



ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We, the baptized ministers,
declare Christ's Mission for us:
to grow as a Church
in the spiritual strength
of community,
and to care, reach out,
and include all people in Christ's love.

Maundy Thursday



Agape Meal—6:00 PM
Holy Eucharist, Rite II—7:30 PM
March 28, 2024

AGAPE MEAL

Welcome

The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith

Candle Lighting

Reader You, O Lord, are my lamp*
My God, you make my darkness bright.

All **You, O Lord, are my lamp***
My God, you make my darkness bright.

Reader You have been my helper:
All **My God, you make my darkness bright.**

Reader Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
All **You, O Lord, are my lamp***
My God, you make my darkness bright.

Reader Create in me a clean heart, O God;
All **And renew a right spirit within me.**

The candles are lit, the hymn "O Gracious Light" is sung

1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth, the
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O

you the Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,
lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and
Son of God, Life - giv - ing Lord; where - fore you are through

blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.
Spi - rit: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.
all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

This hymn may be sung unaccompanied as a four-part canon at a distance of one measure.

Words: Greek, 3rd cent.; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984); para. of *O Gracious Light*. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.
Music: *The Eighth Tune*, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585); adapt. *Hymnal* 1982.

Blessing of the Wine

All stand. The wine is poured, and cups are raised as the blessing is said.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine, and on this night you have refreshed us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your son Jesus Christ. Glory to you forever and ever. **Amen.**

Blessing of the Bread

The bread is broken and shared as the blessing is said.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth and on this night you have given us the bread of life in the Body of your son, Jesus Christ. As grain scattered on the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power forever and ever. **Amen.**

Blessing of Other Food

The rest of the food is passed and shared as the blessing is said.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

All sit. The meal continues with quiet conversation.

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude *Gabriel's Oboe*

Dan Wicks, Clarinetist

Welcome

The Rev. Will Drosos

Procession *Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now*

#731 Wonder, Love, and Praise

1. Three ho - ly days en - fold us now in wash - ing
2. The myst' - ry hid from ag - es past is here re -
3. Christ lift - ed high up - on the tree, be - fore you

feet and break - ing bread, in cross and font and
vealed in word and sign, for Je - sus' sto - ry
ev - ery knee shall bend and ev - ery tongue in

life re - newed: in Christ, God's first - born from the dead.
is our own: new life through death is God's de - sign.
praise pro - claim: "You are the Lord of all. A - men."

Words: Delores Dufner, OSB (b. 1939). Music: *Grace Church*, Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *Tunes for Grace*.

The Salutation

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures forever.

Trisagion (sung three times)

by Dr. Lori Lind, in memory of Jim Galloway

Andantino Ho - ly - God, Ho - ly and Migh- ty, Ho - ly Im-mor -

7 tal - One - - Have mer - cy - u-pon - - - us, - Have mer-cy on - - - us.

15

The Collect for Maundy Thursday

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Exodus 12:1-14

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs.

You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land

of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116:1, 10-17 (*We will pray a portion of Psalm 116 responsively by half verse*)

1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

10 How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.

13 Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.

14 O LORD, I am your servant; *
**I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.**

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the LORD's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn *Thou, Who at Thy First Eucharist Didst Pray* 1,2 / 3

#315 Hymnal 1982

Unison or harmony

1 Thou, who at thy first Eu - cha - rist didst pray
2 For all thy Church, O Lord, we in - ter - cede;
3 So, Lord, at length when sac - ra - ments shall cease,

that all thy Church might be for ev - er one,
make thou our sad di - vi - sions soon to cease;
may we be one with all thy Church a - bove,

grant us at ev - ery Eu - cha - rist to say
draw us the near - er each to each, we plead,
one with thy saints in one un - bro - ken peace,

with long - ing heart and soul, "Thy will be done."
by draw - ing all to thee, O Prince of Peace;
one with thy saints in one un - bound - ed love;

O may we all one bread, one bo - dy be,
thus may we all one bread, one bo - dy be,
more bless - ed still, in peace and love to be

through this blest sac - ra - ment of u - ni - ty.
 through this blest sac - ra - ment of u - ni - ty.
 one with the Trin - i - ty in U - ni - ty.

