EASTER SUNDAY
April 4, 2021

Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
111 High Street, Taunton, MA 02780
www.StThomasTaunton.com
E-Mail: StThomasEpiscopalChurch@Comcast.net

Hymn: Hymnal #179 “Welcome Happy Morning”

1 "Welcome, happy morning!" age to age shall say:
hell today is vanquished; heav'n is won today.
Lo! the dead is living, God forevermore!
Him, their true Creator, all his works adore.

Refrain:
"Welcome, happy morning!"
age to age shall say:

2. Earth her joy confesses, clothing her for spring,
All fresh gifts returned with her returning King.
bloom in every meadow, leaves on every bough,
speak his sorrow ended, hail his triumph now. (Refrain)

3. Months in due succession, days of lengthening light,
hours and passing moments, praise thee in their flight.
Brightness of the morning, sky and fields and sea,
Vanquisher of darkness, bring their praise to thee. (Refrain)

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant **Alleluia, Christ Is Risen!**
People **He Is Risen indeed! Alleluia**

The Celebrant 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. **Amen.**

The following is sung, all standing

1 Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
2 Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
3 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
4 you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
5 you are seated at the right hand of the Father;

receive our prayer.
6 For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
7 you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

"O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading **Acts 10:34-43**

All sit.

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ–he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.
2 Let Israel now proclaim, *

"His mercy endures for ever."

14 The Lord is my strength and my song, *
and he has become my salvation.

15 There is a sound of exultation and victory *
in the tents of the righteous:

16 "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! *
the right hand of the Lord is exalted! the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"

17 I shall not die, but live, *
and declare the works of the Lord.

18 The Lord has punished me sorely, *
but he did not hand me over to death.

19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the Lord.

20 "This is the gate of the Lord; *
he who is righteous may enter."

21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation.

22 The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the Lord's doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 On this day the Lord has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Second Reading **1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you--unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he ap peared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he ap peared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, be cause I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them--though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: "A Celtic Alleluia"

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The right hand of God raised me up.
The hand of the Lord has triumphed.
I shall never die,
I shall live, telling God's deeds.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Holy Gospel **John 20:1-18**

All stand and turn to face the Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon: The Joseph Mumita

Nicene Creed

All stand.

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

The Leader 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;
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 people may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Celebrant

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who placed your word on our lips and in our heart. Hear our prayers for all peoples. Receive sons and daughters into your family, wash them in the waters of new life, and feed them with your bread and wine; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

All stand.

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

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Holy Communion

The Celebrant says

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

Offertory Hymn: Hymnal #180 "He Is Risen"

1 He is risen, He is risen!
Tell it out with joyful voice.
he has burst his three days' prison;
let the whole wide earth rejoice.
death is conquered, we are free;
Christ has won the victory.

2 Come, ye sad and fearful hearted,
with glad smile and radiant brow.
Death's long shadows have departed,
Jesus' woes are over now;
and the passion that he bore,
sin and pain can vex no more.

3 Come with high and holy hymning;
Hear our Lord's triumphant day
not one darksome cloud is dimming
yonder glorious morning ray,
breaking o'er the purple east,
symbol of our Easter feast.

4 He is risen, He is risen!
He has opened heaven's gate.
We are free from sins dark prison,
risen to a holier state;
and a brighter Easter beam
on longing eyes shall stream.

The people remain standing.

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 and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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:

Celebrant and People

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 people kneel.

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 is risen
Christ will come again

Celebrant and People

The Celebrant continues

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 for ever. **Amen.**

The Celebrant then continues

As our Savior Christ
has taught us,
we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

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

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized persons regardless of denomination are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion Hymn: "Rabbouni"

"Woman, why are you weeping? Woman, why do cry?

Woman, whom are you seeking among those who have died?"

"I have come in search of Jesus, the One they crucified.

He once said, He'd always be with us until the end of all time."

Then from behind, another voice did say, "Woman, why do weep that way?"

