



# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B

### Liturgy of the Word

April 25, 2021 10 A.M.

#### ANTHEM

The Lord is my shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life:  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Yea, though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:  
For you are with me, you will comfort me.

Words: Psalm 23 Music: Howard Goodall (b. 1958), 1994

*The invitation to worship is sounded with the ringing of the bell.*

#### HYMN

My Shepherd will supply my need (664, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 My Shep - herd will sup - ply my need, Je - ho - vah  
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, thy pres - ence  
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me

is his Name; \_\_\_\_\_ in pas - tures fresh he  
 is my stay; \_\_\_\_\_ one word of thy sup -  
 all my days; \_\_\_\_\_ oh, may thy house be

makes me feed be - side the liv - ing stream.\_\_\_\_  
 port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.\_\_\_\_  
 mine a - bode and all my work be praise.\_\_\_\_

He brings my wan - dering spi - rit back when I for -  
 Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my  
 There would I find a sett - led rest, while o - thers

sake his ways, \_\_\_\_\_ and leads me, for his  
 ta - ble spread; \_\_\_\_\_ my cup with bless - ings  
 go and come; \_\_\_\_\_ no more a stran - ger

mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.\_\_\_\_  
 o - ver - flows, thy oil a - noints my head.\_\_\_\_  
 or a guest, but like a child at home.\_\_\_\_

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 23  
 Music: *Resignation*, American folk melody, acc. David Hurd (b. 1950) Copyright ©1985, David Hurd. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION, SALUTATION, AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: Alleluia. Christ is risen!

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

Presider: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### THE FIRST LESSON

ACTS 4:5-12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone.’

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 23

John Joubert

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name’s sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

## THE SECOND LESSON

1 JOHN 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ALLELUIA

(9, *Enriching Our Music 1*)



Setting: David Hurd, from *Music for the Eucharist*, © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.  
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Cantor: I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my sheep, and my sheep know me.

*The People sing the Gospel Alleluia again.*

## THE GOSPEL

JOHN 10:11-18

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I

have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

**Presider:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE SERMON

**AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** [*The Rev. Kay Sylvester, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Tustin, CA*]

*Presider and People*

**We give our hearts to God,  
who is making the heavens and the earth.**

**We see God's handiwork  
in the smallest and greatest,  
in the drop of water and  
the galaxies arrayed in starry beauty.**

**We are part of God's good work.**

**We give our hearts to Jesus,  
who walked softly on the earth  
to show us the Way.  
He lived a life of compassion,  
and died at the hands of those who chose domination.  
His new, risen life calls us to embody resurrection,  
for one another and for the world.**

**We give our hearts to God's restless Spirit,  
who renews us, remakes us,  
and teaches us the way of Jesus,  
enabling us to do God's work in the world.**

**We believe that it is time  
for the earth to depend upon us for salvation  
as we have so long depended upon her.  
We give our hearts to faith in God's love  
and God's power to renew all creation. Amen.**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** [*The Rev. Keri Aubert*]

*Intercessor and People*

Our Savior is resurrected from the dead, bringing renewal to Christians around the globe. With joyful gratitude, we pray for the church and for the world.

We pray for the church universal: guide the ministers of your Word as they honor the traditions of the past, tend the cares of the present, and build the communities of the future. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the leaders of the world: plant wisdom and compassion in their hearts, and teach them to sow seeds of righteousness and mercy. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this wondrous creation: continue to reveal its bountiful complexity and fragile beauty, and inspire us to safeguard these gifts for all posterity. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your human family: take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this holy gathering of the faithful: strengthen us to continue in the way of the apostles, proclaim the Good News of God in Christ, seek and serve Christ in all persons, and strive for justice and peace among all people. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in any need or trouble: feed the hungry, tend the sick, relieve the weary, bless the dying, and soothe the suffering. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for people around the globe as the coronavirus pandemic continues: comfort the grieving, protect the vulnerable, and heal the healers. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died: give them Christ's triumph over death, and bring them into your perpetual light. Risen Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the concerns that we now lift to you, either aloud or in the stillness of our hearts. [*You may unmute yourself to offer a prayer intention.*]

*Presider*

Risen Christ, hear the prayers offered by these your gathered people; instill in our hearts the assurance of your resurrected life, that we may follow your Way in faith, hope, joy, and love; in the name of the one Holy and undivided Trinity. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

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

People: **And also with you.**

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Your ongoing financial support of St. Thomas's Church is especially appreciated at this time. To give online with a debit or credit card, go to the Home page of the Church website ([www.stthomasnewhaven.org](http://www.stthomasnewhaven.org)), and click GIVE NOW. If you are viewing this document electronically, you can simply [CLICK HERE](#). Know also that the Church office is able to process checks that have been mailed. Thank you!*

1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,  
 4 Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war  
 5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,

1 she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word:  
 2 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
 3 by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed;  
 4 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;  
 5 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.

