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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024 11:00AM

Welcome GUESTS & VISITORS!

We are glad you are here. If you are new to St. Thomas, stop by the Welcome table in the lobby and identify yourself to our clergy and people so we may properly welcome you. You may also fill out an “I’m New” card located on the backs of the chairs in the church. If you need assistance with the order of service, feel free to ask the person next to you.

Auditory Assistance is available – ask an usher or a greeter to obtain a hearing device.

To request prayers, please fill out the “Pray” card located on the backs of the chairs. We invite you to list your specific concerns and leave them in the offering plate, bring to the church office, or hand to one of the clergy. Prayers of the People are written weekly. They are offered for three weeks, but any request may be resubmitted as needed.

Nursery care is available on Sunday for children ages 6 months thru 4 yrs from 8:15am - 12:15 (or conclusion of the 11am service).

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prelude

Silent Procession

Penitential Order

In Lent and on other penitential occasions

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People ***His mercy endures for ever.***

Confession & Absolution

All kneel as able. The Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

Minister and People

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.

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

Kyrie

Unison or harmony

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. —

— Chri - ste e - le - i - son. — Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e -

le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

*Children pre-school through 3rd grade will
process to Children's Church.*

The Lessons

The First Reading: *Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16*

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

The Psalm: Psalm 22:22-30

- ²²*Praise the LORD, you that fear him; *
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.*
- ²³*For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them; *
but when they cry to him he hears them.*
- ²⁴*My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.*
- ²⁵*The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"*
- ²⁶*All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.*
- ²⁷*For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.*
- ²⁸*To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.*
- ²⁹*My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.*
- ³⁰*They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.*

The Epistle: Romans 4:13-25

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's

womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The Word of the Lord

People ***Thanks be to God.***

The Holy Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

All stand.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Response ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

³¹Jesus began to teach the disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” ³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

Nicene Creed

All stand.

***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.***

Prayers of the People

All remain standing.

Presider or Deacon We pray to you, O Lord,

Music Response after each petition:

Refrain *mp*

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -

Shep-herd me, be - yond my wants, be -

yond my fears, from death in - to

yond my fears, from death to

To verses 1, 2, 3, 5

To verse 4

life.

life.

life.

life.

The Presider adds a concluding collect.

The children will return from Children's Church.

The Peace

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Music

Goin' Home

Antonin Dvorak/Fisher

from the *New World Symphony*

Duet: Hope Dedrick and Maggie Sullivan

Offertory

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.
People ***And of thine own have we given thee.***

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People ***We lift them to the Lord.***
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

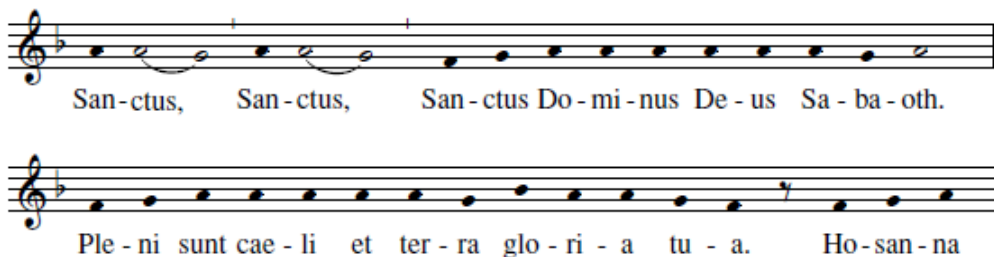
Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

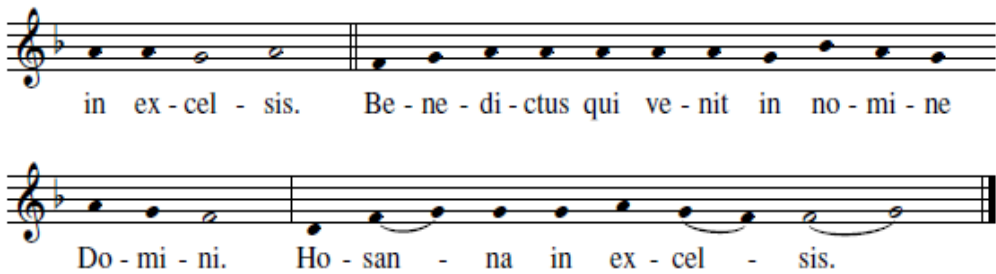
Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus





The people stand or kneel as able.

