

**The First Sunday after Pentecost: Trinity Sunday
Annual Women's Day Celebration
May 31, 2026**

The Celebrant: The Rev. Patricia Downing

Assisting: The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw

Homilist: The Rev. Carolyn C. Cavaness, 53rd Pastor, Mother Bethel AME Church

Vergers: Eugene Golson and Karen Ragland

Music Ministry: St. Thomas Women's Day Chorus

Soloist: Jillian Patricia Pirtle

Dance Ministry: St. Thomas Angels in Motion

Livestream/Sound Ministry: Yaseen Farooq, Marie Golson and Dominic Bowrin

Order of Service

The Prelude

St. Thomas Music Ministry

The Opening Hymn- "The Presence of the Lord Is Here"

1) The presence of the Lord is here

The presence of the Lord is here

I feel it in the atmosphere

The presence of the Lord is here

The presence of the Lord is here!

2)The spirit of the Lord is here

The spirit of the Lord is here

I feel it in the atmosphere

The spirit of the Lord is here

The spirit of the Lord is here!

3)The power of the Lord is here

The power of the Lord is here

I feel it in the atmosphere

The power of the Lord is here

The power of the Lord is here!

4) Everybody blow the trumpets and sound the alarm

Because the Lord is in the temple let everybody bow,

Let all the people praise his name

The Lord--the Lord--the Lord is here!

5) A blessing from the Lord is here

A blessing from the Lord is here

I feel it in the atmosphere

A blessing from the Lord is here

A blessing from the Lord is here!

I can feel the presence of the Lord

And I'm going to get my blessing right now!

The presence of the Lord is here!

A Word of Welcome

The Celebrant

The Opening Salutation

The Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

The People: **And blessed be His kingdom, now and forever. AMEN**

The Collect for Purity

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 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

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

The First Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:4

Amia Hines and D'Lalah Joell

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day

and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 8

Kennedy Singleton

O LORD our Governor, *

how exalted is your Name in all the world!

Out of the mouths of infants and children *

your majesty is praised above the heavens.

You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, *

to quell the enemy and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, *

the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

What is man that you should be mindful of him? *

the son of man that you should seek him out?

You have made him but little lower than the angels; *
you adorn him with glory and honor;

You give him mastery over the works of your hands; *
you put all things under his feet:

All sheep and oxen, *
even the wild beasts of the field,

The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, *
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.

O LORD our Governor, *
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

The Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Church in Corinth.

Amelia Noell Williams

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.
The Reader: The Word of the Lord.
The People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn- "Lead Me, Guide Me"
Refrain: Lead Me, Guide Me, along the way,
For if you lead me I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) #134 (vv. 1-2)

1) I am weak and I need thy strength and power
to help me over my weakest hour;
Help me through the darkness thy face to see,
Lead me, Oh Lord lead me. [Refrain]

2) Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
be my aid when Satan and sin oppress;
I am putting all my trust in thee,
Lead me, Oh Lord lead me. [Refrain]

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

The Rector

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

The People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

The People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily Hymn- “Lead Me, Guide Me”
Refrain: Lead Me, Guide Me, along the way,
For if you lead me I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

3) I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without thy light to see;
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, Oh Lord lead me. [Refrain]

The Homily

The Rev. Carolyn C. Cavaness

The Call to Christian Discipleship

The Rector

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

Sakiyah Davis

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.

For the women of St. Thomas and Mother Bethel, Pastor Cavaness, and all the women who inspire us to follow their great example, that we may, with them, share in the vision of your glory;
Lord, hear our prayer.

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;
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.

A Dance Selection

St. Thomas Angels in Motion

The Holy Eucharist

The Offertory Invitation

The Celebrant

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

Offertory Musical Selection

St. Thomas Women's Day Chorus

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 your, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN**

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

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
Women's Ministry Presentations

Richard Jones, Rector's Warden
Monica Lewis Jones, Deborah Camp-Frye
Paula Wright and Victoria Mosley Rivers

The Recognition of Visitors and Guests
The Blessing of Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel

The Final Blessing

The Celebrant

The Closing Hymn- "Guide My Feet"

**1) Guide my feet while I run this race;
Guide my feet while I run this race;
Guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!**

**2) Hold my hand while I run this race;
Hold my hand while I run this race;
Hold my hand while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!**

**3) Stand by me while I run this race;
Stand by me while I run this race;
Stand by me while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!**

The Dismissal
The Postlude

St. Thomas Music Ministry

All are invited to Anderson Hall for a reception sponsored by The Women's Day Committee.