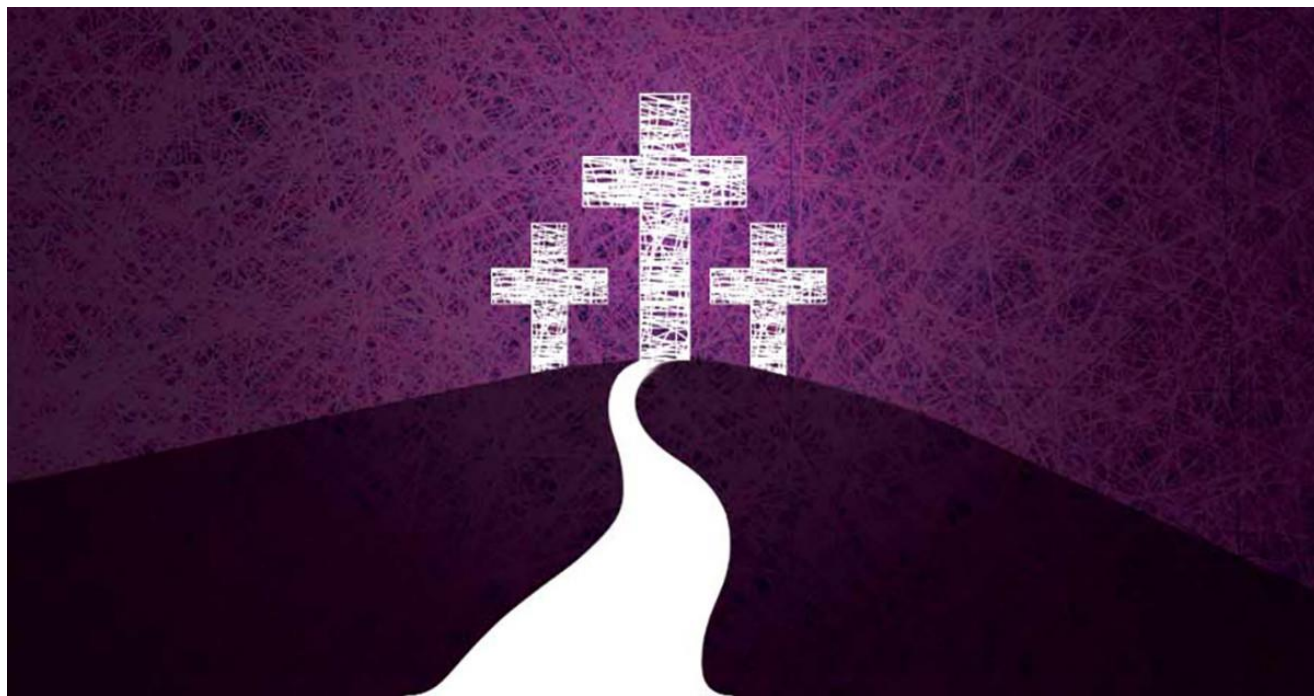




ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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.

Fifth Sunday in Lent



Holy Eucharist, Rite II—10:00 AM

April 6, 2025

Welcome to St. Thomas! We are so glad that you are here with us. If you are new to our community, we invite you to fill out a welcome card located in the pew rack in front of you, and either place it in the offering plate or hand it to a priest. We also invite you to stay with us for coffee hour after the service.

THE WORD OF GOD

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Caroline Mitchell

Choral Introit

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

#641 Hymnal 1982

Procession

I'm Pressing on the Upward Way

#165 Lift Every Voice and Sing II

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The first system covers the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system covers the next four lines. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

System 1:

