

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

50 E. Bagley Road ✝ Berea, OH 44017



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025

10:00 AM

Holy Eucharist – Rite II

The Rt. Reverend Anne Jolly, Bishop

Presider: Reverend Dawson Moorer

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Parish Office Phone: (440) 234-5241

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

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All music can be found in the Red Hymnal in the pews.

PRELUDE: Prelude on *The Call*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

PRAYER FOR ST. THOMAS

All: Almighty God, look graciously on all of us here at St. Thomas, during this time of transition. Be with us, and lead us, as we seek the next rector for our church. We ask your direction and guidance, for all the individuals that have stepped up to be part of the search committee here, so that they will choose the right spiritual leader for this parish. We pray we receive an upright and faithful priest, who will care for your people, and equip us for our ministries. Grant us perception, faithfulness and joy, so that we may hear your voice in all our deliberations. Grant us also the desire, and the ability, to truly hear each other, and those who have entrusted us with this process. Give us courage to respond, and act as you lead us. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN: “Come My Way, My Truth, My Life” Hymn 487 *The Call*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

Presider: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

It is customary to make the Sign of the Cross here. Subsequent places where making the Sign of the Cross is appropriate will be marked with a ✙

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Presider says: 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.

All: AMEN.

GLORIA: S 280 *(In the front of the Hymnal)*

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: 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.*

Please be seated for the Readings

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 11:1-18

Reader: A reading from the book of Acts

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?"

Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

PSALM 148 (read responsively)

Laudate Dominum

1 Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise Him in the heights.

2 Praise Him, all you angels of His; praise him, all His host.

3 Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars.

4 Praise Him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the Name of the LORD; for He commanded, and they were created.

6 He made them stand fast for ever and ever;

He gave them a law which shall not pass away.

7 Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

8 Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing His will;

9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

10 Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds;

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

12 Young men and maidens, old and young together.

13 Let them praise the Name of the LORD, for His Name only is exalted, His splendor is over earth and heaven.

14 He has raised up strength for His people and praise for all His loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near Him. Hallelujah!

THE SECOND LESSON

Revelation 21:1-6

Reader: A Reading from Revelations

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done!

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Please stand if you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN: "O Holy City, Seen of God" Hymn 583 *Morning Song*
(Verses One, Two and Three before the Gospel, Verse Four after)

THE GOSPEL *John 13:31-35* *Deacon Barb Telfer*

Presider: The Holy Gospel according to Luke

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

SEQUENCE (reprise): "O Holy City, Seen of God" Hymn 583 *Morning Song*
(Verse Four)

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dawson Moorer

Please stand if you are able.

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:

(At italic words, it is traditional to bow in remembrance that God became truly human at Christ's incarnation)

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (BCP Form III)

(The Reader and People pray responsively)

Father, 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.

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; especially those on our parish list. We raise them up to You, O Lord, and place them in our hearts this week;

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.

CONCLUDING COLLECT:

The Presider adds a concluding Collect, then All: Amen.

COMMISSIONING OF THE SEARCH COMMITTEE:

The members of the St. Thomas Search Committee come forward and stand in front of the Presider and the Congregation.

Presider: Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, we are all baptized by one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose today is to commission these persons in the Name of God and of this congregation to a special ministry to which they are called.

The Presider addresses the congregation:

Are these persons that you present prepared, by a commitment to Christ as Lord, by regular attendance at worship, and by the knowledge of their duties, to exercise their ministry to the honor of God, and the well-being of His Church?

Congregation: We believe they are.

The Presider addresses the Search Committee candidates: You have been called to a ministry in this congregation. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence?

Search Committee Candidates: I will.

The Presider continues: Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of your ministry to the honor of God, and the benefit of the members of this congregation?

Search Committee Candidates: I will.

THE COMMISSIONING:

Presider: Let us pray.

O Eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage: Enlighten, with Your Grace, the Search Committee members of this congregation, and so rule their minds, and guide their counsels, that in all things, they may seek Your Glory, and promote the mission of Your Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Presider continues: In the Name of God, and of this congregation, I commission you.