And falling to her knees, she begged him, "Please,

tell me where I can find Him that I seek."

And that voice of love spoke again to her,

He said, "Mary, Mary, Mary!"

And at that moment she realized, as tears of joy came to her eyes

For now she saw her Lord alive!

And that woman, on Easter morn, she did witness a world reborn,

When she raised her voice to the heavens on high

And declared the Lord of life.

"Rabouni! Rabouni! Rabouni! O Lord of my life!"

"Rabouni! Rabouni! Rabouni! My Lord and my life..."

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.

Blessing

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. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

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

Hymn: Hymnal #209 "We walk by faith"

1 We walk by faith, and not by sight;
no gracious words we hear
from him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.

2 We may not touch his hands and side,
nor follow where he trod,
but in his promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"

3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief,
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near,
and seek where you are found:

4 that when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are
with full and endless sight.

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

Flowers on the Altar for Easter Sunday in Loving Memory of James, Beatrice Ann & Sheldon Taylor. Memorial Tribute in loving memory of David Waldron by Barbara Waldron; Edith Dunne & Herbert Holt; Marion & Val Dunphe.

The Vestry has been hard at work thinking outside the box for some new and exciting fundraisers. Of course, we will continue to have our faithful ones that everyone enjoys. Listed below are the fundraisers scheduled for the rest of the year.

April:	Polo shirts are for sale $35 each
May:	$500 Raffle
June:	Lobster Roll Day 6/4
July:	Meat Raffle 6/30
August:	Yard Sale 8/21
Sept:	Homecoming cookout & Sunday School enrollment 9/12
Oct:	Betty Angell May Breakfast in October on 10/3
Nov:	Fall Festival 11/6-11/7 (Jacqui White is chairing)
Dec:	Calendar Raffle with money prizes on each day of the month donated by Vestry & selling sweatshirts

More information to follow!!

Prayer is a very important part of our life at St. Thomas

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) deliver communion and prayers to the ill and homebound each month. To sign up for this important ministry, please call 508-824-9595.

In the **Parish Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for five households each week. This is a way for us to reach out in prayer to all our members on a systematic and regular basis. This week we pray for the Zitz Family, the Abisso Family, the Ahrendts Family, the Albert Family, the the Ames Family. Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you.

Scriptural Readings: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; Gospel: John 20:19-31.

Prayers for the Homebound and Ill members of our parish include…… Joe Andrade, Wayne Perkins, Julie Moore, Joann Frazier, Virginia Ames, Judy Lincoln, Janice Crepeau & Sandy Trauterman.

Prayers for those who serve in the **Armed Forces and Overseas**… Daniel Snowdall, Megan Drewniak, Adam Dyke, William Marsh IV, Donald Souza, Noel Souza, Ryan Vohnoutka, Christopher French, Alex Bolton, and Scott Larson.

In the **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer** this week we pray for Parishes of the Charles River Deanery: Trinity Church, Newton Centre; Parish of the Good Shepherd, Waban; St. Andrew's Church, Wellesley; Life Together Diocesan Intern Program Diocesan Library and Archives Board.

Flowers on the Altar in loving memory of Henry Martyn Medary by Friends; A. Edmund & Myrtle Newton by Family & Friends; Rev. & Mrs. Malcolm Taylor by Friends; Marion, Alexander & Philip Hartil; Lester & Josephine Makepeace by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Makepeace; Kenneth Richardson, Henry Youngberg & Bertha Youngberg Richardson; Russell & Doris Borden by Dave & Judy Cleathero; Ann Baker Litchfield by Family; May McCarty.

Helpful Suggestions: Holy Communion is part of our services. All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are invited to the altar to receive communion. You may kneel or stand at the Altar Rail. The bread is received in the open palm, right hand over left. The wine, if desired, may be taken from the common cup by drinking (placing your hand gently at the base of the chalice to guide it) or by dipping the bread. If you do not wish to receive Communion, but would like a blessing, come forward to the Altar Rail and cross your arms over your chest.