



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 3, 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.

The service may be found in **The Book of Common Prayer page 323** and begins with the Easter acclamation

Opening Acclamation

page 323

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Collect of the Day

page 173

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

O Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, 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]

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then 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. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then 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.

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

Remain seated.

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.
²Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
³Be 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.
⁴Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.

¹⁵**My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶**Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your lovingkindness save me.**

The people sit.

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

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

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like 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. ⁶For 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."

⁷To 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,"

⁸and

"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.

⁹But 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.

¹⁰Once 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.

All stand.

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

[Jesus told his disciples,] ¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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.

⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus 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'? ¹⁰Do 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. ¹¹Believe 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. ¹²Very 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. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

Nicene Creed

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Prayer of the People III

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The Confession of Sin is omitted during the Easter Season

The Peace

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The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer II)

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The Lord's Prayer

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The Breaking of the Bread

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The Communion

page 337

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.

Postcommunion Prayer

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Blessing and Dismissal

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Liturgical Ministers

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Paul Briggs

Deacon: The Rev. Kristen Burkholder

Eucharistic Minister: Sandy Lyle

Reader and Prayers of the People: Edmund Hartt

Usher: Peggy Daniels

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, April 6:

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

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 to follow in the Parish Hall)

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 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 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>

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

Church Staff and Parish Officers

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The Rev. Kristen Burkholder, Deacon

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

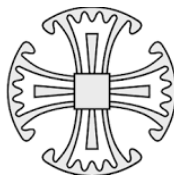
Tony Coyne, *Sexton*

Elizabeth Moran, *Senior Warden*

Benjy Lowry, *Junior Warden*

Terry Mello, *Treasurer*

Anne Rogers-Popejoy, *Vestry Clerk*



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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