



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church  
1108 Providence Road, Towson, MD  
(410) 821-5489  
[www.stthomastowson.org](http://www.stthomastowson.org)

Ascension Day  
9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, May 13, 2018

## Announcements and Welcome

### Hymn: Crown him with many crowns

#494

*Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne;  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own;  
awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King  
through all eternity.*

*Crown him the Son of God  
before the worlds began,  
and ye, who tread where he hath trod,  
crown him the Son of man;  
who every grief hath known  
that wrings the human breast,  
and takes and bears them for his own,  
that all in him may rest.*

*Crown him the Lord of life,  
who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife  
for those he came to save;  
his glories now we sing  
who died, and rose on high,  
who died, eternal life to bring,  
and lives that death may die.*

*Crown him of lords the Lord,  
who over all doth reign,  
who once on earth, the incarnate Word,  
for ransomed sinners slain,*

*now lives in realms of light,  
where saints with angels sing  
their songs before him day and night,  
their God, Redeemer, King.*

*Crown him the Lord of heaven,  
enthroned in worlds above;  
Crown him the King, to whom is given  
the wondrous name of Love.  
Crown him with many crowns,  
as thrones before him fall,  
crown him, ye kings, with many crowns,  
for he is King of all.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: *The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

*Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires are 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.*

**Gloria: Foley**

*Give 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.*

*Give glory to God in the highest, and  
Peace to his people on earth.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy upon us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.*

*Give glory to God in the highest, and  
Peace to his people on earth.*

*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.*

*Give glory to God in the highest, and  
Peace to his people on earth.*

*Give glory to God in the highest, and  
Peace to his people on earth.*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

People: *And also with you*

Celebrant: Let us pray together

*Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.*

### **A Reading from Acts 1:1-11**

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

*After the Reading, the Reader says*

The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

**Psalm 47**

1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; \*  
shout to God with a cry of joy.

2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared; \*  
he is the great King over all the earth.

3 He subdues the peoples under us, \*  
and the nations under our feet.

4 He chooses our inheritance for us, \*  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

5 God has gone up with a shout, \*  
the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; \*  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

7 For God is King of all the earth; \*  
sing praises with all your skill.

8 God reigns over the nations; \*  
God sits upon his holy throne.

9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered together \*  
with the people of the God of Abraham.

10 The rulers of the earth belong to God, \*  
and he is highly exalted.

**A Reading from Ephesians 1:15-23**

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who

believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

*After the Reading, the Reader says*

The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

**Hymn: When Christ was lifted from the earth**

**#603**

*When Christ was lifted from the earth,  
his arms stretched out above  
through every culture, every birth,  
to draw an answering love.*

*Still east and west his love extends  
and always, near or far,  
he calls and claims us as his friends  
and loves us as we are.*

*Where generation, class, or race  
divide us to our shame,  
he sees not labels but a face,  
a person, and a name.*

*Thus freely loved, though fully known,  
may I in Christ be free  
to welcome and accept his own  
as Christ accepted me.*

**The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 24:44-53**

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and

that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

*After the Gospel, the reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## **The Sermon**

**Rev. Loree Penner**

### **The Nicene Creed**

**pg. 358**

*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.*

### **Prayers of the People**

Reader: Christ has ascended high that he might fill all things: Listen to our prayers, O God, as we proclaim the riches of your glorious inheritance and the immeasurable greatness of your power for us who believe, saying, Clap your hands, all you peoples;

*People: Shout to God with a cry of joy.*

O God, give to your church a spirit of wisdom and revelation as we come to know you, that we may be your witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Clap your hands all you peoples;

*People: Shout to God with a cry of joy.*

Reader: You reign over the nations, and the rulers of the earth belong to you: work among those who hold authority in the world, that they may establish peace and reconciliation among all peoples.

Clap your hands, all you peoples;

*People: Shout to God with a cry of joy.*

Reader: Cover the earth with your grace, Lord; that all who suffer from any threat or oppression may know the power of your goodness.

Clap your hands, all you peoples;

*People: Shout to God with a cry of joy.*

Reader: Fill our community with your blessing, that with the eyes of our hearts enlightened, we may know the power of your goodness.

Clap your hands, all you peoples;

*People: Shout to God with a cry of joy.*

Receive our prayers for all who are in need, especially...

Clap your hands, all you peoples;

*People: Shout to God with a cry of joy.*

You raised Christ from the dead and seated him at your right hand: Receive into your arms of mercy those who have died, especially...

