

“WELCOME TO THE MOTHER CHURCH”
“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.
Give thanks unto Him and bless His name.”
Psalm 100:4

Grace and Peace to you from God on this **Sixth Sunday of Easter, Youth and Young Adult Sunday, and Memorial Day Celebration.**

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the USA, and proudly a part of the world-wide Anglican Communion. The first rector of this historic parish, The Rev. Fr. Absalom Jones was also the first Black Episcopal priest in the nation.

Our parish boldly proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an active, mission-minded and growing church family. Whoever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcomed at St. Thomas Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus’ message of love, hope, prayer and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed and revived. Again, welcome!

Faithfully,
Martini Shaw +
(The Very Rev. Canon) Martini Shaw
17th Rector and
Dean of the Schuylkill Deanery



Please use the QR Code to contribute to our church’s ministries

**The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Youth and Young Adult Sunday
Memorial Day Celebration
May 25, 2025**

The Celebrant: The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans

Assisting: The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw and The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins

Homilist: The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans and Tynecia Wilson

Children's Homily: The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw

Seminarian: Kathryn Brossa

Verger: Karen Ragland

Music Ministry: St. Thomas Gospel Choir

Posting of the Colors: St. Thomas Scout Troop #133

Order of Service

The Prelude

St. Thomas Music Ministry

The Opening Hymn- "Couldn't Keep It to Myself"

VERSE – (Said I wasn't gonna tell nobody but I)

Couldn't keep it to myself

Couldn't keep it to myself

Couldn't keep it to myself

(Said I wasn't gonna tell nobody but I)

Couldn't keep it to myself

What the Lord has done for me

(You oughta been there)

You oughta been there

(When he saved my soul)

Saved my soul

(You oughta been there)

You oughta been there

(When he out my)

Name on the roll

(Well I)

Started walkin

(Then I)

Started talking

(Then I)
Started singing
(Then I)
Started shouting
Oh what the Lord had done for 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 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 16:9-15

Michael Grizzle

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67

Hiaso Henry and Tynecia Wilson

May God be merciful to us and bless us, *

show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
**for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has brought forth her increase; *
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

The Second Reading: Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
A Reading from the Book of Revelation.

Naomi and Sarah Thomas

In the spirit the angel carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day-- and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn- "Oh 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. [Chorus]

Chorus: 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. [Chorus]

The Holy Gospel:

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

The People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After Jesus healed the son of the official in Capernaum, there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids-- blind, lame, and paralyzed.

One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath.

The Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

The People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily Hymn- "Oh 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. [Chorus]**

**Chorus: 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. [Chorus]**

The Homily

Fr. Daren and Tynecia Wilson

The Children's Homily

The Rector

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

Abraham and Alaina Farooq

**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.**

**We remember and celebrate those who have died while serving in the U.S.
military;
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.

The Posting of the Colors

St. Thomas Scout Troop #133

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

Richard Jones, Rector's Warden

The Youth and Young Adult Announcements

Landon Leys

A Presentation from the Catto Ministry

Wendella Fox and Elaine Gillison

The Recognition of Visitors and Guests

The Blessing of Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel

The Final Blessing/Benediction

The Celebrant

The Closing Hymn- "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"

LEVAS # 105

1) I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me. I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me.

I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me, singing glory hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

2) Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me. Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.

Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me, singing glory hallelujah, Jesus lifted me

3) When I was in sin, Jesus lifted me. When I was in sin, Jesus lifted me.

When I was in sin, Jesus lifted me, singing glory hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

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 is a reminder that the Mass (service) ends following the Closing Hymn and Dismissal. Please make an extra effort to refrain from unnecessary chatter and departure from the Service before the conclusion. This request is being made in order to respect all gathered wishing to embrace the fullness of worship.

**The Sunday Spearhead
Youth and Young Adult Sunday
Memorial Day Celebration
May 25, 2025**

FROM THE DESK OF THE RECTOR

Easter wishes from the Rector: Wishing each one of you a very holy and blessed fifty days of Easter filled with Joy and Peace.

AN EXECUTIVE ORDER

On Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025, during the sermon, Father Shaw signed a "Rector's Executive Order" announcing that St. Thomas Church and individual Vestry members would become financial supporters and members of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The "Order" further encouraged the entire parish membership's family and friends to become supporters. Become a member or donate NOW! Go to www.nmaahc.si.edu. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Become a Member" or "Make a Donation."

Have You Joined Yet?