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God. . .
 . . . Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

***We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection,
 We await his coming in glory;***

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. . .
 . . . 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.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

People and Celebrant

***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

A period of silence is kept.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **grant us peace.**

The Celebrant may say

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

We invite everyone who has been baptized by water in any Christian tradition to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine.

If you have a wheat allergy, please tell the person administering communion and we will see that you receive a rice wafer instead.

Communion Music *Let Us Break Bread Together*

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

let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____

Refrain
when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer - cy on me. _____

1 2

3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;_____

let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;_____

Refrain

when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer-cy on me._____

Postcommunion Prayer

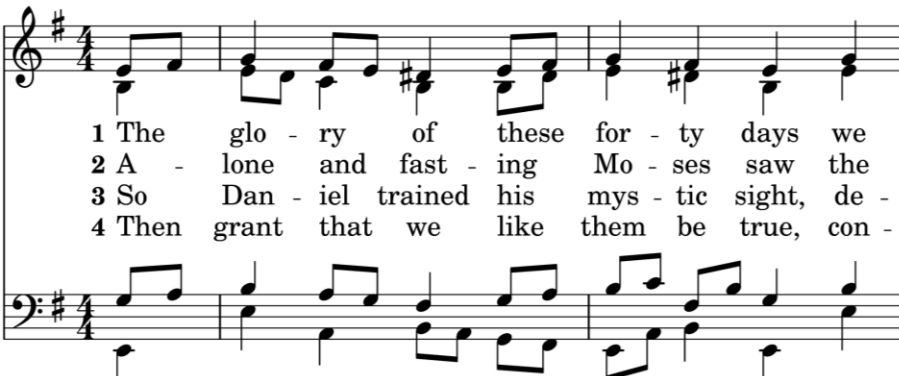
Celebrant and People

***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.***

Blessing

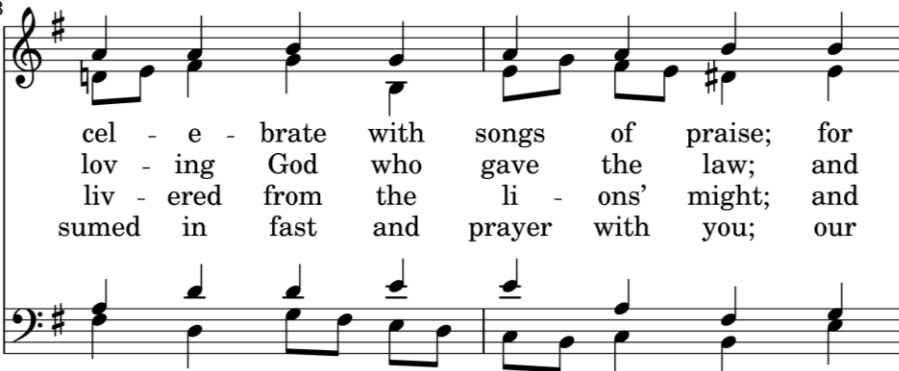
Closing Hymn

The Glory of These Forty Days



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
4 Then grant that we like them be true, con -

3



cel - e - brate with songs of praise; for
lov - ing God who gave the law; and
liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and
sumed in fast and prayer with you; our

5



Christ, by whom all things were made, him -
to E - li - jah, fast - ing, came the
John, the Bride - groom's friend, be - came the
spir - its strength - en with your grace, and

7

self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 give us joy to see your face.

Silent Procession

Dismissal

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.
 People ***Thanks be to God.***

Postlude

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