Clap your hands, all you peoples;

*People: Shout to God with a cry of joy.*

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

### **The Peace**

**pg. 360**

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

*People: And also with you.*

### **The Blessing of Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries**

**pg. 830**

*Watch over your child, O Lord, as his days increase; bless and guide him wherever he may be. Strengthen him when he stands; comfort him when discouraged or sorrowful; raise him up if he falls; and in his heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **The Offertory: Alleluia, Sing to Jesus**

**#460**

*Alleluia! sing to Jesus!*

*his the scepter, his the throne;*

*Alleluia! his the triumph,*

*his the victory alone;*

*Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion*

*thunder like a mighty flood;*

*Jesus out of every nation*

*hath redeemed us by his blood.*

*Alleluia! not as orphans  
are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! he is near us,  
faith believes, nor questions how:  
though the cloud from sight received him,  
when the forty days were o'er,  
shall our hearts forget his promise,  
"I am with you evermore"?*

*Alleluia! bread of Heaven,  
Thou on earth our food, our stay!  
Alleluia! here the sinful  
flee to thee from day to day:  
Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,  
where the songs of all the sinless  
sweep across the crystal sea.*

*Alleluia! King eternal,  
thee the Lord of lords we own:  
Alleluia! born of Mary,  
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:  
thou within the veil hast entered,  
robed in flesh, our great High Priest:  
thou on earth both Priest and Victim  
in the Eucharistic feast.*

*Alleluia! sing to Jesus!  
his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone;  
Hark! the songs of holy Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of every nation  
hath redeemed us by his blood.*

## **Doxology**

**#380 (vs. 3)**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

## **The Great Thanksgiving Prayer A**

**pg.361**

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

**Celebrant:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** *We lift them to the Lord.*

**Celebrant:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

*The Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. After his glorious resurrection he openly appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory. 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:

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord.*

*God of power and might,*

*Heaven and earth,*

*heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he,*

*blessed is he who comes*

*in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

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:

*Christ has died.*

*Christ has risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

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 forever. *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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## **The Holy Communion**

**The Communion of the People** (St. Thomas' extends the invitation to all baptized members of any Christian Church to receive the consecrated bread and wine.)

### **Communion Hymn: Almighty**

#### ***Almighty***

*You have no rival You stand alone  
The heavens worship before Your throne  
There is no one like You*

*You have no equal Your Kingdom reigns  
Yours is the highest of ev'ry name  
There is no one like You*

#### ***Almighty***

*We're standing in the presence of Your majesty  
You're holy  
You alone the sov'reign crown of royalty  
You're the King of kings (almighty)*

*Our God eternal the great I Am  
The praise of angels will never end  
There is no one like You  
Eyes like fire face like the sun  
A voice like thunder who was and is and is to come*

#### ***Almighty***

*We're standing in the presence of Your majesty  
You're holy  
You alone the sov'reign crown of royalty  
You're the King of kings (almighty)*

*I see the Holy One high and exalted  
I hide my eyes and I tremble before Him  
I tremble before Him  
I see the Holy One high and exalted  
I hide my eyes and I tremble before Him  
I tremble*

*You are almighty  
We're standing in the presence of Your majesty  
You're holy  
You alone the sov'reign crown of royalty  
You're the King of kings almighty*

*We're standing in the presence of Your majesty  
You're holy  
You alone the sov'reign crown of royalty  
You're the King of kings almighty  
almighty*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

**pg. 366**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

*People: 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 your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

### **Recessional Hymn: You are holy**

*You are holy (You are holy)  
You are mighty (You are mighty)  
You are worthy (You are worthy)  
Worthy of praise (worthy of praise)  
I will follow (I will follow)  
I will listen (I will listen)  
I will love You (I will love You)  
All of my days (all of my days)*

**(Men)**

*I will sing to and worship  
The King who is worthy  
And I will love and adore Him  
And I will bow down before Him  
And I will sing to and worship  
The King who is worthy  
And I will love and adore Him  
And I will bow down before Him  
You're my Prince of Peace  
And I will live my life for You*

**(Women)**

*You are Lord of lords You are King of kings  
You are mighty God Lord of ev'rything  
You're Emmanuel You're the Great I Am  
You're the Prince of Peace who is the Lamb  
You're the living God You're my saving grace  
You will reign forever You are Ancient of Days  
You are Alpha Omega Beginning and End  
You're my Savior Messiah Redeemer and  
Friend  
You're my Prince of Peace  
And I will live my life for You*