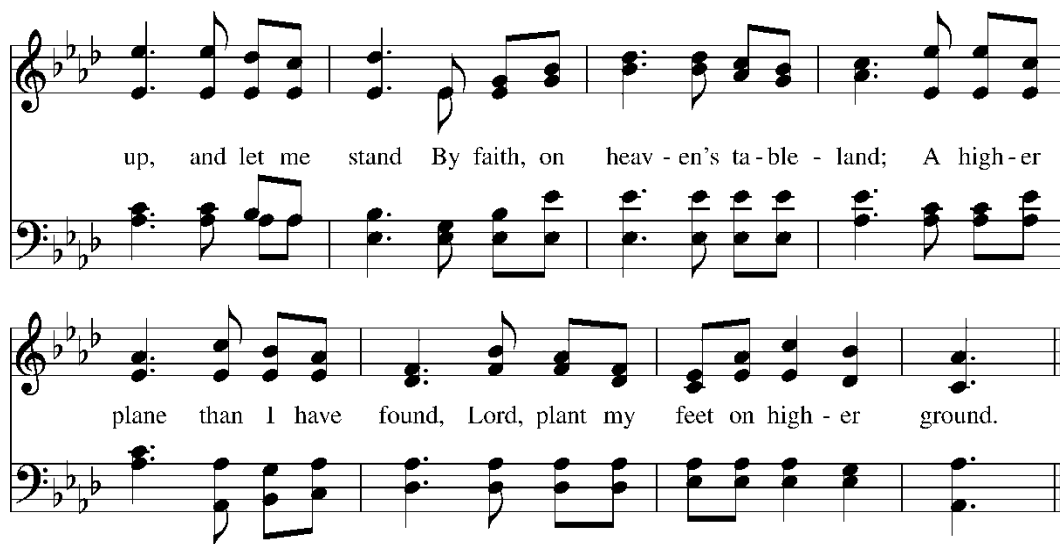
1. I'm press - ing on the up - ward way, New heights I'm
 2. My heart has no de - sire to stay Where doubts a -
 3. I want to live a - bove the world, Though sa - tan's
 4. I want to scale the ut - most height, And catch a

System 2:

1. gain - ing ev - ery day; Still pray - ing as I on - ward bound,
 2. rise and fears dis - may; Though some may dwell where these a - bound,
 3. darts at me are hurled; For faith has caught a joy - ful sound,
 4. gleam of glo - ry bright; But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found,

System 3:

1. "Lord, plant my feet on high - er ground."
 2. My prayer, my aim is high - er ground. Lord, lift me
 3. The song of saints on high - er ground.
 4. "Lord, lead me on the high - er ground."



Words: Johnson Oatman, Jr. (1860-1948). Music: Charles H. Gabriel (1856-1932).

A Penitential Order

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures forever.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confession and Absolution of Sin

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

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

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.

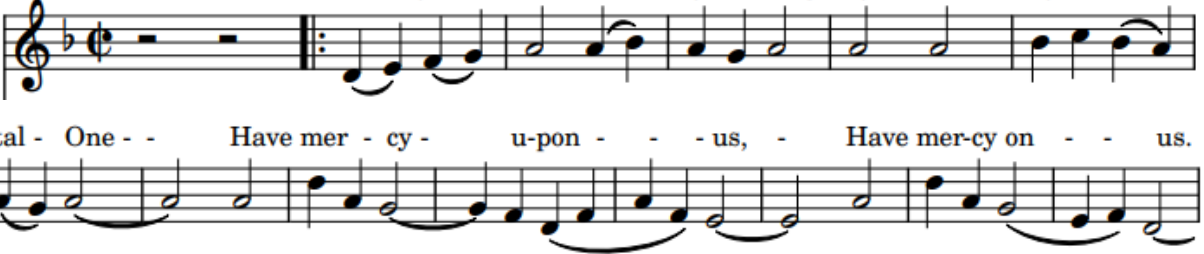
During the singing of the Trisagion (on Page 4), children from Pre-K to 3rd Grade are invited to follow the crucifer to Children's Chapel.

Trisagion

Trisagion on Picardy (sung three times)

Dr. Lori Lind

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 of the Day

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

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

Psalm 126 (*We will pray Psalm 126 responsively by half verse*)

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The Lord has done great things for them."
- 4 The Lord has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

The First Lesson

Philippians 3:4b-14

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn can be found on Page 6

The Gospel

John 12:1-8

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn*Delivered from Shame 1,2,3 / 4,5,6***#14 Voices Found**

1 De - li - vered from shame, the wo - man came, with
2 His time had not come his life to be poured in
3 So sweet was the air with love ev - 'ry - where, the
4 A - lone was the night, the on - look-ers cried, "For

kneel - ing de - vo - tion sub - lime, to the feet of her Lord, and with
like - ness with gra - ti - tude shared. She wept at his feet, and
fra - grance of per - fume most rare. She knelt and she wept, sang her
shame!" for the waste of the nard. But her Je - sus, their Lord, whom she

tears a - dored her soon to be ri - sen Lord.
with her hair wiped tears from her eyes that o'er - flowed.
song of praise, a - ro - ma of love for her King.
loved, a - dored, with fra - grance sub - lime was ar - rayed.

