

Anglican Church of  
**St Thomas à Becket**



Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
Second Sunday of Easter

- **Service Details Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Holy Communion** (*Common Worship*), **10.30**  
Click here to join the congregation, from 10.15 onwards. Please join in good time.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85272524481?pwd=S3o5cmhaZTZyVkJPNUlrZEVaSHphZz09>
- **Notices and News**
- **The Week ahead**

During these weeks of Easter season, Jesus walks on earth and makes his resurrection appearances. Today in our Gospel reading from John, he twice visits the disciples. On the first occasion Thomas isn't present so he voices his doubts, and famously declares, until I can: 'put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'



This story will almost without exception be known to you all. And rather than castigating Thomas for his unbelief, I trust that you too when you have doubts, will acknowledge and voice them, instead of perhaps pretending they are not there.

(God always knows exactly what is in your heart in any case remember: you can't ever fool Him!) Indeed, the second side, or face, of the 'coin of faith' is doubt. God will always respond to you in your questioning, and thereby increase in you his gift of faith.

### **Holy Communion**

*The Collect for 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

*First Reading: Acts 4:32-35: The Believers share their possessions*

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

*Psalms 133: The Blessedness of Unity*

- <sup>1</sup> How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!
- <sup>2</sup> It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard,

on the beard of Aaron,  
running down over the collar of his robes.  
<sup>3</sup> It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion.  
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,  
life for evermore.

#### Gospel: John 20:19-end

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'<sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'<sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.<sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.<sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.'<sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.<sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to

believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

#### **Notices and News**

Easter Sunday on Zoom was celebrated by members and friends of St. Thomas a Becket. The congregation was of course mainly from Hamburg and the surrounding districts, but we had our diaspora too, tuning in from Sweden, England and other countries around God's wider world. It was a lovely bright day, as we rejoiced once again in our Lord's resurrection and triumph over sin and death. Thank you to the tech. team; those who read, sang, interceded and otherwise lead the worship for the specific contributions; and to every single one of you present, for sharing in the power of the Spirit. May the true and unfailing joy of the risen Christ be yours, as we continue now through the extended liturgical season of Easter.

Wednesday Morning Prayer started this week, and continues weekly at 08.30  
Thank you those of you who joined me for the inaugural gathering. MP is a short, said service of the daily readings and psalm, placed within the regular format of Common Worship Morning Prayer. The Zoom link is in the 'week ahead' section, and all are most welcome. (If your mornings are time critical, it will always be finished by 08.55. And for MP only, please note that the waiting room opens at 8.25.)

We now also have a date for my official Licensing, which is Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30. We hope that this service will be able to take place in the church building, and more details will follow as I have them. Ellen has already been in contact regarding flowers, so here's hoping (thank you Ellen!) and Archdeacon Leslie as he now is, will travel to STB to lead the service and confer the Bishop's Licence.

Keeping in touch with the church: weekly communication from the Chaplain. I will be sending a short weekly sheet like this one, by email, for the foreseeable future. It will contain all details of services and other church activities. If you are not yet on the circulation list to receive these weekly updates, and would like to be, please contact Valerie Muller, on [church@anglican-church-hamburg.de](mailto:church@anglican-church-hamburg.de) (*Val is kindly looking after the list, and you will know her as our Electoral Roll officer.*) **Anyone** can join this list for information about church services and activities, so do ask friends and family to sign up too.

Thank you to Madeleine and Jens who are kindly printing and delivering hard copies of the weekly sheet to those few, stalwart members of the congregation, who cannot be reached by email.

Please log on for Sunday Zoom services in good time, and allow yourself a few minutes to connect your tech. in advance. Then we can then all begin our worship together. Services will start at the time advertised, and The Zoom waiting room opens 15 minutes beforehand. (You can always log on early, switch off your video/ audio for a while, and then come back and sit down a couple of minutes before we start.) Thank you!

My quarantine ends on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April! A huge thank you to Susanne for looking after me so thoughtfully and so well while I have been holed up indoors. (*Bezirksamt Mitte on Tuesday for my Anmeldung... ..*)

## **The week ahead**

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April (this Sunday):  
STB Young Adults Zoom meeting, 17.15

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April:  
Morning Prayer, starting at 08.30  
Lectionary Readings for MP:  
*Ps 30; Deut 3:18-end; John 20:19-end*

You can join Morning Prayer here:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82623076177?pwd=ZTZocUcwY25KNnZTajYvQ1JlSmJJQTo9>

STB Church Council Meeting, 18.30

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April:

Evening Prayer at 18.00

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89286260101?pwd=WHg2dmJtTit4bWhiVIJHdCtQqnhydzo9>

Becket Mix Zoom Quiz at 19.00

Contact Emma Richter [therichters@gmx.de](mailto:therichters@gmx.de) or Mad.H [madeleineherring@t-online.de](mailto:madeleineherring@t-online.de)

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April, Third Sunday of Easter  
Holy Communion, 10.30

*Readings: Ps 4; Acts 3:12-19; Luke 24:36b-48*  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85272524481?pwd=S3o5cmhaZTZyVkJPNUlrZfVaSHphZzo9>

**Please email me with brief details of other STB events, and meetings of STB groups, so that I can include them in this section and help our wider community keep in touch with what's going on.**

Just the title, date and time. Thank you. The weekly deadline is Friday 09.30, for events taking place the following Sunday to Saturday inclusive.

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## **St Thomas à Becket Anglican Church**

[www.facebook.com/stbhamburg/](http://www.facebook.com/stbhamburg/)

<https://anglican-church-hamburg.de/>

Chaplain: Revd Jules A. Barnes

[chaplain@anglican-church-hamburg.de](mailto:chaplain@anglican-church-hamburg.de)

Churchwardens: Susanne Hergoss Mobile: 0176

215 235 16 | Madeleine Resühr 0177 651 0616

Safeguarding Officers: Norbert Schoen (040)

2983 4263 Madeleine Herring (040) 279 6514

[safeguarding@anglican-church-hamburg.de](mailto:safeguarding@anglican-church-hamburg.de).

**STB church is funded 100% by donations, so if you can make a gift, please do. Thank you!**

Englisch - bischoefliche Gemeinde:

Hamburger Sparkasse

BLZ 200 505 50 Konto 1280 1464 22

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IBAN DE46 2005 0550 1280 1464 22