Our condolences and prayers for Kathy and Ed Geiger, and family on the death of her mother and his mother-in-law, **Thelma McKenzie**. Her funeral will be held on Thursday, May 29, 2025, at Prince of Peace Temple COGIC, 669 Kensington Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14215. The Wake will be at 10 AM and the service at 11 AM. May the soul of Thelma rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

Our condolences to Tracy Covington and family on the death of his brother, **Ronald Coleman**. His service will be at St. Thomas on Thursday, May 29, 2025. Visitation 9 AM, Requiem Mass at 10 AM. May the soul of Ronald rest in peace and rise in glory, Please pray for the family.

Our condolences to Barry and Deborah Camp-Frye on the death of his mother **Deloris T. Bliss**. Her service will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at St. Stephens Church, 114 George Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02906. Requiem Mass at 10 AM. May the soul of Deloris rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

Our condolences to Ricardo Bostic and family on the death of his spouse **LeMont Johnson**. Arrangements are pending. May the soul of LeMont rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

Women's Day is Sunday, June 1st. Join the **Women's Day Choir!** The rehearsal is Tuesday, May 27th, 2025, at 6:30 PM in Anderson Hall.

A Celebration of Ministry; Remembering the Life and Ministry of the Rev. Canon Thomas Logan, will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2025, 1:00 PM at St. Thomas.

Are you receiving the weekly electronic Spearhead? Are you receiving robocalls from the Rector? If not, please send your email and cell phone number to Gladyce DuBrey in the church office, 1792@aecst.org

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW MEMBER AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES
Plans are underway to begin our New Member/Confirmation classes. Most of the classes will be held via Zoom. Check the bulletin and Spearhead for additional information. Please speak with Fr. Daren or Seminarian Kathryn Brossa if you have questions.

Pilgrims on a Journey Bible Study meet on Tuesday at 7 PM via Zoom. Please contact Fr. Jay at associatepriest@aecst.org for more information.

OUR DEDICATED OUT OF TOWN FAMILIES

We give thanks to God for these active and dedicated members of St. Thomas who presently live in other cities, states, and countries, but remain connected weekly by various media platforms:

Constance Anderson

Dr. Paul Bach and Dr. Julie

Hergerather

Christopher Burks

Deadra Cannon

Nora Corbin

Dr. Ted Corbin

Paula Cropper

Lee Daniels

Stacey Davis

Rashid, Christie and Gabrielle Faisal

The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney

Bradley Hammond

Richard and Gwenda Hart

Dr. Calvin Johnson

Bettie Jones

Rae Scott Jones

Richard Jones, Jr.

Dr. Sheila Jones

Steven and Jameela Lewis

Gregory Lyles

Dr. John Rich

Richard and Rebecca Scales

Shelly and Ann Stewart

Allison Young

Howard Tucker

Each week, we feature one of our out-of-town members/families. This week, we give thanks to **Stacey Davis**, a member for 7 years. She says, "Being a Christian and a member of St. Thomas means the world to me. No matter where I live;

whether it is down the street (Woodcrest Ave) or in another state (New York), I am always happy to fellowship with you all.”

The Philadelphia People’s Tribunal on Genocide & War Crimes in Gaza

The people of Philadelphia are conducting a **People’s Tribunal** to hold the United States Government, the U.S. Executive Branch, the U.S. Congress, & U.S. Senator John Fetterman and other designated members of Pennsylvania’s U.S. Congressional Delegation Accountable for Genocide & War Crimes in Gaza. Our very own Lisa Sharon Harper will serve as one of ten distinguished jurors.

The Tribunal will be held **Saturday, May 31, 2025, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM**. In-person seating is now full, but **you can witness history via Zoom**. Simply click the link below to register to attend the event virtual. You will be able to sign on at any point during the day and view the proceedings. **Register here:**
<https://tinyurl.com/PeoplesTribunalbyZoom>

The Philadelphia People’s Tribunal is an organizing project of Fridays @ Fetterman’s, a grassroots movement to end Israel’s U.S.-funded war on Gaza/Palestine. The event is co-sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and the Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA).

CATTO MINISTRY CORNER UPDATE

A huge THANK YOU to all the Pennsylvanians who participated in the Primary election by mail-in ballot or in-person voting.