5 The time was soon near his life to be spent, expensive a price for us all.
For the true Son of God would pour out his life in love for the world he adored.

6 The woman who wept, the one who received, were plan of divine nature bound.
Wrapped in fragrance of cost, spent in sorrow, loss, he rises, the fragrance of love.

Words and Music: Carol E. Petersen © 2000 Carol E. Petersen. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The Sermon**The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith****The Nicene Creed**

**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.

The Prayers of the People

Kneeling as you are able, let us pray.

From pride, vanity and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred and malice; and from all evil,
Savior deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness and love of money; from hardness of heart and contempt for your word,
Savior deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and obedience; by your baptism, fasting and temptation,
Savior deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power; by the preaching of your reign,
Savior deliver us.

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion; by your precious death and burial,
Savior deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension; and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,
Savior deliver us.

Hear our prayers, O Christ our God.

Hear us, O Christ.

Govern and direct your holy Church; fill it with love and truth; and grant it that unity which is your will. **Hear us, O Christ.**

Enlighten all bishops, priests, deacons, and church staffs, especially the staff at St. Thomas, with knowledge and understanding, that by their teaching and their lives they may proclaim your word.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give your people grace to witness to your word and bring forth the fruit of your Spirit.

Hear us, O Christ.

Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of peace and justice. Give your wisdom and strength to Donald Trump, the President of the United States, Glenn Youngkin, the Governor of Virginia, and the officials of Fairfax County, that in all things they may do your will, for your glory and the common good.

Hear us, O Christ.

Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory and for the good of all. Hear our thanks for the blessings of this life, including all those celebrating birthdays this week; for all those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week; and for all the blessings you now name *[pause]*. We pray,

Hear us, O Christ.

Heal the sick in body, mind or spirit, especially **Ethan, Vincent, Yusuf, Emily and Dave, Lynn, Andrew, Jan, Caroline, Rick, Nancy, Jackie, the people of Syria, Betsy, Enriqo, Karen,** and those whom you would name *[pause]* and provide for those who are homeless, hungry or destitute.

Hear us, O Christ.

Shower your compassion on prisoners, hostages and refugees, and all who are in trouble.

Hear us, O Christ.

Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers, and turn their hearts.

Hear us, O Christ.

Hear us as we remember those who have died, especially Gordon Smith Davidson, and those whom you would name *[pause]* and grant us with them a share in your eternal glory.

Hear us, O Christ.

Adapted from *Enriching Our Worship 1*, Church Publishing Inc., © 1998, by The Rev. Will Drosos

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.

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.

UTO Moment of Gratitude

Notice the good things that happen each day. Give thanks to God for your blessings. Make an offering for each blessing. Your blessings become blessings for others.

The Offertory

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Psalms 50:14



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

I Will Bow and Be Simple

Frederic Chatfield

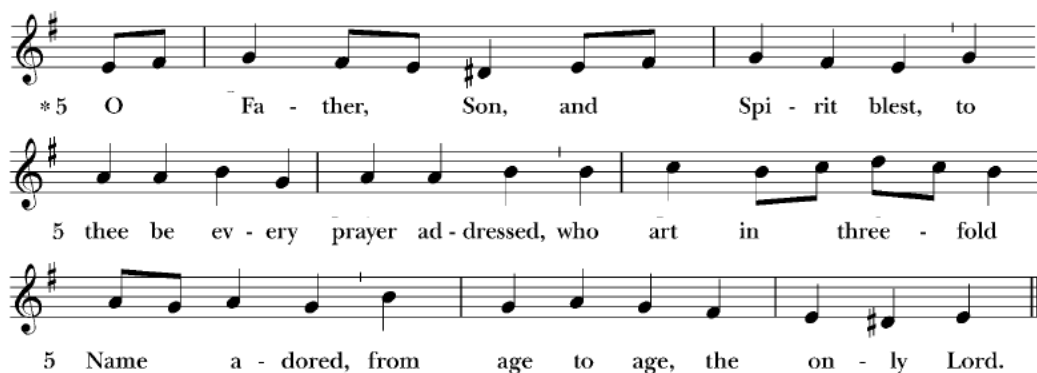
I will bow and be simple, I will bow and be free;
I will bow and be humble, yea, how like the willow tree.

