

Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
Camden, Maine

The Collect

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Psalm 22:24-30

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *

"May your heart live for ever!"

- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

The Second Reading

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Sequence Hymn 817 Christ is Risen from the dead
(10 a.m. Liturgy only)

Early America, adapt

(three times)

Christ is ri - sen from the dead, tramp - ling down death by death and on

those in the tombs be - stow - ing life, be - stow - ing life!

The Gospel

John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”



The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by the Lowry Family in honor of St. Thomas' parishioners.

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Welcome visitors and newcomers; we are glad you are here! If you would like more information about the community of St. Thomas, please speak to a greeter or a member of the clergy. To receive information by email, please fill out a blue card found in the pew and give to an usher or place in the offering plate.

Liturgical Ministers

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Paul Briggs
Organist: Clarissa Brown, Minister of Music

8:00 a.m.

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Sandy Lyle
Lay Readers: Pat Ayers, Jan Lyle
Intercessor: Amy Frankel
Usher: Isa Babb

10 a.m.

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Roy Gilley
Lay Readers: Doc Wallace, Haunani Wallace
Intercessor: Bill Freeman
Ushers: Jim Ebbert, Lucy Ebbert

People in our Prayers

Healing: Fr. Tom Pike, Edmund, Andrew, Karen Doonan, Jan Dolcater, Helene, John, Cheryl, Phyllis, Michael, Bob, Sylvia, Matthew Jackson, Marlene, Percy, Joan Grey, Bayard Chanler, Evie Bridges, Margery, Cathy, James, Jennifer Smith, Ken, Joseph, Kelli McGuire, Tony, Jo Panayotoff, Luke Morelli, Elizabeth and Gerard Gillespie, Leah, Tim Peters, Janice Boetsch, Lucy Ebbert, Shirley, Tiffany Andrews, Budge Walen, Chris, Sandy, Vicki Boetsch, Allison Davis, Catherine G, Annabel, Virginia

Birthdays: John Mattern (April 28), Derek Reed (April 28), Barbara Briggs (May 2)

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: For St. Giles, Jefferson; St. Nicholas, Scarborough. For our retired clergy, their spouses, and surviving spouses.

This Week at St. Thomas'

Sunday, April 28:

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (*Coffee Hour Follows*)
4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer

Wednesday, May 1:

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Healing

11:00 a.m. Bible Study

Thursday, May 2:

5 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 5:

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (*Coffee Hour Follows*)

4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer

A.A. meetings are held daily at 6:30 p.m.

Church Staff and Parish Officers

Kayla Clay, Parish Administrator

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The Rev. Paul Briggs, Interim Rector

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(860) 384-9193

The Rev. Dr. Rosalee Glass, *Deacon Emeritus*

Clarissa Brown, *Organist & Choir Director*

Tony Coyne, *Sexton*

Elizabeth Moran, *Senior Warden*

Br. Donovan Bowley, BSG, *Junior Warden*

Terry Mello, *Treasurer*



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