Today, the Catto Ministry presented Karina De Phillips, one of our members, who is now eligible to vote as a naturalized citizen:

- An application to Register to Vote
- Information on how to apply for **REAL ID**
- Philadelphia City Commissioners 2025 Citizen’s Handbook

AECST HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS

The next **Health Ministry Zoom Program** will be held on Thursday, June 5th at 7 PM. The Topic will be **“Cancer: Symptoms, Causes and Prevention.”** The presenters will be physicians from Lankenau Medical Center in conjunction with the Lankenau Community Health and Outreach Department. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

The **Zoom Link** to join this presentation on **June 5th** is:

<https://temple.zoom.us/j/98782318816>

Meeting ID: 987 8231 8816

**AECST Weekend Celebration of Women
REVIVE. RESTORE. RENEW
FINDING STRENGTH IN FAITH
IMPORTANT UPDATES!**

**Saturday, May 31st – Women’s Wellness Retreat
8 AM-3 PM**

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE!

- NO tickets sold at the door –

Retreat Includes: Mindfulness, Wellness and Inspiring Speakers, Creative Expressions Workshops, Book Signing, Chair Massage, Closing Drum Circle, Continental Breakfast, Delicious Lunch and more! You don’t want to miss it!

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**Sunday, June 1st- Annual Women’s Day Celebration  
10 AM**

**Guest Speaker: Sheryl Lee Ralph**

**Tony Nominated, Emmy Award Winning Actress and Singer**

**\*\*Additional parking for both days at the Overbrook Presbyterian Church parking lot 6376 City Avenue. Enter off Lancaster Avenue or City Avenue**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
UPCOMING MAY/JUNE SUNDAYS**

**June 1<sup>st</sup> – The Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**Annual Women's Day Celebration – Guest speaker: Sheryl Lee Ralph**

**June 8<sup>th</sup> - Pentecost Sunday**

**Annual Caribbean Festival**

**June 15<sup>th</sup> – The First Sunday after Pentecost/Trinity Sunday  
Celebration of Father's Day**

**June 22<sup>nd</sup> – The Second Sunday after Pentecost**

**Youth & Young Adult Sunday/Church School Recognition**

**June 29<sup>th</sup> – The Third Sunday after Pentecost**

**Graduate Sunday (Submit Graduate Profile form TODAY)**



**This Week at AECST – May 26, 2025**

**Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>** – Church and Parish Office Closed for Memorial Day

**Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>** – Advocacy Outreach Group Meeting- 6-9 PM in the Undercroft

\*Women's Day Chorus rehearsal – 6:30 PM in Anderson Hall

\*Pilgrims on a Journey Adult Bible Study with Fr. Jay via Zoom – 7 PM

**Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>** – Bible Study with Fr. Daren-6 PM in the Absalom Jones House

\*Angels in Motion – 7 PM in the church

\*St. Thomas Gospel Choir – 7:30 PM in Anderson Hall

**Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>** – Funeral of Ronald Coleman – Viewing 9:00 AM.  
Requiem Mass 10:00 AM.

**Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>** – Senior Partners/Retired Peoples Ministry 11 AM – 1 PM in Anderson Hall

**Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>** – Women's Day Retreat 8 AM – 3 PM

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Sisterhood Guild Purse Bingo**

**June 21, 2025**

**1-4 PM**

The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa. 19151

Details To Follow

**Please pray for those who are sick and shut-in:**

**In Long-Term Care Residences:** Helena Allen-Simpson House; Linda Holmes-Saunders House; Gwendolyn Langford-Arden Courts of Cherry Hill; Inez Turner-The Residence at Bala Cynwyd; Ola Bass-The Pinnacle at Plymouth Meeting; Ridart “Butch” Farmer- Centennial Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center; Patricia Holmes-62<sup>nd</sup> Street Nursing Home

**At home:** Robert Brown, Thelma Silvers, Lemont Johnson, Patricia Ellison, Mary Ann Jones, Shirley Caldwell, Wendell Whitlock, Verger Stephen Hannum, Solomon Cropper, Virginia DuBrey, Alice-Bowman Cropper

**Keep in prayer:** Justin Trotman, Cathy Stafford, Lisa Woodley, Daryn Stewart, Adinah Edwards, Ann Stewart, Waltier Blocker, Santee Ruffin, Angela Holloway, Mary Ann Phillips, Yvonne Syndor, Arlene Gray, Quincina Edmonds, Sharon Harper

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**THE READINGS FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER–MAY 25, 2025**

The First Lesson Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

The Second Lesson-Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

The Holy Gospel- John 13:31-35

**The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of May 26, 2025**

Monday- Luke 9:18-27

Tuesday- Luke 11:1-13

Wednesday- Luke 12:22-31

Ascension Thursday- Luke 24:44-53

Friday- Luke 9:28-36

Saturday-Luke 9:37-50

**Altar Flowers**  
**(Please Print All Names)**

Flowers on the columbarium are in thanksgiving for the birthday of **Waltier Blocker**, with love and appreciation from the St. Thomas Gospel Choir.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Unfortunately, due to rising costs of goods, the Altar Guild has increased the cost of the flowers.*

\*\*\*\*\*

To order flowers, please return the form with payment to **Clare Mae Daniels or Alfreda Brockman**. Please do not place it in the collection plate or submit it to the church office. Thank you.