**(All)**

*You're my Prince of Peace  
And I will live my life for You*

**Dismissal:**

**Priest:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**People:** Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

~~~ CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 14th ~~~

**Monday, May 14th:** 7pm- NA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

**Tuesday, May 15th:** 6:30pm- EfM (Fellowship Hall)

**Wednesday, May 16th:** (Rev. Loree and Jill out of the office for Food Service Training)  
7pm- Johns Hopkins Parkinson's Support Group (Fellowship Hall)

**Thursday, May 17th:** 1:30pm- Johns Hopkins Parkinson's Support Group (Fellowship Hall),  
7pm- Chatterleigh Association Meeting (Fellowship Hall), 7:15pm-Global Foundations Tutorial  
Meet and Greet (Patio), 7:30pm- Music Practice

**Friday, May 18th:** 7pm- AA Meeting (Classroom #7), 8pm- Jekyll & Hyde (Sanctuary)

**Saturday, May 19th:** 10am-CRASE Course/Active Shooter Response (Fellowship Hall), 8pm-  
Jekyll & Hyde (Sanctuary)

**Sunday, May 20th:** 9:30am- Worship Service/Healing Prayer (Fellowship Hall), 10:30am-  
Potluck Brunch to celebrate St. Thomas' 165th Anniversary, 4pm- Jekyll & Hyde

\*Private events are not included on this calendar. Please contact the church office if you would like to reserve space.

**Altar Guild:** The arrangements on the altar are given in memory of Pearl Licht by Barbara Hearne, and in memory of Dolores Myers by Linda Gorman. For the month of May, Wafers, Wine, Branch Candles, Sanctuary Candle, Eucharistic Candles, and altar arrangements for the 4th Sunday are available. The cost of each dedication is \$30. Please contact Diane Flayhart, [410-426-4618](tel:410-426-4618) or [dflayhart.stthomas@gmail.com](mailto:dflayhart.stthomas@gmail.com), or the church office, [410-821-5489](tel:410-821-5489), if you are interested in reserving a dedication. Thank you.

**St. Thomas' will be celebrating our 165th Anniversary with a Pot Luck Brunch on Sunday, May 20th after service.** A sign-up sheet will be passed around this morning. And wear RED to celebrate Pentecost!

**Sunday School News:** Our last Sunday school date for the season will be on Sunday May 13th. We will take the summer off, and resume Sunday school on Sunday September 9th. We will be busy planning over the summer for lessons and activities. We are praying to have more people get involved with Sunday School, it is so much fun and the kids are really enjoying themselves. If there is a lesson or bible story that is particularly close to your heart or a fun craft that you would love to share with the kids, please contact us so we can put you on the schedule for the fall.

**Third Wall Productions will be performing Jekyll & Hyde here at St. Thomas' (May 11-20).** Come see what all the hype is about, and support this amazing community theatre and St. Thomas'.

Merchandise and tickets available at: [our.show/thirdwall/jekyllandhyde](http://our.show/thirdwall/jekyllandhyde)

**Christian Stitchin' will next meet at St. Thomas' on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am.** We are not planning to meet during July or August. In September, we are looking to add an additional opportunity during the week for folks to gather if they wish to enjoy the fellowship of the yarn. We are open to suggestions. If you have been wanting to come and knit with us (or crochet!) but Saturday mornings don't work for you, please let us know of a day and/or time that may be better. For more information, or if you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Beth Crosby. [bcrosby.stthomas@gmail.com](mailto:bcrosby.stthomas@gmail.com)

**Civilian Response to Active Shooter Encounters (CRASE) course (May 19):** The CRASE course is designed and built on an "avoid, deny and defend" strategy. The course provides strategies, guidance and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event. \*Course contains content that may not be suitable for children 10 years of age and younger. The course is free, and will be in the Fellowship Hall at St. Thomas'. Officer William Burton of the Baltimore County Police Department will be the presenter.

**Let's go to the O's!** Remember when we used to have yearly outings to Oriole games? It's been a few years, but we are trying to start doing it again. The game we are looking to go to is **Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:05.** The Orioles play the Angels that night, and there are fireworks after the game. We are looking at seats in the Lower Reserve, which are \$19 a piece at our group rate (\$5 off per ticket). If we get a group of 25 or more, we will be announced on the scoreboard. Contact the office, or Chuck Shimonkevitz, if you are interested in going.

**Prayers for Healing are requested for those who are ill or in any need:** Mo Otradovec, Dottie D., Ronnie L., Jan Jr., David J., Jeri Adams, Robert Yoos, Andrew Bures, Bill D., Rick D., David Harper, Pete, Leigh, Vera O., Wanda S., Dowell S., and Bill F.

**And for those who are homebound:** Theresa Welsch, Mary Shorter, Nan Fitzgerald, Charles and Susan Harryman, Carrie Hemberger, Susan Herring, Ellen Monahan, Connie Waxter, Curtis Meador, and Dan Licht.

Rev. Loree Penner, Rector  
443-377-9048

Diane Flayhart, Sr. Warden  
410-426-4618

Sharon Greenbeck, Jr. Warden  
410-963-2996