

**The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Observance of Mother's Day**

May 10, 2026

The Celebrant and Homilist: The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw

Mother's Day Tributes: Caryn Rivers and Eugene Phillips

Vergers: Karen Ragland and Eugene Golson

Music Ministry: St. Thomas Gospel Choir

Livestream/Sound Ministry: Marie Golson, Terri Tillman and Dominic Bowrin

Order of Service

The Prelude

St. Thomas Music Ministry

The Opening Hymn- "Faith of Our Mothers"

**1) Faith of our mothers, living still; In cradle song and bedtime prayer;
In nursery lore and fireside love, Thy presence still pervades the air.
Faith of our mothers, living faith, we will be true to thee till death.**

**2) Faith of our mothers, loving faith; Fount of our childhood's trust and grace,
Oh, may thy consecration prove; Source of a finer, nobler race;
Faith of our mothers, loving faith, we will be true to thee till death.**

**3) Faith of our mothers, guiding faith; For youthful longing, youthful doubt,
How blurred our vision, blind our way; Thy providential care without.
Faith of our mothers, guiding faith, We will be true to thee till death.**

**4) Faith of our mothers, Christian faith; In truth beyond our stumbling creeds,
Still serve the home and save the Church; And breathe thy spirit through our deeds;
Faith of our mothers, Christian faith, We will be true to thee till death.**

The Opening Salutation

The Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

The People: "He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!"

The Collect for Purity

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Pg. 355

The Celebrant: 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 in excelsis

The Celebrant and The People

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 Proclamation of the Word

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

The People: And also, with you.

The Celebrant: 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 Reading: Acts 17:22-31

LeeAnne Trotman, a mother

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66:7-18

Patricia Akins, a mother

Bless our God, you peoples; *
make the voice of his praise to be heard;

Who holds our souls in life, *
and will not allow our feet to slip.

For you, O God, have proved us; *
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

You brought us into the snare; *
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water; *
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows, *
**which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.**

I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams; *
I will give you oxen and goats.

Come and listen, all you who fear God, *
and I will tell you what he has done for me.

I called out to him with my mouth, *
and his praise was on my tongue.

If I had found evil in my heart, *
the Lord would not have heard me;

But in truth God has heard me; *
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
nor withheld his love from me.

The Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22 Constance Anderson, a mother residing and reading from Florida
A Reading from the Book of the Apostle Peter.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn- "O How I Love Jesus"

Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) #95 (vv. 1-2)

**1) There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in mine ear,
The sweetest name on earth. [Refrain]**

**Refrain: O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus, Because He first loved me.**

**2) It tells me of a Savior's love,
who died to set me free;
It tells me of His precious blood,
The sinner's perfect plea. [Refrain]**

The Holy Gospel: John 14:15-21

Fr. Shaw

The Priest: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

The People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.
The People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily Hymn- “O How I Love Jesus”

LEVAS #95 (vv. 3-4)

**3) It tells me what my Father hath
In store for every day,
And though I tread a darksome path,
Yields sunshine all the way. [Refrain]**

**Refrain: O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus, Because He first loved me.**

**4) It tells of one whose loving heart
Can feel my deepest woe,
Who in each sorrow bears a part,
That none can bear below.**

The Homily

Fr. Shaw

Mother’s Day Tributes: Caryn Rivers, daughter; Eugene Phillips, husband and father
The Call to Christian Discipleship

The Celebrant

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 worshipped 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

Dorothy Archey, a mother

**Father, 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;
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;
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.

We give thanks for all the mothers in our lives, our birth mothers, foster mothers, adoptive mothers, grandmothers, god mothers, “play mothers”, “other mothers,” and anyone who expressed the love of a mother, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We remember before you, God those mothers who are absent because of employment, military service, death, incapacity, estrangement, imprisonment, addiction, abandonment, and any other circumstance of life and pray God, that your tender love will comfort your children missing their mothers and heal whatever wounds there are in those relationships, reconciling all to you through the redeeming life and passion of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Lord God, hear us, heal us and make us whole.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

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.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The Concluding Collect

The Celebrant

The Confession

BCP 360

The Celebrant: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us kneel and confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
(Silence is kept)

The Celebrant and The People:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and 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

The Absolution

The 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

The Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

The People: And also with you.

The Holy Eucharist

The Offertory Sentence and Offering

Offer your gift now via text: Text "AECST" to 73256

Or use the QR Code on page 1

The Offertory Musical Selection

St. Thomas Gospel Choir

The Great Thanksgiving

The Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

The People: And also with you.

The Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

The People: We lift them to the Lord.

The Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

The People: It is right to give God 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.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore, we praise you, joining with Angels and Archangels and all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus

The Celebrant and the People:

**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 Celebrant: 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."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The Memorial Acclamation

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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

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 forever. AMEN

The Lord's Prayer

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, forever and ever. AMEN

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed.

The People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Agnus Dei

The Celebrant: Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

The People: Have mercy upon us.

The Celebrant: Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

The People: Have mercy upon us.

The Celebrant: Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

The People: Grant us thy peace.

The Prayer of Humble Access

Let us pray: We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy; Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. AMEN

The Celebrant: 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.

The Distribution of Communion

(All baptized persons who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are invited to receive the Holy Sacrament. If you only wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms on your chest.)

The Post-Communion Prayer

The Celebrant and the 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

Sending Forth of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors

The Celebrant: In the healing name of Jesus and with the compassionate embrace of this parish family, I send you forth bearing these Holy Gifts to those to whom you go today, so that they may share with us in the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

The People: We who are many are one body, and we all share one bread and one cup.

The Announcements

Richard Jones, Rector's Warden

Recognition of the Oldest Mother of St. Thomas

Recognition of the Newest Mothers of St. Thomas

The Recognition of Visitors and Guests

The Blessing of Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel

The Final Blessing / Benediction

The Celebrant

The Closing Hymn- "He Has Done Great Things For Me"

1) He has done great things for me.

Great things, great things,

He has done great things for me.

2) I'm gonna be a witness for Him.

Witness, witness,

I'm gonna be a witness for him.

3) I'm gonna testify for Him.

Testify, testify,

I'm gonna testify for Him.

4) I'm gonna let my little shine.

Shine, shine,

I'm gonna let my little shine

5) He has made a way for me

Made a way, made a way,

He has made a way for me

6) He gave me the victory.

Victory, victory,

He gave me the victory.

The Dismissal

The Blessing / Benediction

During Sundays of Easter, the Celebrant will offer the Blessing with the Blessed Sacrament (The Body of Jesus). When the Monstrance is lifted, the practice of the church is to reverently make the sign of the Cross.

This Mother's Day, we recognize and celebrate:

OUR OLDEST MOTHER:

***Ola S. Bass** – born on November 23, 1926, 100 on her next birthday. Mother of two daughters, Lenez Ward and Jill Samuels

WE ALSO RECOGNIZE OUR OLDEST INACTIVE MOTHER:

***Helena Allen**, born Jan. 16, 1921, 105 years old. Mother of one son, Anthony Allen

OUR NEWEST MOTHERS:

***Carlia Wallace** – mother of Rayne Josephine Wallace, born March 5, 2026

***Ashley Williams** - mother of Tobias Scott Williams, born September 16, 2025

Thanks to our Mother's Day Tributes

Caryn Rivers -Mother, Victoria Mosley Rivers

Eugene Phillips -Wife, Karina Phillips, father of Amelia and Celeste Phillips