Words: William Harry Turton (1856-1938). Copyright © by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Song 1*, melody and bass Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

The Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord--and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By

this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith

Foot Washing Invitation

Fellow servants of our Lord Jesus Christ: On the night before his death, Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet, an act of humble service. He taught that strength and growth in the life of the Kingdom of God come not by power, authority, or even miracle, but by such lowly service, and he commanded them to follow his example by washing one another’s feet. We all need to remember his example, but none stand more in need of this reminder than those whom the Lord has called to the ordained ministry.

Therefore I invite you who share in the priesthood of all believers, to come forward, that we may recall whose servants we are, and follow the example of our Master, remembering the new commandment that he gave this night, “Love one another as I have loved you. By this shall the world know that you are my disciples: That you have love for one another.”

Hymn During the Foot Washing *Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You* **#124 Voices Found**

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You". It is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system includes the first six lines of lyrics and guitar chords: D, G, A7, D, Bm. The second system includes the remaining lyrics and guitar chords: Em, A, G, D, G, A7, D. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Bro - ther, sis - ter, let me serve you, let me be as
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, fel - low trav' - lers
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll
5 When we sing to God in hea - ven, we shall find such
6 Bro - ther, sis - ter, let me serve you, let me be as

Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to
on the road; we are here to help each o - ther
of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to - geth - er
Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my ser - vant too.
 walk the mile and bear the load.
 speak the peace you long to hear.
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 of Christ's love and a gon - y.
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

The Prayers of the People

The prayers of the people is a time for us to share our prayers with one another as we lift them together to God. Kneeling as you are able, let us pray.

We pray for your holy Church, its servants, and all the baptized. Direct us out of error. Reform us when we run amiss. Heal our divisions and fill us with the truth of your love. We lift in prayer Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Mark, Gayle, and Bud, our Bishops; Fran, Will, Rishabh, Lori, Joshua, Mary and Nicole, our staff; Mary, our Deacon in Training; Caroline, our Intern; for the teachers at the Early Learning Center; and for the Vestry and Officers of St. Thomas. Lord in your mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

We pray for this nation, its leaders, and those in public trust. Where we have embraced fear, provide us faith. Where we have embraced oppression, provide us justice. Where we have embraced conflict, provide us peace. We lift in prayer Joe, our president, Glenn, our Governor, Jimmy, our supervisor, and all officials of Fairfax County, and all in authority. Lord in your mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

We pray for your world that is fractured by greed and fear, by privilege and discrimination. Through Christ Jesus make us one with You. Have us love justice and seek mercy. Let us proclaim your gospel of reconciliation that all who bear your image might be transformed into the righteousness of God. Lord in your mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

We pray with thanksgiving for the joys in the midst of our journey, including for all those celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries this week, and those blessings you would name either silently or aloud [*pause*]. Lord in your mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

We pray for the concerns of this community. We pray for all who have no choice but to fast every day. For the unhoused, refugees, victims of war and natural disasters. We pray for the sick and suffering known to the members of this congregation, especially Ethan, Vincent, Megan, Irene, Lucy, Baby Vera, Emily and Dave, Lynn, Betsy, Yusuf, Mari, Bruce, Bill, Jack, Caroline, Herb, Bill, Fran, Eddie, Skeets, Lisa, KP, Diane, and those you would name either silently or aloud [*pause*]. Lord in your mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

We pray for those who have died, having set aside this earthly pilgrimage of joy and fasting, and entered into the everlasting feast with St. Thomas and all your saints. We pray especially for those you would name either silently or aloud [*pause*].

Lord in your mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

Together let us pray for St Thomas Church.

Almighty God, by your Spirit the whole body of your Church is governed and sanctified, hear our prayer for St Thomas, build in us a renewed vision of your Church; shape our life according to your will; empower us with the gifts to make us one that together we may grow as a church in the spiritual strength of community and reach out to include all people in Christ's love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *A time of silence.* Together, let us pray, **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.**

Absolution

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

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Following the exchange of peace in the church, peace is exchanged with the congregation on Zoom.

The Offertory

I appeal to you, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.



It's Easy to Give Electronically to St. Thomas

Scan the QR code, or visit the GIVING page on the St. Thomas website:

<https://stthomasmcleanva.org/giving/donate>.

Offertory Anthem

For the Bread Which Thou Hast Broken

William Bradley Roberts

For the bread, which thou hast broken,
For the wine which thou hast poured,
For the words, which thou hast spoken,
Now, we give thee thanks, O Lord.

