

**The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Celebration of Mother's Day
May 11, 2025**

The Celebrant: The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw
Assisting: The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans, The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins
Tributes: Christopher McNeal, Gabrielle Faisal and Sharon Harper
Music Ministry: St. Thomas Gospel Choir

Order of Service

The Prelude

St. Thomas Music Ministry

The Opening Hymn- "He Keeps on Blessing Me"

He keeps right on blessing me.

He keeps right on blessing me.

I know I don't deserve, all the good things that He's done.

But, He keeps right on,

He keeps right on, He keeps right on
blessing me.

A Word of Welcome

The Celebrant

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) 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 Song of Praise – "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 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, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice, we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The First Reading: Acts 9:36-43

Deborah Camp-Fry

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time, she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So, Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

Justin and Lee Ann Trotman

The LORD is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *
**for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
**you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.**

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

The Second Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

Michael McIntosh

A Reading from the Book of Revelation.

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,
"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!
Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason, they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn- "Where He Leads Me" Lift Every Voice and Sing #144 (vv. 1-2)
(LEVAS)

**1) I can hear my Savior calling, I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling, "Take thy cross and follow me." [Chorus]**

**Chorus: Where He leads me, I will follow,
Where He leads me, I will follow,
Where He leads me, I will follow.
I'll go with Him, with Him, all the way.**

**2) I'll go with Him through the garden, I'll go with Him through the garden,
I'll go with Him through the garden. I'll go with Him, with Him all the way. [Chorus]**

The Holy Gospel: John 10:22-30

Fr. Daren E. Evans

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

The People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So, the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

The Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

The People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily Hymn- "Where He Leads Me"

LEVAS # 144 (vv. 3-4)

**3) I'll go with Him through the judgement, I'll go with Him through the judgement, I'll go with Him through the judgement.
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way. [Chorus]**

**Chorus: Where He leads me, I will follow,
Where He leads me, I will follow,
Where He leads me, I will follow.
I'll go with Him, with Him, all the way.**

**4) He will give me grace and glory, He will give me grace and glory,
He will give me grace and glory. I'll go with Him, with Him, all the way. [Chorus]**

Mother's Day Tributes from: Christopher McNeal (Son); Gabrielle Faisal (Daughter); Sharon Harper (Granddaughter)

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 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

Ava and Nia Mathurin

**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.**

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

**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.**

**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

The Offertory 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 your, 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

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

Presentation of the Oldest Mother of St. Thomas

Presentation of the Newest Mothers of St. Thomas

Richard Jones, Rector's Warden

Monica Lewis Jones and Judy Tillman

Tynecia Wilson

The Recognition of Visitors and Guests

The Blessing of Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel

The Final Blessing/Benediction

The Celebrant

The Closing Hymn- "If It Had Not Been for the Lord"

If it had not been for the Lord on my side

Where would I be? Where would I be?

Chorus

He kept my enemies away; He let the sun shine through a cloudy day.

He rocked me in the cradle of his arms

when He knew I had been battered and scorned (so if it)

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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Our Oldest Mother – Inez Turner, born February 22, 1925 (100 years old); mother of Glenn Turner.

Our Newest Mothers – Comfort Migan, mother to Alison Migan, born 2/6/2025
Kathryn Brossa, mother to Isidore "Sid" Francis Brossa, born 9/5/2024

May God bless our mothers and the mother figures in our lives.

Thanks to our Mother's Day Tributes:

Gabriel Faisal- (Mother - Christie Faisal)

Christopher McNeal – (Mother - Diane McNeal)

Sharon Harper (Elizabeth Johnson Jenkins Gillerson - Grandmother)