully, not in a way that makes them feel stupid.

Keep your conscience clear so that, when people do make fun of you, you will have nothing to be ashamed of. After all, it's better to suffer for doing good than to suffer for doing evil. Christ suffered for all of us, because we are sinful, in order to bring us to God. They killed his body, but he was made alive in spirit. When he was raised, his spirit visited those spirits in prison who were waiting patiently to meet him. Baptism saves you now, not because it removes dirt from your body, but because it connects you with God through Christ's resurrection. Christ makes your appeal to God, and he now sits at God's right hand, with angels and the host of heaven as his servants.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.
People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN: Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

1982 Hymnal 487, 10:30 only



1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a
 2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a
 3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
 light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
 joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
 length; such a strength as makes his guest.
 part; such a heart as joys in love.

THE GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

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

People Praise and glory to God.

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me, you will remember what I've said to you and follow my commandments. When I leave, I am going to ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit, the spirit of truth. The Spirit will be inside of you and stay with you. So you see, I'm not going to leave you alone. I will be with you. In a little while, the world won't be able to see me, but you will be able to see me. And because I am alive, you will be more alive, too. You will know that I am one with the Father and you are one with me. And if you love me and keep my commandments, the Father and I love you and know you as well."

Presider This is the Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to Christ, the Word.

SERMON

Trevor Whitted, Youth Preacher

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Please stand as able*

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son. Therefore in confidence and trust we pray for the Church, especially our Presiding Bishop Sean and our Bishop Susan.

Father, enliven the Church for its mission
that we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.
Breathe fresh life into your people.
Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.

We pray for all elected officials, especially our president, Donald, and our governor, Abigail.
We pray for the world.

Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace.
That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.
Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.
Teach us to care creatively for its resources.

We pray for the community, especially our outreach partners: Agape Feast, Buffalow Food Pantry, Children Health Investment Program (CHIP), LGBT Life Center, and Treakle Elementary.

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others
that all may act with integrity and courage.
Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.
May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

We pray for those in need, especially the McMurrin family, the Krotz family, Debbie Capps, Leslie Dunleavy, Pat Spoettle, the Hunt family, Joan Brown, Ann Quezada, Al Davis, Lenore Whitehurst, John Quillin, Julie Clovis, Chris Green, Dan Mugerditchian, Chuck Cress, Virginia Wille, Steve Seymour, Karen Seymour, Laurel Ferrer, Sharon Angstadt, Amy Phelps, Amy and Lynne Downs, Jeremy Dawson, the Hall family, Lee Martin, Rebecca Bradford, Helen Guittard, Ben Sokolow, Kay Gregory, Melissa Trott, Jack Dunleavy, Vernon Brinkley, Linda Hammond, Eric Brummitt, Angela Mott, and Debbie Oliveti.

God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.

May they know the power of your healing love.

Make us willing agents of your compassion.

Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.

We remember those who have died, especially Betty Jean McMurrin, Charlie Krotz, Vicky Hall, Fr. Jess Stribling, Johnny Burton, Rev. Donald Williams, Jorene Williams, and Jim Linsky.

God of the Resurrection and New Life,

into your hands we commend them.

Give comfort to those who mourn.

Bring them peace in their time of loss.

We pray for ourselves and our ministries, especially the Vestry, Finance Team, Counters, Friends of LGBTQIA+, Children's Sunday School, and Family Activities.

Lord, you have called us to serve you.

Grant that we may walk in your presence: your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills; until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY *Women's Uncommon Prayer Book* by Reverend Leslie Nipps

On this Mother's Day, we give thanks to God for the divine gift of motherhood in all its diverse forms. Let us pray for all the mothers among us today; for our own mothers, those living and those who have passed away; for the mothers who have loved us and for those who fell short of loving us fully; for all who hope to be mothers someday and for those whose hope to have children has been frustrated; for all mothers who have lost children; for all women and men who have mothered others in any way – those who have been our substitute mothers and we who have done so for those in need; and for the earth that bore us and provides us with our sustenance. We pray this all in the name of God our great and loving mother. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with others.

OFFERTORY: Morning Prayer by Gordon Young (8:00)

Happy Mother's Day, Mom! by the Sunday School kids (10:30)

