



# The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 3, 2026

10:00 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.*

Entrance Hymn 182

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing

Truro

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands  
 2 Christ is - a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
 3 Not throned a - bove, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -  
 4 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where co - lor,  
 5 Christ is a - live! His Spi - rit burns through this and

1 emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
 2 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the  
 3 moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the  
 4 scorn or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet  
 5 ev - ery fu - ture age, till all cre - a - tion

1 prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.  
 2 here and now and con - quer ev - ery place and time.  
 3 midst of life, our Sa - vior with the Fa - ther reigns.  
 4 loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.  
 5 lives and learns his joy, his jus - tice, love, and praise.

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People*

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*The Celebrant may say*

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 following is sung, all standing*

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
 King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

*Celebrant*  
*People*  
*Celebrant*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
 Let us pray.

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 Lessons

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles [7:55-60]

<sup>55</sup>Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*           **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

**Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

*Remain seated.*

*Refrain*

## Psalm 31



In - to your hands, O Lord,  
I com - mend my spir - it.

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup>Incline your ear to me; \*  
make haste to deliver me.

<sup>3</sup>Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

*Refrain*

<sup>4</sup>Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
for you are my tower of strength.

<sup>5</sup>Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me,  
O LORD, O God of truth.

*Refrain*

<sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand; \*

**rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.**

**<sup>16</sup>Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
and in your lovingkindness save me.**

***Refrain***

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the First letter of Peter [2:2-10]

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”

<sup>8</sup>and

“A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

**Sequence Hymn** 178 v.2 Jesus is Lord of all the earth [Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord] *Alleluia No. 1*

*All stand.*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Give Praise to his Name.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and has risen.

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Give Praise to his Name.

*All stand.*

*Deacon*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John [14:1-14]

*People*            **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

[Jesus told his disciples,] <sup>1</sup>“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## The Sermon

### The Creed

*All stand.*

**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

*All remain standing.*

*Deacon*

As a royal priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices, let us pray to God for the needs of every living creature.

*Intercessor*

For the holy churches in every place and for the unity of all.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For this holy assembly and for all who seek in Jesus the way the truth, and the life.

**Glory and praise to you, O Living God.**

For all recently baptized and for all illumined by the light of Christ.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Thomas, our bishop, for all bishops, priests, and deacons, for all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For the world and its leaders, for Donald our President and our nation, for Janet our Governor, and Audra our Town Manager and all the people of this land.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For all those in trouble and need, and for those injured by malice and guile.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For those who have died in the resurrection of Christ and for all the dead.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For all students, teachers, and staff as the school year nears its end, for those graduating from colleges and high schools and for their families.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

For ourselves, for our families, and those we love.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God.**

Remembering the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

**To you, O Christ our Risen Lord.**

*Presider*

Blessed are you, God our Father, who calls us to dwell with you in heaven. Hear the prayers we offer this day, and draw your holy people to your side; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*All stand.*

*Celebrant*            The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*                **And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## The Holy Communion



*The people stand as the offerings are brought forward. Online Offerings: Scan the QR Code or click the Donate Button on our website ([www.stthomascamden.org](http://www.stthomascamden.org))*

**Offertory Hymn 187**

Through the Red Sea brought at last

*Straf mich nicht*

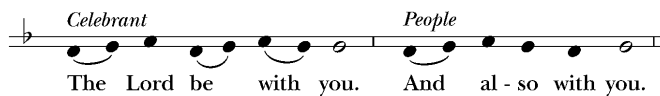
1 Through the Red Sea brought at last, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Like the cloud that o - ver - head, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 In that cloud and in that sea, Al - le - lu - ia!



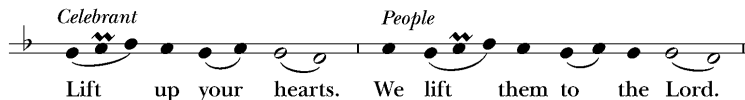
E - gypt's chains be - hind we cast, Al - le - lu - ia! Deep and wide  
 through the bil - lows Is - rael led, Al - le - lu - ia! by his tomb  
 bur - ied and bap - tized were we, Al - le - lu - ia! Earth - ly night



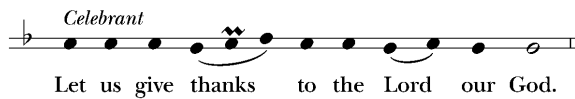
flows the tide sev - ering us from bond - age past, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ makes room, souls re - stor - ing from the dead, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 brought us light which is ours e - ter - nal - ly, Al - le - lu - ia!