I will bow, this is the token, I will wear the easy yoke,
I will bow and be broken, yea, I'll fall upon the rock.

I will bow and be simple, I will bow and be free;
I will bow and be humble, yea, how like the willow tree..

The Doxology

Hymnal 1982 #143, Verse 5



* 5 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to
5 thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed, who art in three - fold
5 Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

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 C

(2024 Update Approved by General Convention)

May God 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 our thanks and praise.

God of all power, Source and Sustainer of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: shining light and enfolding dark; the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with the capacity for memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of your creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your eternal Word, born of your servant Mary, to fulfill your Law, opening for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Sanctus on Picardy

Dr. Lori Lind

The musical notation is for a Sanctus on Picardy, composed by Dr. Lori Lind. It consists of two staves of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff begins with a forte (f) dynamic marking. The lyrics for the first staff are: "ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and-might hea-ven and earth are". The second staff begins with a measure rest marked with a '6', indicating a six-measure rest. The lyrics for the second staff are: "full - of your great glo - ry! Ho-san-na in the high - est ho-san-na in the high-est!".



On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate Christ's death and resurrection as we await the day of his coming.

Therefore, O God, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Sanctify us also, and let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

God of our ancestors; Redeemer and Mother of Israel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us.

Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only and not for strength; for pardon only and not for renewal.

Accept these prayers and praises, Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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*Lenten Fraction on Picardy***Dr. Lori Lind**

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:

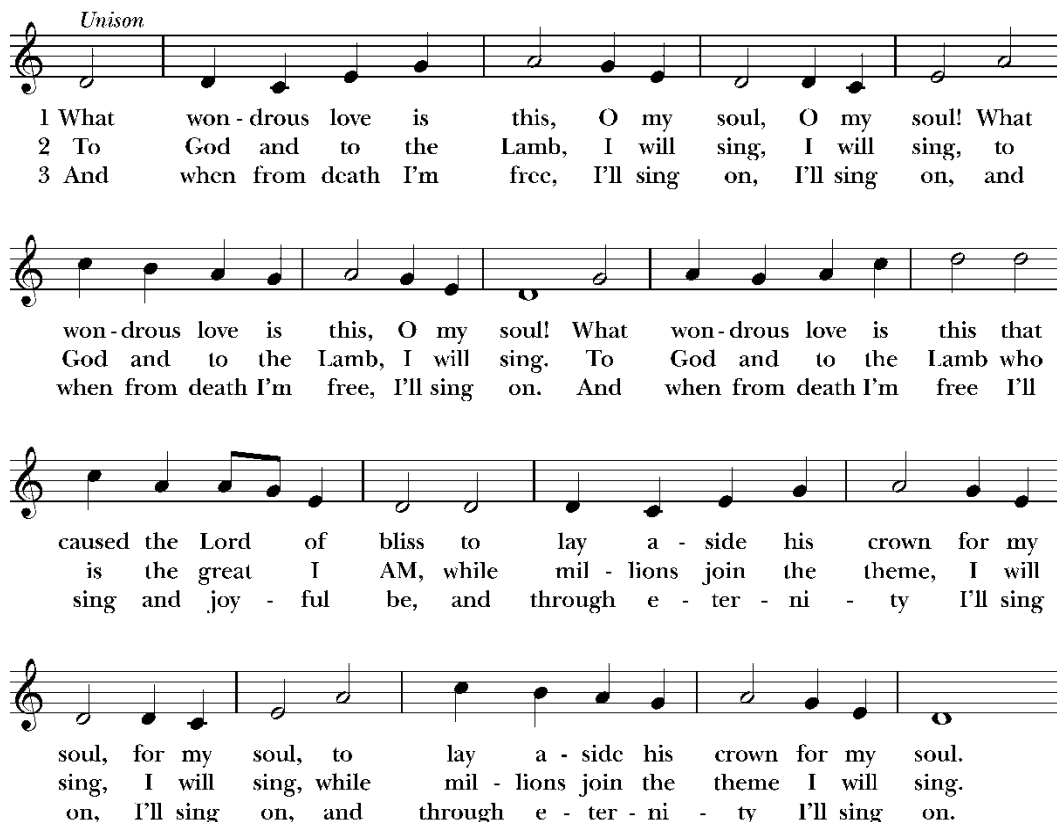
We offer both the common cup and a cup for intinction. If you would like to receive by intinction, please go the left side of the altar rail and the presiding priest will dip the bread in the cup for you. If you would like to sip from the common cup, please go to the right side of the altar rail where the bread and the cup will be offered separately.