Search Committee Chair: Mary Canonico

Members: Scott Hartman

Linda Kinsey Bruce McLaughlin

THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Be seated for the Offertory

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: “O What a Beautiful City”

Spiritual, LEVAS 10

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer D

The people remain standing. The Presider, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says:

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks unto our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Presider proceeds:

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

THE SANCTUS

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Then the Presider continues:

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so

that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Presider is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it, and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Presider and People:

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

The Presider continues:

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember all who minister in your Church, especially Bishop Anne. Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth. Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with St. Thomas and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

People: *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Presider:

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

FRACTION ANTHEM

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COMMUNION HYMN: “Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus” Hymn 336 *Werde munter*
(*Verse One is sung as a solo, and then, with interludes, please join in to sing Verse Two. If Home communion is being given out, stop after verse Two and sing Verse Three after the distribution.*)

After Communion, the Presider says: Let us pray.

The People may join in saying this prayer:

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.

THE EASTER BLESSING

Presider: May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us His children through the

resurrection of His Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of His blessing.

People: AMEN.

Presider: May God, who, through the water of baptism has raised us from sin
into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever.

People: AMEN.

Presider: May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin,
into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemed, bring you to your eternal inheritance.

People: AMEN.

Presider: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People: AMEN.

CLOSING HYMN: “In Christ There is No East or West” Hymn 529 *McKee*

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE: Postlude on “*McKee*”

SERVING ON MAY 18th:

Presider: *The Rev. Dawson Moore*

Altar: *Julie Kalbrunner*

Bread Baker: *Lorrie Beatty*

Chalice Bearer: *Deacon Barb Telfer*

Lay Reader: *Sue Griffith*

Flowers: *Barb Emigh*

Musicians: *The Choir, Sue Griffith, and Kira Seaton*

CALENDAR:

SUNDAY 5/18	10:00am HOLY EUCHARIST-RITE II Father Dawson Moorer, Presider Commissioning of the Search Committee Parish Meeting #1 plus lunch Choir rehearsal before service
MONDAY 5/19	Alcoholics Anonymous- Harkess Hall, (7-9pm)
TUESDAY 5/20	Alcoholics Anonymous- Harkess Hall, (7-9pm)
THURSDAY 5/22	AA/Blue Book: Harkess Hall, (7-9pm)

SUNDAY 5/25

10:00am HOLY EUCHARIST-RITE II

Father Dawson Moorer, Presider

Choir rehearsal before service

IN THE NEWS

THANK YOU TO OUR GROUNDS CREW! **WE LOOK GORGEOUS!**



TODAY: PARISH MEETING #1: Lunch and dialog will follow worship! Bring your appetite and be ready to participate in the interactive formation workshop guided by the newly Search Committee. The newly commissioned Search Committee includes Chair Mary Canonico, Mary Lee Stowell, Scott Hartman, Linda Kinsey, Caitlyn Walker, and Bruce McLaughlin. You are invited even if you did not sign up. See you there!

ADDITIONAL PARISH MEETINGS: Please mark your calendars!

Plan for the following Parish Meetings:

Sundays, June 8

Sunday, June 22,.

These Parish Meetings will include lunch. ECW will provide the main dish and beverages. There are sign-up sheets on the office window for side dishes and desserts. The Search Committee for our new priest will help host the meetings, with each meeting having a unique topic.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP:

The combined Youth Groups from St. Thomas and St. Paul's will be heading to Pennsylvania in July. Please consider adding an extra donation to the Offertory Collection to help cover the \$325 per youth. Shalyn, Aubrey, Taylor, and Jordan from St. Thomas will going, accompanied by Youth Group leader Roanne Lisi.

PRIDE IN THE CLE: Join Deacon Barb Telfer and fellow St. Thomas friends on **Saturday, June 7**, to participate in **Pride CLE march and festival** in downtown Cleveland. We will have a booth after the march to meet and greet festival attendees. Visit this website <https://lgbtcleveland.org/pride/> to learn more or contact Deacon Barb at telferbjt@hotmail.com.

GIVING TO ST. THOMAS has never been easier point your cell phone's camera to the QR code. Click on the link that appears on your camera screens to access Tithely.com.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED in the church office to help maintain presence during the week, maintain sick list, and assist with parish bulletin. Contact Senior Warden Lorrie Beatty by phone **216-215-7111** or email at ltbeatty@gmail.com if you are interested.