By this pledge that thou dost love us,
By thy gift of peace restored,
By thy call to heav'n above us,
Hallow all our lives, O Lord.

In thy service, Lord, defend us;
In our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world where thou dost send us,
Let thy kingdom come, O Lord.

The Doxology

Hymnal 1982 #43, Verse 4

1
4 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise
2
him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

This hymn may be sung unaccompanied as a four-part canon at the distance of one measure.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Gluten free wafers are available on request. As the Eucharist is distributed, all who desire prayers for healing—for themselves or for others—are invited to come to the healing minister behind the lectern on the right as you face the altar.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him. 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:

Sanctus

by Dr. Lori Lind, in memory of Jim Galloway

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *f* and the lyrics "ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and-might hea-ven and earth are". The second staff starts at measure 6 and includes the lyrics "full - of your great glo - ry! Ho-san-na in the high - est ho-san-na in the high - est!". The third staff starts at measure 12 and includes the lyrics "comes in the name of the Lord!-- Ho----san-----na!" and "Bless-ed is He who comes - in the name - of - the-Lord! Ho - san-na in the high - est". This staff also features a *cresc.* marking and a *ff* dynamic. The fourth staff starts at measure 17 and includes the lyrics "in- the - high- - est!" and "ho - san - na in the high - est!". This staff begins with a *ff* dynamic.

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.

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.**

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

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.

Fraction

by Dr. Lori Lind, in memory of Jim Galloway

Je - sus - Lamb of - God that takes a-way the sins of the world -

8
Je - sus Lamb of - God that takes a-way the sins of the world Have mer - cy u -

16
pon - us, And grant us peace u - pon - the earth

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

A note about the distribution of the Eucharist:

We have returned to offering the common cup, but there will continue to be a separate cup for intinction. If you would like to receive by intinction, please go the left side of the altar rail and the presiding priest will dip the bread in the cup for you. If you would like to sip from the common cup, please go to the right side of the altar rail where the bread and the cup will be offered separately. If you would like to consume only the bread, please also go to the right side and you may simply return to your seat after receiving the bread. As a reminder, we do not kneel at the altar rail one by one. When you go to the altar rail, please fill in all the way to the end. The ministers distributing communion will come around to you.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion on Zoom

While some members of our congregation are receiving communion at church, those members gathered to worship on Zoom will say the following prayer:

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you. Since I cannot receive you sacramentally today, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Communion Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together

#152 Lift Every Voice and Sing II

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our
2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our

1. knees); Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our
2. knees); Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our

1. knees).
2. knees). When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, Oh— Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me). me).

Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees (yes, on our knees); Let us

praise God to - geth-er on our knees (yes, on our knees). When I

fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun, Oh—

Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me).

Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*. Arr. Copyright © 1992 Carl Haywood.

Communion Hymn

In Remembrance of Me

#149 Lift Every Voice and Sing II

1. In re - mem - brance of me,
2. (In re -) mem - brance of me,

1. eat this bread. In re - mem - brance of me, drink this wine. In re -
2. heal the sick. In re - mem - brance of me, feed the poor. In re -

1. mem - brance of me, pray for the time when God's own will is
2. mem - brance of me, o - pen the door and let your broth - er

done. In re - in, Let him in.

Take, eat, and be com - fort - ed; drink and re - mem - ber

too. That this in my bod-y and pre - cious blood shed for

you, shed for you. In re - mem-brance of me

search for truth. In re - mem-brance of me al - ways love. In re -

mem-brance of me, don't look a - bove, but in your heart

look for God. Do this in re - mem-brance of me.

Words: Ragan Courtney. Music: Buryl Red; arr. Robert F. Douglas. Copyright © 1972 Broadman Press. Assigned to Van Ness Press, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

Post-communion Prayer for a Multi-located Congregation

Let us pray. **God of abundance, we gather as your faithful people near and far. We believe you are present with us as we are united with Christ and one another in prayer and sacrament. We thank you for feeding all of us with your love and for making us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.** *Written by the Rev. Dorota Wright-Pruski, adapted by the Rev. Will Drosos*

The Stripping of the Altar

During the stripping of the altar, the reader will recite Psalm 22 at a deliberate and meditative pace. You are invited to watch the stripping of the altar

The service ends in silence.

