

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

50 E. Bagley Road ✝ Berea, OH 44017



Third Sunday of Easter, Eucharist – Rite II
10:00 AM, April 19, 2026

The Rt. Reverend Anne Jolly, Bishop

Officiant: Fr. Richard Israel

Barbara Telfer, Deacon: TelferBJT@hotmail.com

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St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Berea, Ohio

Parish Office Phone: (440) 234-5241

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St. Thomas
Website

Give to St.
Thomas

Second Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

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

PRELUDE: Study on *Unser Herrscher*

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 will step 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 “He is Risen, He is Risen!” Hymn 180 *Unser Herrscher*
(Verses 1, 2 and 4)

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

(The people standing)

Presider: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Christ 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 278 *(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.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of the bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and fore ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the Readings

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 2:14a,36-41

Lay Reader: A Reading from Acts.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 116:1-3, 10-17

(read responsively)

Dilexi, quoniam

I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication
Because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me;
I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the Name of the Lord:
"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."

How shall I repay the Lord
For all the good things he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation
And call upon the Name of the Lord.

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
In the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord
Is the death of his servants.

O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
And call upon the Name of the Lord.

I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
In the presence of all his people,

In the courts of the Lord's house,
In the midst of you, O Jerusalem. *Hallelujah!*

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 1:17-23

Reader: A Reading from First Peter

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand if you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN: “Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless” Hymn 343 *St. Agnes*
(*Verses One, Two, and Three before the Gospel, Verse Four after*)

THE GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

The Rev. Richard Israel

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.”

Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Officiant: The Gospel of our Savior.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SEQUENCE (reprise): “Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless” Hymn 343 *St. Agnes*
(Verse Four after the Gospel)

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Richard Israel

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 *(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:

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, “Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you.” Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

People: **And also with you.**

Be seated for the Offertory

OFFERTORY: “I Want Jesus to Walk With Me” Carl Haywood (WLP 805)

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

S 128

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.

Holy God, 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 Jesus 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, Jesus 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."

Almighty God, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming Christ's resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting Christ's 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:

God our Creator, 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 Bishop Anne, and all who minister in your Church,. 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 matriarchs, 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.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation or similar words:

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people. The Bread and Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

Celebrants: The Body of Christ, the bread of Heaven **AMEN.**
The Blood of Christ, the cup of Salvation. **AMEN.**

COMMUNION HYMN “This is the Hour of Banquet” Hymn 316 *Canticum refectiois*
(A long introduction is played, and then as people are returning from the communion rail, Verse One and Two are sung with interludes. If Home communion is being given out, Verse Three will be sung after the Eucharistic Ministers have been commissioned.

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 Redeemer, 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 “Sing, Ye Faithful, Sing with Gladness” Hymn 492 *Finnian*

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE Postlude on “*Finnian*”

SERVING ON APRIL 27th:

President: *The Rev. Richard Israel*

Chalice Bearer: *Deacon Barb Telfer*

Altar: *Mary Lee Stowell*

Lay Reader: *Carl Scheu*

Bread Baker: *Nancy Bradford*

Flowers: *Linda Kinsey*

Musicians: *Kira Seaton and Sue Griffith*

CALENDAR:

SUNDAY 4/19	10:00am HOLY EUCHARIST-RITE II Father Richard Israel, Presider Choir rehearsal after service.
MONDAY 4/20	Alcoholics Anonymous- Harkess Hall, (7-9pm)
TUESDAY 4/21	Alcoholics Anonymous- Harkess Hall, (7-9pm)
WEDNESDAY 4/22	Vestry Meeting, 7pm
THURSDAY 4/23	AA/Bluebook: Harkess Hall, (7-9pm)
SUNDAY 4/26	10:00am HOLY EUCHARIST-RITE II Father Dawson Moorer, Presider – Coffee Hour

IN THE NEWS

FR. DAWSON MOORER’S EMAIL AND TEXT MESSAGE APP UPDATE

If you received a text message or email from Fr. Dawson recently that asked you to send money or purchase gift cards...DELETE THE MESSAGES. Fr. Dawson’s accounts have been hacked. **Do not respond to the messages, do not engage with the senders. The messages are not from Fr. Dawson. DELETE THE MESSAGES. THEY ARE SCAMS.**

POSSIBLE ECW MEETING TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

Topics for the include the annual May 1 & 2 Plant Sale, and other summer activities.