THE BREAD BAKERS are looking for bakers to join their team of volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Peggy Zambounis at 440-336-1682.

AS ALWAYS, Senior Warden Lorrie Beatty seeks input, feedback, and ideas to help St Thomas thrive. Communication between congregants, vestry members, and Father Dawson is crucial at this time of growth and change. An open dialog with clear and concise exchange of ideas, thoughtful planning, and a shared vision for the future of St. Thomas are important components of a successful rector search and a fulfilling parish life. Lorrie is available during the day at **216-215-7111** or by email ltbeatty@gmail.com.

LAY READERS NEEDED: If you are interested in joining the lay reader ministry, please contact Carl Scheu at (440) 292-7189 or send an email to thrud62@yahoo.com.

HAVE YOU SEEN MUSICIAN-TYPE PEOPLE LURKING AROUND THE BUILDING? WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

First, there is the The Tri-C Chorale, which has been rehearsing on an occasional basis in our Sanctuary, preparing for their trip to sing in the Dublin International Choral Festival in June. In exchange for the rehearsal space, we will hear members, and maybe the whole group, sing in worship sometime this summer.

And then there are those woodwind players! A quintet, (and sometimes a sextet), can also be found in our Sanctuary making a beautiful noise! With their stands and their cases, and reeds and all the other equipment, these talented folks are “making a joyful noise” and we hope that they might also play in worship sometime down the road.

If you see these folks, welcome them!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 23-27, 9:30 - 12:15

170 Seminary St., Berea

Hosted by:

*The United Methodist Church of
Berea, Christ United Church,*

& St. Paul's Lutheran Church

REGISTER NOW



A House
Build
Benefiting
Habitat
for
Humanity



JULY 18-19, 2025

Cut Day Friday, 6-8 pm (adults only)
Build Day Saturday, 8-2 pm (all ages)

170 Seminary St., Berea 44017
More info: cantczak@umcb.org



ALL AGES & SKILLS
WELCOME!



THE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF BEREA

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

"Do not be anxious about anything but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God". Philippians 4:6-7

Caregivers: George D'Arras, Nancy Braford, and Tom Griffith

Missionary Service: Michelle Wood

Birthdays: Anita Cooper

Anniversaries: Tami and Kevin Furlong

Military Service: David Brabson, Ryan Dawson, Robby Hartman, Annmarie Miller, Eli Modesitt, John Toolis, Blake Schwartz, Jimmy Loder, Caleb Jones, and Maria Estrada.

Sick and Suffering: Bill Kerbusch, H. Pat, Heather Flowers, Carol Flowers, Kevin Flowers, Brenna, Dan Skjei, Phyllis Hall, Tammy Pletcher, Bev Smith, Spencer Griffith, Evelyn & Churchill Ward, Alma Stoica, John Willis, Sandy Shoenfelt, Clint Hist, Bill Hacker, Nellie Cooper, Clint Anderson, Alison Griffith, Jay Murillo, Thor Kerbusch, Sue Zimdars, Marilyn Thomas, Reva Telfer, and Jim Blanca

Recovering: John Staub, Dennis Braford, Gerald Gower, Carole Strama, Polly Burns, Shelley Campbell and Carole Pozek.

Those who have passed on: Mary Brown, (mother of choir member Mary Vazquez)

Pray for those worldwide: who are suffering from disease, devastating fires, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, famine, earthquakes, volcano eruptions, extreme heat or lack of clean water, and pray for the victims of gun violence everywhere.

Pray for peace in the Middle East, and Ukraine: Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSINGS AND PRAYER CARDS:

Every month, a new set of members or friends of our church family will be selected as card recipients; it is amazing how receiving a card in the mail can brighten someone's day! Please let us know if there is someone to whom you would like us to send cards or lift up in prayer.

For May 2025:

Jim Blanca – 5838 Acacia Rose Ct. Richmond, TX 77404 (recent heart by-pass surgery)

Heather Flowers – 13602 St. James Ave. Cleveland, OH 44135 (continuing treatment)