Worship Participants

Presider	Rev. Will Drosos
Preacher	Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith
Altar Guild	Louise Armitage, Barbara Wicks, Jan Hamilton
Digital Usher	Bruce Allan
Digital Verger	Chuck Grimes
Eucharistic Minister (EM)	Rev. David Smith, Mary Cushing
Lector & Intercessor	Louise Armitage

Join us tomorrow for Good Friday Services



Join us on Zoom for a short Holy Saturday Morning Service

Holy Saturday is the day that Jesus is in the tomb. We'll gather on Zoom only at 9:00 AM to pray and reflect together. The service will not last more than 20 minutes.

[Holy Saturday Zoom Link](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87325361312)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87325361312>

Meeting ID: 873 2536 1312

Worship with us at Easter

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday March 31 - 10:00 am

Following church on Easter Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt for kids (bring a basket)
Potluck Easter Brunch for all ages

Alleluia! He is Risen!

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WWW.STTHOMASMCLEANVA.ORG

Easter Egg Hunt

Everyone at St. Thomas is excited for the Easter Egg hunt this year! During the Easter service, all of the older kids will hide eggs around the St. Thomas property. After the service, all of our younger kids will hunt for eggs. Regardless of your age, there will be plenty of candy for everyone!

If you are a St. Thomas adult and would like to help, please bring pre-stuffed Easter eggs, on or before Easter morning, that contain **wrapped candy without nuts**. If you have questions, please contact Will Drosos at will.drosos@stthomasmcleanva.org.

Easter Sunday Brunch

Come celebrate Easter on Sunday, March 31 with a potluck brunch following the 10:00 AM service. Please bring a dish to share. St. Thomas will provide coffee, tea, orange juice, and apple cider. Too busy to fix anything? Come anyway! We want to see you. Call Berta Smith 703-356-2586 if you have any questions.



Office of the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church

Lent 2024

My Sister and Brother Bishops in the Lord,

I greet you in the name of our loving, liberating, and life-giving Savior, Jesus Christ.

Last May, I had the privilege of meeting the Rev. Canon Faiz Basheer Jerjes and his colleague, Sinan Hanna, of St. George's Anglican Episcopal Church in Baghdad—the only Anglican church in Iraq. After a moving conversation, Fr. Faiz asked one thing of our church: **“Please don't forget us.”**

I assured him that we would not forget—and I need your help to honor that pledge, not only to him, but to the whole Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, which we have supported through the Good Friday Offering for over a century, through conflict, pandemic, and humanitarian disasters. The Episcopal Church will not forget them. We will not forget our siblings in Christ who cannot worship God freely. We will not forget those caught in the crossfire between warring factions in the land where our Lord walked. We will not forget that every human child of God—Palestinian, Israeli, Iraqi, Cypriot, Lebanese, *everyone*—deserves safety and security. As we mark our Lord's passion and death on Good Friday, we remember those whom he loves facing injustice and oppression today, and remember the urgency of love—true, sacrificial love.

On Good Friday, March 29, I invite you to remember the Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East through a gift to the Good Friday Offering. By supporting life-giving ministries in the province, including St. George's, Baghdad; the eye clinic in Ras Morbat, Yemen; the Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza; and numerous other institutions identified by their dioceses, you are ensuring that our siblings in Christ are not forgotten.

On the evening of Good Friday, we especially look forward to inviting the whole church to a concert of sacred music recorded at Christ and St. Luke's Church, Norfolk, in the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia. You will find more details about this event, instructions on how to make a gift to the Good Friday Offering, and additional resources at iam.ec/goodfridayoffering.

This is my last Good Friday letter to you as your presiding bishop, and I want to both express my gratitude for your gifts in years past and encourage you to give again to support God's beloved in this area of the world. This is what love asks of us. Any questions about the offering may be directed to Archdeacon Paul Fehleley, Middle East partnership officer. He can be reached at (800) 334-7626 x6222 or via email at pfehleley@episcopalchurch.org. I remain



Your brother in Christ,

+ Michael B. Curry

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate
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PRAYER FOR ST. THOMAS CHURCH

Almighty God, by your Spirit the whole body of your Church is governed and sanctified. Hear our prayer for St. Thomas: build in us a renewed vision of your Church; shape our life according to your will; empower us with the gifts to make us one, that together we may grow as a church in the spiritual strength of community, and reach out to include all people in Christ's love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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