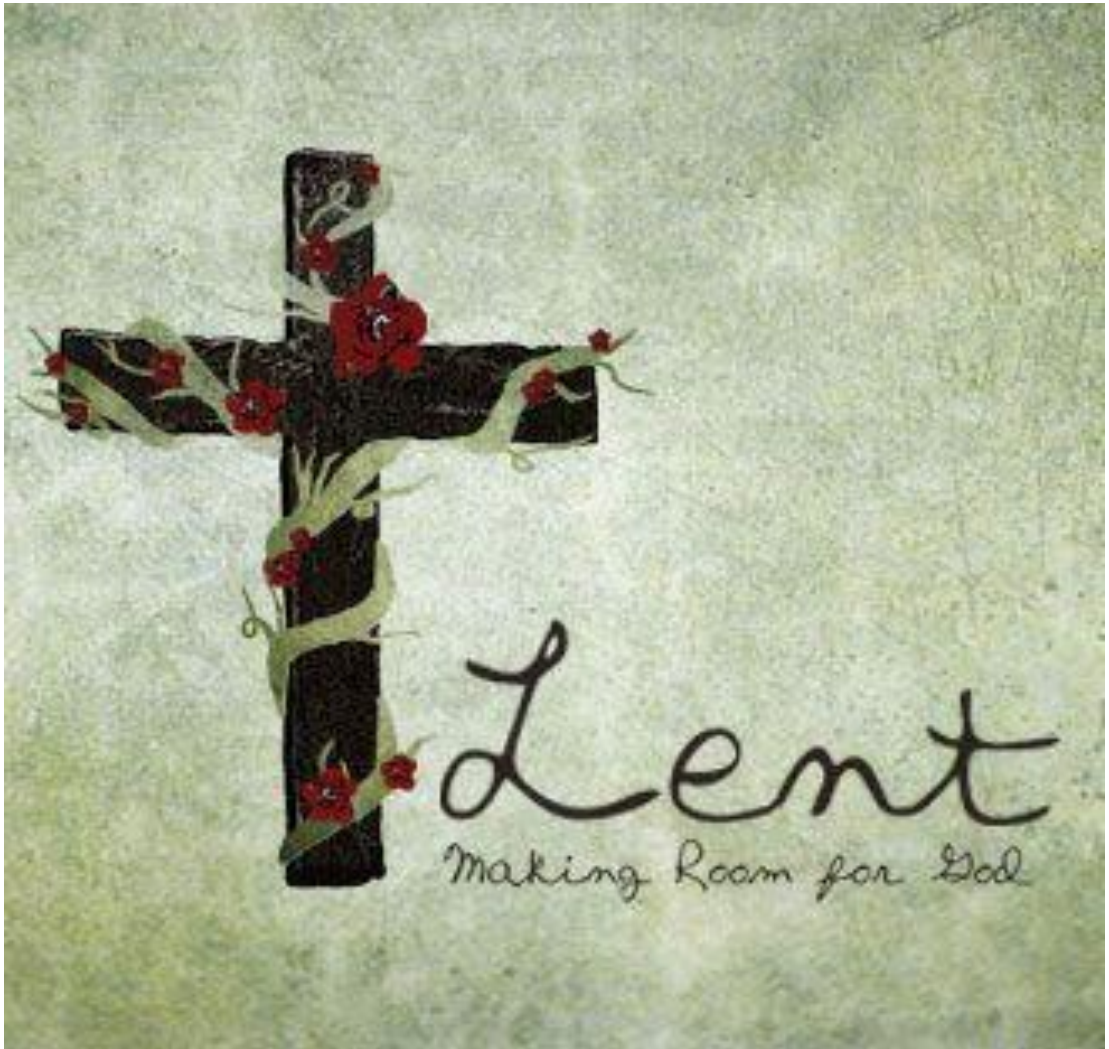


ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT – HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024 – 5:30PM

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.

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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

Priest Lord, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Priest Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Reading: *Numbers 21:4-9*

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

- ¹*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.*
- ²*Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.*
- ³*He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.*
- ¹⁷*Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.*
- ¹⁸*They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.*
- ¹⁹*Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.*
- ²⁰*He sent forth his word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.*
- ²¹*Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.*
- ²²*Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.*

The Epistle: Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel: John 3:14-21

All stand.

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

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

[Jesus said,] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

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 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 Hymn

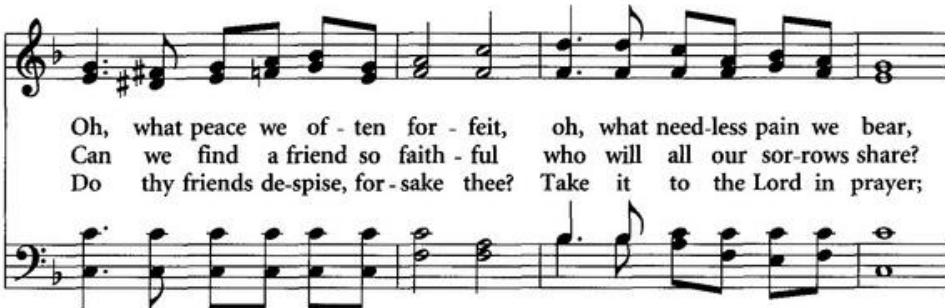
What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3. Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge; take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer;



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to the Lord in prayer.
in His arms He'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a so - lace there.

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

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

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

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 Hymn

Return to God

Haugen

Refrain:

***Return to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mercy;
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.***

Now the time of grace has come, the day of salvation; come and learn now the way of our God. (Refrain)

I will take your heart of stone and place a heart within you, a heart of compassion and love. (Refrain)

If you break the chains of oppression, If you set the pris'ner free; if you share your bread with the hungry, give protection to the lost; give a shelter to the homeless, clothe the naked in your midst, then your light shall break forth like the dawn. (Refrain)

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 Music

Jesus Draw Me Ever Nearer Keith Getty, Margaret Becker

Jesus draw me ever nearer as I labour through the storm.
You have called me to this passage, and I'll follow, though I'm worn.

Refrain:

***May this journey bring a blessing, may I rise on wings of faith;
And at the end of my heart's testing, with Your likeness let me wake.***

Jesus guide me through the tempest; keep my spirit staid and sure.
When the midnight meets the morning, let me love You even more. (Refrain)

Let the treasures of the trial form within me as I go -
And at the end of this long passage, let me leave them at Your throne. (Refrain)

Silent Procession

Dismissal

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

Postlude

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