

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER**

**April 28th, 2024 10:00 a.m.**

**Holy Eucharist Rite II**

[www.stthomasgreenville.org](http://www.stthomasgreenville.org)



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
210 Church Street, Greenville, Alabama 36037  
334.382.8914

**Clergy and Staff**

The Rt. Rev. Russell Kendrick, *Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast*

The Rev. Linda Suzanne Borgen, *Rector*

Dr. Elizabeth French, *Organist*

Dent Neilson, *Vergers*

Sharon Carson, *Parish Administrator*

Julie Smith, *Nursery Nanny*

**VESTRY**

Vivian McGowin ('24), *Senior Warden*

Mary Dearing ('26), *Junior Warden*

Bill Hamilton ('25), *Clerk*, Cemira Powell, *Treasurer*

Staci Anderson ('24), Tammi Edwards ('25),

Ann Garrett ('25), Amy Martin ('26), Cleve Poole ('26)

# DAILY MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO

*BCP – The Book of Common Prayer, H – The Hymnal 1982  
S – Service Music in The Hymnal, A – Alleluia III Songbook*

## Prelude

Dr. Elizabeth French

## Opening Hymn

*O love, how deep*

H 448

## The Opening Acclamation

BCP 75

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. *Colossians 3:1*

## The Confession of Sin

BCP 79

*All say together*

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

## The Absolution

BCP 80

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen*

## The Invitatory

BCP 81

Officiant Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed:

People *Come let us adore him. Alleluia*

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will forever. Amen.

Alleluia.

## The Venite

BCP 82 and S 35

*Psalm 95: 1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving\*  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
And the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his, for he has made it, \*  
And his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
And kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is our God,  
And we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would harken to his voice!

## The Psalm

Psalm 22:24-30

BCP 612

*Officiant and People*

- <sup>24</sup> My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- <sup>25</sup> The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \*  
“May your heart live forever!”
- <sup>26</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- <sup>27</sup> For kingship belongs to the Lord; \*  
he rules over the nations.
- <sup>28</sup> To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- <sup>29</sup> My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the Lord’s forever.
- <sup>30</sup> They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.

## First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So, he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire

treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So, Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about some one else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down to the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*            *Thanks be to God.*

### **Hymn: The First Song Of Isaiah**

BCP 86

*Isaiah 12:2-6*

Surely, it is God who saves me; \*

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*

And he will be my Savior.

Therefore, you shall draw water with rejoicing \*

from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, \*

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

### **Second Reading: I John 4:7-21**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In

this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So, we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*            *Thanks be to God.*

### Sequence Hymn

*Blessed Jesus, at thy word*

H 440

### Gospel      John 15:1-8

**Celebrant**    The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears not fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

**Celebrant**    The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*            *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

### The Sermon

Cemira Powell  
*Lay Reader*

### The Apostles' Creed

BCP 96

*All say together*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third

day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **The Peace**

BCP 360

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

*People* And also with you.

### **The Announcements**

#### **Offertory Sentence**

BCP 376

*The Priest says* Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to Almighty God. *Ephesians 5:2*

*(Offerings may be mailed, given to the church office, or given securely online at [www.stthomasgreenville.org](http://www.stthomasgreenville.org))*

#### **Offertory Meditation**

Dr. Elizabeth French

#### **The Presentation**

*Doxology*

*H 380 v 3*

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

BCP 97

**Celebrant:** And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

*Celebrant and People*

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 Suffrage B**

BCP 98

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your Name forever.  
V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.  
V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
R. For we put our trust in you.  
V. In you, Lord, is our hope;  
R. And we shall never hope in vain.

### **The Collect of the Day**

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, forever and ever. *Amen.*

### **The Prayers of the People**

*Form III*

BCP 387

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;  
*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.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

*The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.*

## **The General Thanksgiving**

*Officiant and People*

BCP 101

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,

We your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all to whom you have made. We bless you for all creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of his grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

## **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

BCP 102

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

## **Closing Sentence**

BCP 102

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14*

## **Closing Hymn**

*Lord dismiss us with thy blessings*

H 344

## **Postlude**

Dr. Elizabeth French