

**ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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*Being a light to the world.*

*Worship, Youth, Discipleship*

## *Welcome to St. Thomas Church.*

*Happy Easter!*

*We celebrate in these Great Fifty Days the Resurrection of Christ - his victory over evil and death, and the new life we have in him.*

*If you are new to St. Thomas or visiting, we are glad to have you with us. This service booklet is designed to help you join us in worship. The hymns we sing can generally be found in the blue Hymnal 1982, in the pew racks in front of you. Other music is included in this booklet. The lessons are included on the separate lesson sheet. If you need help, don't hesitate to ask an usher or a greeter, or someone nearby.*

*In order that we may get to know you better, please fill out one of the welcome cards, which can be found in the pew racks, and place it in the collection plate during the offering.*

**Coffee and Refreshments** are served after the services in the parish hall, through the double doors to the right of the altar, and all the way down the hall. There you will have opportunity to visit with members of the church community.

### **Ministry to Children—Children are welcome in church!**

Nursery and Sunday School ministries are currently suspended due to impacts from the pandemic.

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, for to them belongs the Kingdom of God." We believe there is a place for children in worship and we welcome them there. Please help them follow along.*

*You'll be surprised at how quickly they engage.*

*If very young children are crying over your comfort level, slip out if you need to do so, and come back in with them as soon as you are comfortable.*

**See the Church's Website** for a complete listing of events:  
[www.StThomasBC.org](http://www.StThomasBC.org)

**Please return** this service booklet by placing it in the box as you leave the Sanctuary. We'll use them again next week. Take the lesson insert home with you, so you can further study the Bible readings and keep up with what's happening at St. Thomas. Thank you.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
16 Van Buren St E  
Battle Creek, MI 49017  
269-965-2244  
[StThomasBC.org](http://StThomasBC.org)

# Holy Eucharist

All stand, as they are able, and join in singing the hymn. (For hymn numbers, see hymn boards or lesson insert.)

The officiating priest, called the presider, says the following.  
The people's responses are in bold type.

✠ Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

He has defeated the powers of death.

**Alleluia!**

He has turned our darkness into light.

**Alleluia!**

He has turned our sorrow into joy.

**Alleluia!**

All then sing the Gloria in excelsis, an ancient hymn of praise

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - mighty - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
 ✠ glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

### *THE COLLECT OF THE DAY*

*The presider introduces the Collect of the Day, a prayer which gathers together the thoughts and prayers of the people.*

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy of the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*At the end of the prayer the people respond*

**Amen.**

# *The Word of God*

## *THE LESSONS*

*The people sit. Readings from the Bible are proclaimed and we share in the gift of God's Word through listening to the scriptures, which can be found on the separate lesson insert.*

## *THE SERMON*

*After the Gospel, one of the ministers gives the sermon, explaining how the lessons relate to our lives.*

## *THE NICENE CREED*

*All stand and join in saying the Nicene Creed, our shared statement of faith.*

**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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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*

*The people remain standing. Prayers are offered for ourselves and for the needs of others.*

*After each petition the people respond*

Jesus, Lord of life.

**In your mercy, hear us.**

*At the end of the prayers the presider prays the concluding collect.*

*THE PEACE*

*Then the presider introduces the Peace, and says*

Alleluia! The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you. Alleluia!**

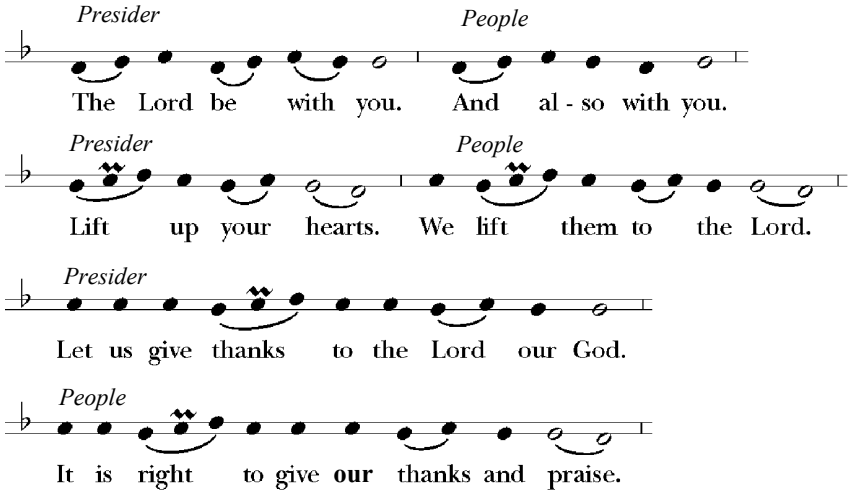
*The people greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## The Holy Communion

The presider introduces the Offertory. An anthem is sung by the choir as the bread and wine for communion are brought forward. After the collection, all join in singing the hymn as the gifts of the people are presented at the altar.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The service continues with the Eucharistic Prayer.



*Presider*                                          *People*  
The Lord be with you. And also with you.

*Presider*                                          *People*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Presider*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word. 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.

And so as the morning stars sing your praises  
we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

*Then all sing the Sanctus, the song of the angels*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. ✠ Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. \_\_\_\_\_

*The presider continues*

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all,  
your Word has never been silent;  
you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations,  
you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.  
Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share your life,  
to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us,  
a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin,  
brought us into your life, reconciled us to you,  
and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread  
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it,  
gave it to his friends and said:  
“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.  
do this for the remembrance of me.”



After supper Jesus took the cup of wine,  
 said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:  
 “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,  
 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for  
 the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us:  
 the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension,  
 longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these  
 gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made,  
 we acclaim you, O Christ

**Dying, you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon ✠ us and upon these gifts of bread and wine  
 that they may be to us the Body and Blood of Christ.  
 grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of  
 hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ,  
 and in the fullness of time gather us with the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
 Mother of God, Saint Thomas our patron, and all your people into the  
 joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of  
 your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of  
 unending praise.



*The presider introduces the Lord's Prayer.*

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*

*The presider breaks the consecrated bread. After a period of silence all join in the following*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
there - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### *THE GIVING OF COMMUNION*

*All are welcome at the altar. Those not receiving communion are invited to come forward for a prayer of blessing carrying this Order of Service to the altar with you. For more information about baptism, please speak to the clergy.*

*The ushers will direct the people forward to the altar.*

*A period of silence follows communion. Then all join in saying the post-communion prayer.*

**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.**

#### *ANNOUNCEMENTS*

*All stand, as they are able, and join in singing the hymn.*

*Then the presider prays for God's blessing on the people.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead  
open to you the gate of everlasting life.  
**Amen.**

God the Son, who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious  
victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith.  
**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen  
Lord, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.  
**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the ☩ Father, the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

*The deacon continues*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

# ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Being a light to the world.*

*We seek to love and serve the Lord  
through our Mission Imperatives:*



**Worship**



**Youth**



**Discipleship**

*16 East Van Buren Street  
Battle Creek, Michigan 49017  
(269) 965-2244  
[www.StThomasBC.org](http://www.StThomasBC.org)*

## **Worship Services**

### *Sundays*

10:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist

5:00 p.m., Worship (1st & 3rd Sundays)

### *Weekdays*

9:00 a.m., Morning Prayer

5:00 p.m., Evening Prayer

Wednesdays – 11:15am, Silence/Meditation; Noon, Holy Eucharist