Communion Hymn

What Wondrous Love Is This

#439 Hymnal 1982

Unison



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this that
God and to the Lamb, I will sing, To God and to the Lamb who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll

caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my
is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

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 Blessing

Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people; that, rightly observing this holy season, they may learn to know you more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will; through Christ our Lord. And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Announcements

Recessional Hymn***I Sing the Almighty Power of God*****#398 Hymnal 1982**

1 I sing the al-might - y power of God, that made the moun-tains rise,
2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;
3 There's not a plant or flower be - low, but makes thy glo - rics known;

that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the lof - ty skies.
he formed the crea-tures with his Word, and then pro-nounced them good.
and clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from thy throne;

I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
Lord, how thy won - ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye,
while all that bor - rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,

the moon shines full at his com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
if I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
and ev - ery-where that I could be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the piano accompaniment providing harmonic support through chords and moving lines. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each corresponding to a line of music.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Forest Green*, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Worship Participants

Presider	Rev. Caroline Mitchell
Preacher	Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith
Acolyte	Ed Rhodes
Altar Guild	Anne Spear
Digital Usher	Mary Lee Montfort
Digital Verger	Walt Lazear
Children's Chapel	Lael Lyons & Beth Clarke
Eucharistic Minister	Steve Wickman
Healing Minister	Beth Clarke
Lector & Intercessor	Ed Rhodes
Usher	Becky Ventorini
Fellowship Hour Host	Becky Ventorini
Counters	Will Ferris & Ed Rhodes

APRIL VESTRY PERSON

Chris Johnston

christopher.a.johnston@gmail.com

410-299-9776

Questions, comments, concerns, compliments, all welcome.

Congregational Meeting after church today

St. Thomas has a vacant lot behind the rectory that measures just under one acre. We refer to the lot internally as Lot B. We have worked for many years to prepare Lot B to be subdivided so that it can be sold. Our goal is to use the proceeds to pay off our mortgage, recoup costs for preparing the lot for sale, and invest in our endowment for the future of St. Thomas.

One step in selling Lot B is to hold a congregational vote to approve the sale. We will approve a price range now, based on our realtor's recommendation, so that we can move quickly once offers begin to come in.

Following church today, we will hold a congregational meeting to do so. Please make every effort to join us in church or on Zoom for that conversation.

If time permits, the Lenten Program will begin after the congregational meeting.

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.*

MINISTERS

The Baptized Faithful of St. Thomas Episcopal Church
The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, *Presiding Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, *Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, *Assistant Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. James Joseph "Bud" Shand, *Visiting Bishop*

The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith, <i>Rector</i>	540-532-5665 – fran.gardnersmith@stthomasmcleanva.org
The Rev. William Drosos, <i>Associate Rector</i>	513-638-8800 – will.drosos@stthomasmcleanva.org
The Rev. Dr. Caroline Mitchell, <i>Assisting Priest</i>	970-417-8417 – kfshplp@gmail.com
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Ms. Beth Clarke, <i>Seminarian</i>	602-463-5289 – eclarke@vts.edu

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Alan Thode		afthode@hotmail.com	

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Pat Smith	Treasurer	pysmith51@gmail.com	703-338-0974
Steve Wickman	Diocesan Delegate	wickmansb@msn.com	571-393-8544
Becky Ventrini	Alternate Delegate	beckyventorini@gmail.com	202-390-4412

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Mary Cyrus	Accountant	accountant@stthomasmcleanva.org	703-442-0330
Nicole Warga	Cribbery Caregiver	ncwarga00@hotmail.com	703-476-9476

The Skinny at St. Thomas

April 6th, 2025



More information about many of these events can be found on the Announcements page on our website. Scan the QR code to see them.

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Lot B Congregational Meeting after Worship

Following church today, we will hold a meeting to approve the sale of Lot B. Please make every effort to join us in church or on Zoom. More information can be found in the bulletin. Time permitting, the Lenten Program will begin after the meeting.

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United Thank Offering Mighty Mite Box "Practice Gratitude, Change the World."

