

Welcome to

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

16 E. Van Buren St.

Battle Creek

(269)965-2244

www.StThomasBC.org

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 11, 2021

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Opening Voluntary: Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain, Robert Buckley Farlee

The service begins with the musical prelude. Then the Celebrant says

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.**

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,

almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Acts 4:32-35

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head *
that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

Second Lesson: 1 John 1:1-2:2

A Reading from the First Letter of St. John.

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us — we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson: John 20:19-31

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to St. John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of our Savior.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

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:
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

After each petition the people respond

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant introduces the Offertory. The bread and wine for communion are set upon the altar.

Offerings may be made by texting "StThomasBC" to 73256. You can also click or paste this link into your internet browser's search field: <https://onrealm.org/stthomasbc/give/now>, or go to our website www.StThomasBC.org and click the green "Contribute Now" button at the bottom of the page. Thank you for your generosity.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also 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 our thanks and praise.

Here the Proper Preface is said. Then all join in the Sanctus

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Celebrant praises God for the salvation of the world through the holy sacrifice of Jesus; and remembering the events of the Last Supper, prays that the gifts of bread and wine may become the Body and Blood of Christ.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant prays that all may benefit from Christ's holy sacrifice and be renewed by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

At the end of the prayer the people respond

Amen.

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

**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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

The Celebrant says the invitation to communion. The prayer for those unable to receive communion is said.

After communion the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of Christ,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Vestry Liaison gives the announcements.

The Celebrant prays for God's blessing on the people and then dismisses them with these words

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Closing Voluntary: Fanfare, Kenneth Leighton

Music Permissions: OneLicense.net #A70320 & St. James Music Press Member ID #15909

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminders THIS WEEK:

TODAY: Outdoor Worship, 10:30 am
RenewalWorks Workshop Team Meeting, 1:00 pm
Wednesday Preaching Circle 6:30 pm on Zoom. Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89309745877?pwd=alRXWIRZdmJVRHJ3eFRQWEpHempFdZ09>
Friday Bible Study 11am on Zoom. Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81058196249?pwd=RW01TWNpZG5nTkQyTXBOV3QwMXRQUT09>
Saturday Breakfast Program

Parish office hours: Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. Additional health precautions are in place including a visitor log and temperature checks for all staff, volunteers and visitors.

Daily Prayer: Morning Prayer, 9 a.m.; Evening Prayer, 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Services are livestreamed to St. Thomas Facebook Page, YouTube Channel and website. To join as a participant in the service use the Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81777924624?pwd=cGtCNkRTcVFYbVQ2ZUF5azl6ZUVnZz09>

Next Sunday's Lessons: Acts 3:12-19; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48; Psalm 4.

Serving this Week

Presider:	Fr. Brian Coleman
Subdeacon:	Michele Reid
Organist:	Dr. Stephen White
Lector:	Eric Prechtel
Altar Chapter:	Bob Harberts
Vestry Liaison:	Hans Prechtel
A/V Technician:	Yvette Petti