1 from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
 2 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 3 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"  
 4 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blessed,  
 5 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

1 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 2 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.  
 3 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 4 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.  
 5 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

Words: Samuel John Stone (1839-1900) Music: *Aurelia*, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

*You are invited to say the Lord's Prayer in the language of your choice.*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.

#### A PRAYER OF COMMUNION *[The Rev. Keri Aubert]*

*Presider and People*

Holy God, we are your people,  
bound to you by Jesus Christ,  
through whom you assumed our fleshly vulnerability,  
and in whom we find salvation and reconciliation.  
We remember his birth, and grow in joy;  
we remember his life, and grow in love;  
we remember his passion, and grow in compassion;  
we remember his resurrection, and grow in hope;  
for all this, we give thanks.  
As we course through our days,  
make us ministers of your abiding Word,  
with the power of your eternal Spirit. Amen.

#### EASTER BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Presider: Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

#### ANTHEM

The 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all I need,  
She makes me lie down in green meadows,  
Beside the still waters, She will lead.

She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs,  
She leads me in a path of good things,  
And fills my heart with songs.

Even though I walk through a dark and dreary land,  
There is nothing that can shake me,  
She has said, She won't forsake me,  
I'm in Her hand.

She sets a table before me, in the presence of my  
foes, She anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and kindness will follow me  
All the days of my life,  
And I will live in Her house forever and ever.

Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter,  
And to the Holy of Holies,  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World, without end. Amen.

Words: Psalm 23 Music: Bobby McFerrin (b. 1950), 1990

*After the Anthem, you are invited to stay online for virtual Coffee Hour. Please see the Parish Enews for the latest announcements and information.*

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## Announcements

***Stay in touch! Subscribe to the Weekly Parish Enews and “like” St. Thomas’s on Facebook.***

See the Weekly Parish Enews for the latest in news and information.

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### Serving Today

**Presider & Preacher:** The Rev. Keri Aubert  
**Music Director:** Dr. Noah Horn  
**Lectors:** Madeleine Anderson, Bob Herdt  
**Intercessor:** William English

### This Week’s Prayer Intentions

**Pray for those on our Parish prayer list:**  
Cynthia (Sally Edwards’ sister-in-law), Franklin (Heather and Alexandria Robison’s grandfather), Sally (Edwards)

**Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:**  
those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic

**Pray for those have died.**

**In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of Prayer, pray for:**

St. Andrew’s, Milford; St. Peter’s, Milford; Trinity, Milton; Parishes in transition, transition teams, and interim clergy

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:**  
The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

**In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, pray for:**

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

### Leadership at St. Thomas’s

#### Church Vestry

Greg D’Andrea (Senior Warden)  
Linda Meyer (Junior Warden)  
Bill English (Treasurer)  
Denise Terry (Clerk)  
Valerie Garlick  
Claire Scully  
Sara Zampierin  
The Rev. Keri Aubert (Rector)

#### Church (Volunteer) Associate Priests

The Rev. Canon K. Dexter Cheney  
The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

#### Day School Board of Trustees

Gina Criscuolo (Chair)  
John Forrest (Vice-Chair)  
Heather Tookes Alexopoulos (Treasurer)  
Eileen O’Donnell (Secretary)  
Alexander Babbidge      Christopher Cavallaro  
Don Edwards              William English  
Jeralyn Fantarella        Linda Meyer  
Kenneth Paul              Ontoniel Reyes  
Denise Terry (Church Junior Warden)  
The Rev. Keri Aubert (President, Day School Corp.)  
Gina Panza (Head of School)

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**ST. THOMAS’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL**

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Day School: (203) 776-2123 ♦ [www.stthomasday.org](http://www.stthomasday.org)