The ECW will continue United Thank Offering through Lent and our "In-gathering" of UTO donations will be on Sunday, April 27, 2025. You can place your little blue box in the offering plate on that day, write a check with "UTO" in the memo, or give online. We will count the contributions in our Mighty Mite Box on April 27th as well. Thank you for your ongoing support of UTO. Notice the good things that happen each day. Give thanks to God for your blessings. Make an offering for each blessing. Your blessings become blessings for others.

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UTO Silent Auction for Wool Coverlet

The silent auction for the woolen coverlet displayed in the Narthex will end just before Easter on April 19th. Please submit your bid on the sheet or email

ECWPres@stthomasmcleanva.org

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Easter Flower Donations

We are now collecting donations for the beautiful Easter flowers our flower guild will decorate St. Thomas with in a few weeks. Please pick up a form in the Narthex and return by next Sunday, April 13th to donate.

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Shakespeare Opera Theatre Presents: Drowning Ophelia

Please see the calendar on the back for show dates. Approximate Run time one hour, no intermission. House opens 30 minutes before each performance to get comfortable and enjoy snacks and drinks at our general table seating. Talkbacks/Q & A with the cast, playwright and mental health counselors will occur immediately after each performance. "Drowning Ophelia" is a dark comedy performed in one act about the long-term consequences of childhood abuse, and a love letter to those who have suffered. There is always hope. (Appropriate for ages 11 and up. Raises issues on mental illness and mental health in relation to childhood abuse) For tickets: <https://shakespeareoperatheatre.com/>

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No Pints with Doubting Thomas on April 9th

We will resume on April 23rd with a discussion on Christian approaches to war, peace, and violence.

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Women Gathering Zoom Meetup – Last of the Season, Thursday April 10th at 4:30 pm

Rev. Fran will conclude our discussion of *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. The chapters will be "The Letter," "Church Stories," and "Epilogue," beginning on page 191. For more details, contact

Betsy ehelman2003@yahoo.com

and for the ZOOM link,

Audrey at audreyjadair@gmail.com

Agape Meal before Maundy Thursday Worship Thursday April 17th at 6pm

The name, Agape, comes from the Greek word ἀγάπη, which implies divine love. The Agape meals originated in the early Church and were a time of fellowship for believers. The St. Thomas meal will be a casual potluck dinner for parishioners and any guests you would like to invite would be welcome. The church will provide wine, bread, lemonade, coffee & tea, and all service items. We invite you to bring a food item to share with others which can be a main dish, salad or dessert. In keeping with early Agape meals, Mediterranean dishes would also be welcome. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Becky Ventorini: (202) 390-4412 or beckyventorini@gmail.com.

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Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt!

Come celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 20th with a Church Potluck Brunch following the 10:00 am service. Please bring a dish to share and the Church will provide coffee, tea and all service items. If you have any questions about the Brunch or would like to sign up in advance to bring a main dish, salad or dessert, please contact Becky Ventorini at (202) 390-4412 or beckyventorini@gmail.com.

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Coffee Hour Hosts needed for May

Coffee hour sign-ups are available via a link to SignUpGenius or by using the QR code, both of which are below. If you need help signing up electronically, I would be happy to help! Please contact me directly with any questions.

Becky Ventorini, Fellowship Hour Coordinator

beckyventorini@gmail.com

Home (703) 288-3166 / Cell: (202) 390-4412

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4EAAAC2CA64-52775851-stthomas>



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This Week

Sunday April 6th

11:10 am – Congregational Meeting

4 pm – Shakespeare Opera Theatre:

Drowning Ophelia

Monday April 7th

12 pm – Noonday Prayer

7:30 pm – Shakespeare Opera Theatre:

Drowning Ophelia

Tuesday April 8th

12 pm – Midweek Holy Eucharist

Wednesday April 9th

10 am – Staff Meeting

12 pm – Noonday Prayer

7:30 pm – Shakespeare Opera Theatre:

Drowning Ophelia

Thursday April 10th

12 pm – Noonday Prayer

4:30 pm – Women Gathering Zoom Meetup

7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Friday April 11th

11 am – McLean Islamic Center Worship

7:30 pm – Shakespeare Opera Theatre:

Drowning Ophelia

Saturday April 12th

7:45 am – Men Eating Breakfast

3 pm – Shakespeare Opera Theatre:

Drowning Ophelia

7:30 pm – Shakespeare Opera Theatre:

Drowning Ophelia

Sunday April 13th

8:45 am – Choir Rehearsal

10 am – Palm Sunday Worship