- ☐ I would like to place flowers on the High Altar - \$70.00  
☐ I would like to place flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$60.00  
☐ I would like to place flowers on the Columbarium - \$50.00

A) In memory of

\_\_\_\_\_

B) In Thanksgiving for

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT NEWS

### IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

St. Thomas celebrates children and youth not only as the church of TOMORROW, but also the church of TODAY! We welcome and encourage their full presence and participation in our Sunday worship.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our new "TINY TYKES TEMPLE" is open and available. An area designed to welcome parents, caregivers and their children aged 3 and under. The area is a soft space that will engage our little ones who may need a break from worship. This new ministry is in need of an oversight committee to ensure its viability. Are you and your Tyke willing to serve? Email Father Daren , [associaterector@aecst.org](mailto:associaterector@aecst.org) and let him know you can assist. You don't have to have a Tiny Tyke to participate; just a heart ready to serve.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ATTENTION: ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS OF ST. THOMAS

Please know that your church family is here to support you during your years of academic studies. Please provide Fr. Daren with your contact information as soon as possible, including your cell phone. Email him at [associaterector@aecst.org](mailto:associaterector@aecst.org). Our prayers remain with you.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ATTENTION STUDENTS:

Applications for the 2025 Rev. Canon Thomas Wilson Stearly Logan, Sr. Memorial Prize, are now being accepted. Eligible high school seniors can review the program guidelines and priorities online. Go to [www.schuylkilldeanery.org](http://www.schuylkilldeanery.org) for scholarship information. **The application deadline is June 30, 2025** (late submissions will not be reviewed).

\*\*\*\*\*

**GRADUATE SUNDAY is June 29, 2025!** Have you or your child graduated or been promoted? Please complete the Graduate Profile form included in the bulletin or complete the online form (located on the church website). We want to highlight your achievements and share them with the congregation. Submit your information to the office before **Sunday, June 22, 2025, deadline.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Young Adult Gathering:** All young adults (20's and 30's) are invited to fellowship the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month in Anderson Hall immediately following worship.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Calling all youth!** You are needed to serve in the AECST Acolyte Ministry. No prior experience is needed as training will be provided. This is an excellent way for children and youth to be involved in the life of the church.

Rehearsals are on Sundays immediately after service. For more information, please speak with or email Fr. Daren at [associaterector@aecst.org](mailto:associaterector@aecst.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Scout Troop #133** - The Cub Scout Program is open to children in grades 1-5 and meet at 2 PM-4 PM on Saturdays. The Scout Program is open to children 11-17 years old and meet 1 PM-3 PM on Saturdays.

Please contact Scoutmaster Howard Chapman at [howchapman@gmail.com](mailto:howchapman@gmail.com) for more information.

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## **HOW CAN YOU BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP?**

**"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"**

**II Corinthians 9:7**

The Stewardship Committee of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas recognizes that stewardship may take form in several ways: your time, talent, or treasures. The one commonality is that each of us must prayerfully ask God to guide us in making the right choices and have faith that He will guide us to the right decision.

Our church has a tremendous congregation that is thriving and growing. The ministries that we have serve all of God's children near and far. These endeavors require all three forms of stewardship: but especially your sharing of treasure. Prayerfully consider donating by using the QR Code below.



# THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

## GRADUATE PROFILE

**STUDENT'S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

We also include students successfully promoted from one school to another without graduating. For example, Overbrook Elementary to Girard Academic Music Program (GAMP).

**FROM: NAME OF SCHOOL** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check One:**

\_\_\_\_ **ELEMENTARY**    \_\_\_\_ **MIDDLE**    \_\_\_\_ **HIGH**    \_\_\_\_ **COLLEGE**

\_\_\_\_ **GRAD SCHOOL**    \_\_\_\_ **TECHNICAL SCHOOL**

**TO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES: PLEASE LIST COLLEGE/TECHNICAL SCHOOL YOU WILL BE ATTEND:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**MAJOR:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL AWARDS OR RECOGNITIONS:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**COLLEGE GRADUATES: Please list college, major and future plans.  
(i.e., grad school, medical school, etc.)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**GRAD STUDENTS: Please list college, major, degree and future plans.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the church office by **Sunday, June 22, 2025**