PARISHIONER & VESTRY MEMBER MIKE STRAMA

Mike is the Stage Manager for Strongsville Community Theatre's upcoming production of the musical "Tuck Everlasting" running April 17-26 in the Little Theater at Strongsville High School. Call the Box Office for ticket information: (440) 879-8817

WE'RE UPDATING THE FUR BABIES BULLETIN BOARD

If you have a pet not already included or a new pet to include, please give pictures to Anita Cooper or leave them in the office. Also, include your pet's name and age.

GO FUND ME FOR THOR'S MEMORIAL

Very good friends of Thor's owner and Dad, Bill Kerbusch, have started a Go Fund Me account to help offset the cost of the memorial monument to Thor that will guard the St. Thomas courtyard in the coming months. Here is a link to the site where you can donate; click on the link if you are reading this in the E-Pistle or type the full URL address into any internet browser window beginning with "https...": The fundraiser link is <https://www.gofundme.com/f/memorial-monument-for-thor-the-therapy-dog>

SEND PRAYER REQUESTS OR NOTEWORTHY ITEMS TO SHARE:

Email information to churchoffice@stthomaschurch-berea.org. Deadline for submission is Wednesday night for inclusion in the weekly E-Pistle and Sunday Bulletin. Don't use email? Please reach out by phone; call the Church Office (440) 234-5241. When leaving a message speak slowly and clearly. Thank you!

CARD-SENDING: Sending a card can lift someone's spirits during illness, grief, or tough times. To join this ministry, see the last page of the bulletin for a list of people who could use some encouragement.

COLUMBARIUM EXPANSION IS HAPPENING!

One block of four niches is sold, and another block of four niches is pending sold. Are you interested in purchasing a niche for yourself and/or your loved ones? We must purchase niches in blocks of four. The approximate all-inclusive cost of one niche is currently less than \$600.00. If you'd like to know more about obtaining a niche(s), please call the church office at 440-234-5241 or send an email to churchoffice@stthomaschurch-berea.org. Be sure to include your name, phone number, and a good time to reach you.

OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR SOME GREAT MUSIC! Our lovely friends at Cuyahoga Community College have a Spring Chorale and Concert Band Performance on Saturday, May 2nd at 4pm in the Western Campus of Theatre of Tri-C. There will be some familiar faces from our recent Holy days services! Tri-C West is at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road in Parma, and the Concert is free!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. THOMAS:

COMMUNION BREAD BAKER: This is a great service for the whole church, done with a little prayer right in your own home. If you are interested, please contact Peggy Zambounis at 440-336-1682.

LAY READERS NEEDED: Do you enjoy reading out loud? If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact Carl Scheu at (440) 292-7189 or email thrud62@yahoo.com. Training provided.

CHURCH OFFICE VOLUNTEER: Consider spending two hours in the office on Thursday or Friday morning (10a-12p or 11a-1p). Duties include answering the phone, taking messages, and light office duties. Training provided. For more information, contact Julie Kalbrunner at 440-220-2494.

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

Caregivers: George D'Arras, and Nancy Braford

Missionary Service: Michelle Wood

Birthdays: Tim Cooper, Lynn Vincent, Brian Telfer, Marilyn Thomas, Sally Ebersole

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

Sick and Suffering: Heather Flowers, Kevin Flowers, Dan Skjei, Phyllis Hall, Tammy Pletcher, Bev Smith, Sara Perry, Evelyn & Churchill Ward, Alma Stoica, Sandy Shoenfelt, Clint Hist, Bill Hacker, Nellie Cooper, Clint Anderson, Jay Murillo, Marilyn Thomas, Reva Telfer, Linda Miller, Jacob, Kate Stocker Holly, Harold Roberts, Mary Lou, Marcie Hist, Sue Zimdars, Carol Flowers, and Anne Statz.

Recovering: Alison Griffith, Dennis Braford, Gerald Gowern, Carole Strama, Carole Pozek, Spencer Griffith, Sue Griffith, Rick Finklestein,, Lorrie Beatty, Mike Leonardo.

Pray for those worldwide: who suffer from disease, natural disasters, extreme heat or lack of clean water, pray for the victims of gun violence everywhere.

For peace among the nations: Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Special Intentions, Prayer Requests, & Blessings:

Each month we will list names of select members or friends of our church who would benefit from receiving notes or cards by mail to brighten their day, or we will set special intentions to pray for. To nominate someone for a card or request special intentions or prayers, please email: churchoffice@stthomaschurch-berea.org.

Pray for those recently departed: John Staub, Linda Norton

For April Card sending:

Carol Flowers, (took a fall, broke her arm) 13602 St. James Ave, Cleveland, OH 44135

We'll have a new address soon for David Zambounis, so you may congratulate him on his graduation from Boot Camp.