



The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Morning Prayer

Sunday, April 26, 2026 8:00 a.m.

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 visitor card found in the pew and give to an usher or place in the offering plate.

Opening Sentence

(BCP p. 37)

The Officiant says

This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalm 118:24*

Confession of Sin

(BCP p. 41)

The Officiant says to the people

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

The Officiant remains kneeling and says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant us absolution and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

The Invitatory and Psalter

(BCP p. 42)

All stand

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.

People **And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

Officiant and People

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen. Alleluia.**

Christ our Passover *Pascha nostrum*
1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

(BCP p. 46)

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us, *
 therefore let us keep the feast,
Not with old leaven,
neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, *
 but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.
Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; *
 death hath no more dominion over him.
For in that he died, he died unto sin once; *
 but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.
Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, *
 but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.
Christ is risen from the dead, *
 and become the first fruits of them that slept.
For since by man came death, *
 by man came also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die, *
 even so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

Psalm 23 *King James Version*

(BCP p. 476)

The LORD is my shepherd; *
 I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *
 he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul; *
 he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; *
 for thou art with me;
 thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; *
 thou anointest my head with oil;
 my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
 and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

The people sit.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles [2:42-47]

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow; then the people stand and say

2 A Song of Praise *Benedictus es, Domine*

(BCP p. 49)

Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34

Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.
Blessed art thou for the Name of thy Majesty; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.
Blessed art thou in the temple of thy holiness; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.
Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths,
and dwellest between the Cherubim; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.
Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy kingdom; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.
Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.
Blessed art thou, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
praised and exalted above all for ever.

The people sit.

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter [2:19-25]

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow; then the people stand and say

7 We Praise Thee *Te Deum laudamus*

(BCP p. 52)

We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.
To thee all Angels cry aloud,
the Heavens and all the Powers therein.
To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.
The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.
The noble army of martyrs praise thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world
doth acknowledge thee,
the Father, of an infinite majesty,
thine adorable, true, and only Son,
also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.
Thou art the King of glory, O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,

**thou didst humble thyself to be born of a Virgin.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,
thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge.**

**We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy saints,
in glory everlasting.**

The people sit.

A Reading from the Gospel of John [10:1-10]

Jesus said, ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

(BCP p. 53)

Officiant and People together, all standing.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

The people stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

**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.**

V. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
R. **And grant us thy salvation.**
V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
R. **And make thy chosen people joyful.**
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. **For only in thee can we live in safety.**
V. Lord, keep this nation under thy care;
R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
V. Let thy way be known upon earth;
R. **Thy saving health among all nations.**
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. **And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.**

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of thy people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calleth us each by name, and follow where he doth lead; who, with thee and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

O God, who makest us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of thy Son our Lord: Grant us this day such blessing through our worship of thee, that the days to come may be spent in thy favor; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of thy faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before thee for all members of thy holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and godly serve thee; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Travel may be offered.

The congregation may be seated for announcements.

Offerings may be received and placed on the altar



Online Offerings: Scan the QR Code or click the Donate Button on our website
www.stthomascamdenme.org

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all men.
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,**

(BCP p. 58)

**and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

(BCP p. 59)

Officiant and People

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord, alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20,21*

Liturgical Ministers

Officiant: Sarah Groman
Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Rosalee Glass

Reader: Jan Lyle
Usher: Dwayne Robinson
Pianist: Lizzie Danchi

People in our Prayers

Healing: Amanda, Wayne B., Mary Mitchell, Morgan Forster, Fred McLaughlin, Kate Pinson, Karen Nolan, Tim C., Bill, Jan, Marieda Hunt, Patrick Coleman, Jan L., Miriam, The Nisbet Family, Wendy, Jeff, Sandra Covington, Peter Walker, Br. Richard Biernacki BSG, Jeff, David Bridges, Kathy Bridges, Donald, Diana Mohr, Gwen, Charles Lewis, Jeanie, Timothy Jackson, Catherine, Kristina Shea, Tony, Mya Delisle, Andrew Moran, Donovan, Debra and Amy, Ned and Kathleen Bachus, Anna and her child Brody, Ruth Tolman, Helene, John, Phyllis, Michael, Bob, Sylvia, Marlene, Percy, Joan Grey, Cathy, James, Ken, Joseph, Jo Panayotoff, Joyce S, Jan Schaefer, Christine & Paul M, Jason, Kristen, Jeanie, Cathie, Brian, Bob S., Gary P., Gay Schueler, Pat Medley, Timothy Darling, Leah, Sandy, Ezra, Chris Strazzulla, Fr. Tom Pike, Evie Bridges, Luke Morelli, Tim Peters, Janice Boetsch, Shirley, Budge Walen, Chris, Vicki Boetsch, Catherine G, Annabel, Pam Kaler, Margery, Stephanie, Helen Russell

April Birthdays: Carol Freebairn (2), Susan Stopper (12), Kate Jackson (12), Freida Cotton (13), Jean Cox (19), Sally Ann Williamson (21), Kelli McGuire (22), Michelle Gabrielsen (22), Vicki Boetsch (25), Suzanne Thomas (26), Jim Ebbert (26), Dwayne Robinson (28), John Mattern (28), Vitali Chompyska (28)

Died: Joyce Cannon, The Rev. Bruce Freeman, Michael Wurzel

Diocese Cycle of Prayer: St. Giles, Jefferson, Trinity, Saco, For Mainers who are food insecure

This Week at St. Thomas'

Wednesday, April 29:

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayer

11:00 a.m. Bible Study on Zoom (*Contact Donovan Bowley for link*)

The Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 3:

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II (*Coffee Hour to follow in the Parish Hall*)

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

Upcoming

Dcn. Burkholder and Fr. Briggs will be attending the Diocese of Maine Clergy Conference from the afternoon of May 3-5. Your prayers are appreciated.

5/11 3 p.m. **Worship & Arts: Planning for Summer** via Zoom. Please contact Fr. Briggs interimrector@stthomascamdenme.org for background material to read before the meeting and to receive a Zoom link.

5/12 12 noon **Kneelers and Brown Bag Lunch.** Conversation about the heritage, care, and cleaning of our kneelers. Conference Room.

5/14 5:30 p.m. **Ascension Day Eucharist and Potluck.** Weather permitting, we will celebrate the Eucharist outside and then go inside for supper by 5:45 p.m. Bring a favorite main dish, salad, or dessert to share.

5/18 11 a.m. **All Souls' Memorial Garden Committee** will meet for their Annual Meeting. If you would like information about our Memorial Garden, contact Sarah Groman, Lucy Ebbert, Anne Rogers Popejoy, Sandy Lyle, or Paul Briggs.

5/24 **The Day of Pentecost (Whitsunday).** We will have Holy Eucharist on this day to celebrate this major feast and the conclusion of Easter season. (Normally we would have Morning Prayer, since this is the fourth Sunday of the month). Contact Cheryl Reif clreif280@gamil.com if you would like to read the Gospel in a language other than English on this day at 8 a.m. or 10 a.m.

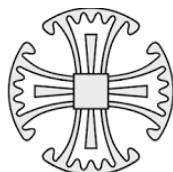
Church Staff and Parish Officers

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Tony Coyne, *Sexton*
Elizabeth Moran, *Senior Warden*
Benjy Lowry, *Junior Warden*
Terry Mello, *Treasurer*
Anne Rogers-Popejoy, *Vestry Clerk*



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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