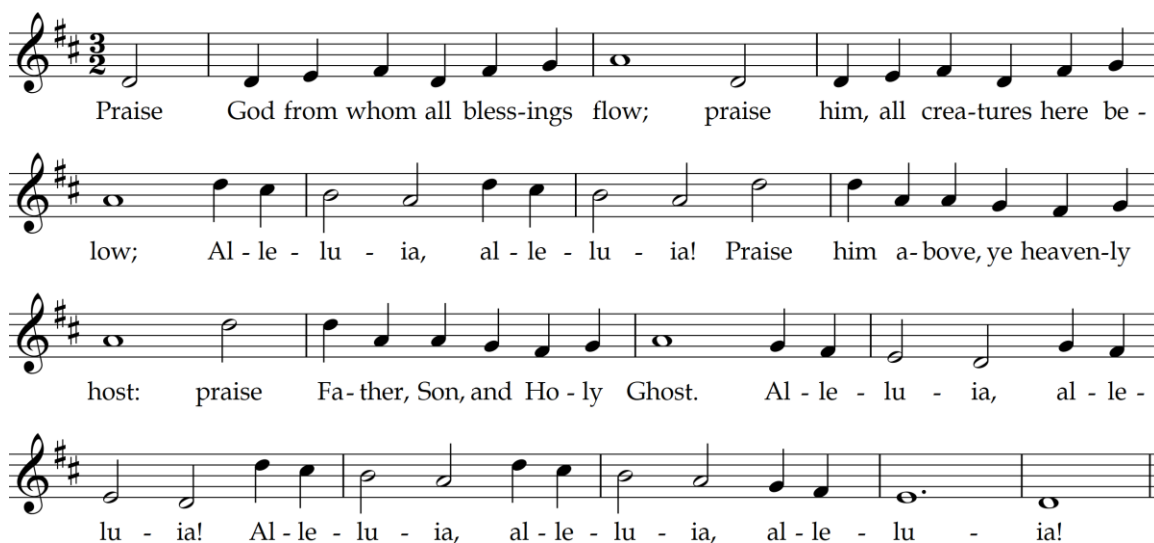


Our work as a church continues by your generosity. Thank you for your support.

For online giving, please visit stthomaschesapeake.org/giving, or scan this code:

DOXOLOGY

Tune: Lasst uns erfreuen



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be -
low; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise him a - bove, ye heaven - ly
host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Presider The Lord is here.
People **God's Spirit is with us.**
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 offer thanks and praise.**

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son. You are the source of all life and goodness; through your eternal Word you have created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image; male and female you created us. When we sinned and turned away you called us back to yourself and gave your Son to share our human nature. You raised him to life triumphant over death; you exalted him in glory. By his victory over death, the reign of sin is ended, a new age has dawned, a broken world is restored, and we are made whole once more. In him you have made us a holy people by sending upon us your holy and life giving Spirit.

Therefore, with the faithful who rest in him, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, forever praising you and say/sing:

Sanctus S128 *Spoken at 8:00, sung at 10:30*

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.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father; on the night before he died your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me."

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said: "Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me."

Therefore loving God, recalling your great goodness to us in Christ, his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life and this cup of salvation.

Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we offer through Christ our great high priest. Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive may be to us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.

Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

A New Zealand Prayer Book

As Christ teaches us, we pray:

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.

The priest breaks the bread. Silence may be kept.

Presider Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ's body was broken for us on the cross.

People **Christ is the bread of life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Presider His blood was shed for our forgiveness.

People **Christ is risen from the dead.**

This is the table, not of the Church, but of God. It is made ready for those of us who love God, and for those who want to love God more. So, come, those of us who have much faith, and those who have little; those of us who have been here often, and those who have not been here long; those of us who have tried to follow, and those who have failed. Come, because it is God who invites us. It is God's will that we should meet here.

COMMUNION HYMN: Spirit Song

LEVAS 118 (red and black)

Verse 1

Oh let the Son of God enfold you
With His Spirit and His love
Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul
Oh let Him have those things that hold you
And His Spirit like a dove
Will descend upon your life and make you whole

Chorus

Jesus oh Jesus, come and fill Your lambs
Jesus oh Jesus, come and fill Your lambs

Verse 2

Oh come and sing this song with gladness
As your hearts are filled with joy
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name
Oh give Him all your tears and sadness
Give Him all your years of pain
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name

Chorus

Jesus oh Jesus, come and fill Your lambs
Jesus oh Jesus, come and fill Your lambs

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory.

People **May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink this cup bring life to others; we whom the spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free and the whole earth live to praise your name. Amen.**

VESTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

EASTER BLESSING

May the babe of Bethlehem... bring you peace.
May the child of Nazareth... bring you joy.
May the man of Galilee... bring you strength.
May the Christ of Calvary... bring you courage.
May the risen Jesus... bring you hope.
And the ascended Christ... a foretaste of his glory.

And may God's blessings, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: For the Beauty of the Earth

Tune: DIX, 1982 Hymnal 288 (blue)

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
*Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.*

4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,
*Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.*

2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light,
*Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.*

5 For the Church which evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
thy pure sacrifice of love,
*Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.*

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight,
*Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.*

6 For each perfect gift of thine
to the world so freely given,
faith and hope and love divine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven,
*Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.*

DISMISSAL

Presider Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in Peace. Alleluia. Alleluia.

People **We go in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

POSTLUDE: Recessional in C

John Dixon

*The flowers on the altar are given in gratitude for all mothers and in memory of Betsey Sweet by
Mark and Kate McKone-Sweet.*