**The Great Thanksgiving***The People remain standing.*

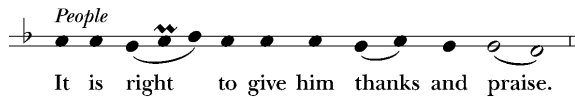
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him 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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

*The People stand or kneel.*

*The Celebrant continues*

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:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you 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 for ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*People and Celebrant*

**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

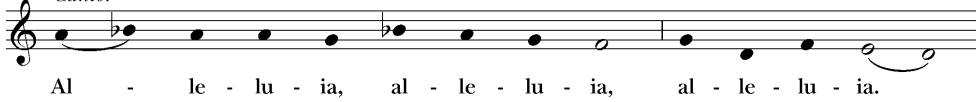
Fraction Anthem S 151

Christ our Passover

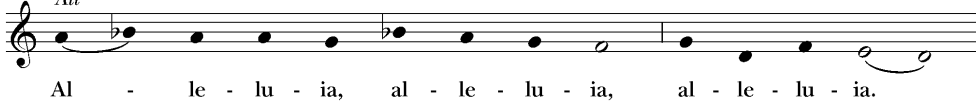
*Peregrinus/Hurd*

*This setting is not used in Lent.*

*Cantor*



*All*



*Cantor*



*All*



*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

### The Communion

*This is God's table, all are welcome. You may receive at the altar or at the Communion station by the pulpit. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking the minister. Communion can be brought to your pew by letting an usher know. The following hymns are sung during the administration of Communion.*

### Choir Anthem

Now the Green Blade Riseth

*Alan Bullard.*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and 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.**

*Descant*

4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and  
 2 All that ded - i - cat - ed ci - ty, dear - ly loved of  
 3 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of  
 4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,  
 God on high, in ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion  
 Hosts, to - day, with thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness  
 thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's  
 pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy; God the One in  
 hear thy serv - ants as they pray, and thy full - est  
 with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

help for ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.  
 Three a - dor - ing in glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.  
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.  
 in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

*The Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA and used by permission. The Collects, Psalms and Canticles are from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Hymn permissions (including streaming music) in this Service obtained from ONE LICENSE: License #A-712382. All rights reserved*

### ***Liturgical Ministers***

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Paul Briggs  
Deacon: The Rev. Kristen Burkholder  
Organist: Scott Dyer  
Eucharistic Ministers: Bill Freeman, Sarah Groman  
Reader: Sue Foltz  
Prayers of the People: Bill Freeman  
Ushers: Jim Ebbert, Lucy Ebbert

### ***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., Corey & his mother, Heidi; Jane Schroeder, 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

**May Birthdays:** Jacqueline Recht (8), Phil Groman (9), Nancy Adams (11), Gay Schueler (14), Donovan Bowley (20), Faith Robinson (22), Susan Freeman (27), Pat Medley (29)

**Diocese Cycle of Prayer:** St. Patrick's, Brewer, For the Diocesan Council, Trustees, Standing Committee

### **This Week at St. Thomas'**

#### **Wednesday, May 6:**

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Healing  
11:00 a.m. Bible Study on Zoom (*Contact Donvan Bowley for link*)

#### **The Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 10:**

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II (*Coffee hour follows in Parish Hall*)

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

### **Upcoming**

5/3-5/5:

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](mailto: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 p.m. **Vestry Meeting** in 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](mailto: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.

5/30 or 5/31:

11:00 am–3:00 pm **Bring-a-Friend Day** at Camp Bishopswood (98 Bishopswood Road in Hope)  
Bring a friend, grandparent, or someone you love and spend the day at camp. Enjoy tours, archery, and time at the waterfront. Pack a picnic lunch and make a day of it. <http://www.bishopswood.org>

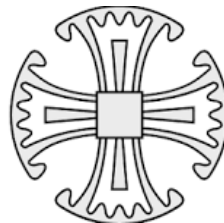
### **Church Staff and Parish Officers**

Kayla Clay, Parish Administrator  
[admin@stthomascamdenme.org](mailto:admin@stthomascamdenme.org)  
Office: 207-236-3680

The Rev. Paul Briggs, Interim Rector  
[interimrector@stthomascamdenme.org](mailto:interimrector@stthomascamdenme.org)  
(860) 384-9193

The Rev. Kristen Burkholder, Deacon  
[deacon@stthomascamdenme.org](mailto:deacon@stthomascamdenme.org)  
(207) 322-7816

The Rev. Dr. Rosalee Glass, *Deacon Emeritus*  
Tony Coyne, *Sexton*  
Elizabeth Moran, *Senior Warden*  
Benjy Lowry, *Junior Warden*  
Terry Mello, *Treasurer*  
Anne Rogers-Popejoy, *Vestry Clerk*



**St. Thomas' Episcopal Church**  
33 Chestnut Street P.O. Box 631 Camden, ME 04843  
[www.stthomascamdenme.org](http://www.stthomascamdenme.org)