

**The Seventh Sunday of Easter
Annual Women's Day Celebration
June 1, 2025**

The Celebrant: The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw

Assisting: The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans and The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins

Guest Speaker: Sheryl Lee Ralph

Seminarian: Kathryn Brossa

Verger: Karen Ragland

Music Ministry: St. Thomas Women's Day Choir

Dance Ministry: St. Thomas Angels in Motion

Soloist: Jillian Patricia Pirtle

Order of Service

The Prelude

St. Thomas Music Ministry

The Opening Hymn- "Every Praise"

Every praise is to our God

Every word of worship with one accord

Every praise, every praise, is to our God.

Sing hallelujah to our God

Glory hallelujah is due our God

Every praise every praise is to our God

God my savior

God my healer

God my deliverer

Yes he is, yes he is

Every Praise is to our God

Every word of worship with one accord

Every praise every praise (repeat)

Is to our God

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 (Sung)

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, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **AMEN.**

The First Reading: Acts 16:16-34

D'Lalah Joell

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

With Paul and Silas, we came to Philippi in Macedonia, a Roman colony, and, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains

were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 97

Triniti Miller

The Lord is King;
let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.

Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.

A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.

His lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.

The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

The heavens declare his righteousness, *
and all the peoples see his glory.

Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.

Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments, O Lord.

For you are the Lord,
most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.

The Lord loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints

and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.

The Second Reading: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

Amelia Phillips

A Reading from the Book of Revelation.

At the end of the visions I, John, heard these words: "See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn- "In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified"

Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) #216 (vv. 1-2)

1) In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;

In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

2) In my song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;

In my song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified today.

3) In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;

In your church, Lord, be glorified today.

The Holy Gospel: John 17:20-26

Father Evans

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

The People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus prayed for his disciples, and then he said. "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I

desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

The Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

The People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily Hymn- "Let It Rise"

Let the glory of the Lord rise among us
Let the glory of the Lord rise among us
Let the praises of our King rise among us
Oh, let it rise
Let the songs of the Lord rise among us
Let the songs of the Lord rise among us
Let the joy of our King rise among us
Oh, let it rise
Oh, let it rise

The Message
A Musical Selection

Sheryl Lee Ralph
Soloist - Jillian Patricia Pirtle

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

Tynecia Wilson

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, Sheryl Lee Ralph, 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 Sentence and Offering**

The Offertory Selection St. Thomas Women's Choir - Soloist Jillian Patricia Pirtle

The Great Thanksgiving (Sung)

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 (Sung)

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 (Sung)

Jesus Christ has died.

Jesus Christ is risen.

Jesus 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 (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 (Sung)

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

Women's Ministry Presentations

Monica Lewis Jones, Sherilynn Kimble
and Victoria Rivers

The Recognition of Visitors and Guests

The Blessing of Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel

The Final Blessing/Benediction

The Celebrant

The Closing Hymn- "Blessed Assurance"

LEVAS # 184

**1) Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood. [Refrain]**

**Refrain: This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.**

**2) Perfect communion, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]**

**3) Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [Refrain]**

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.