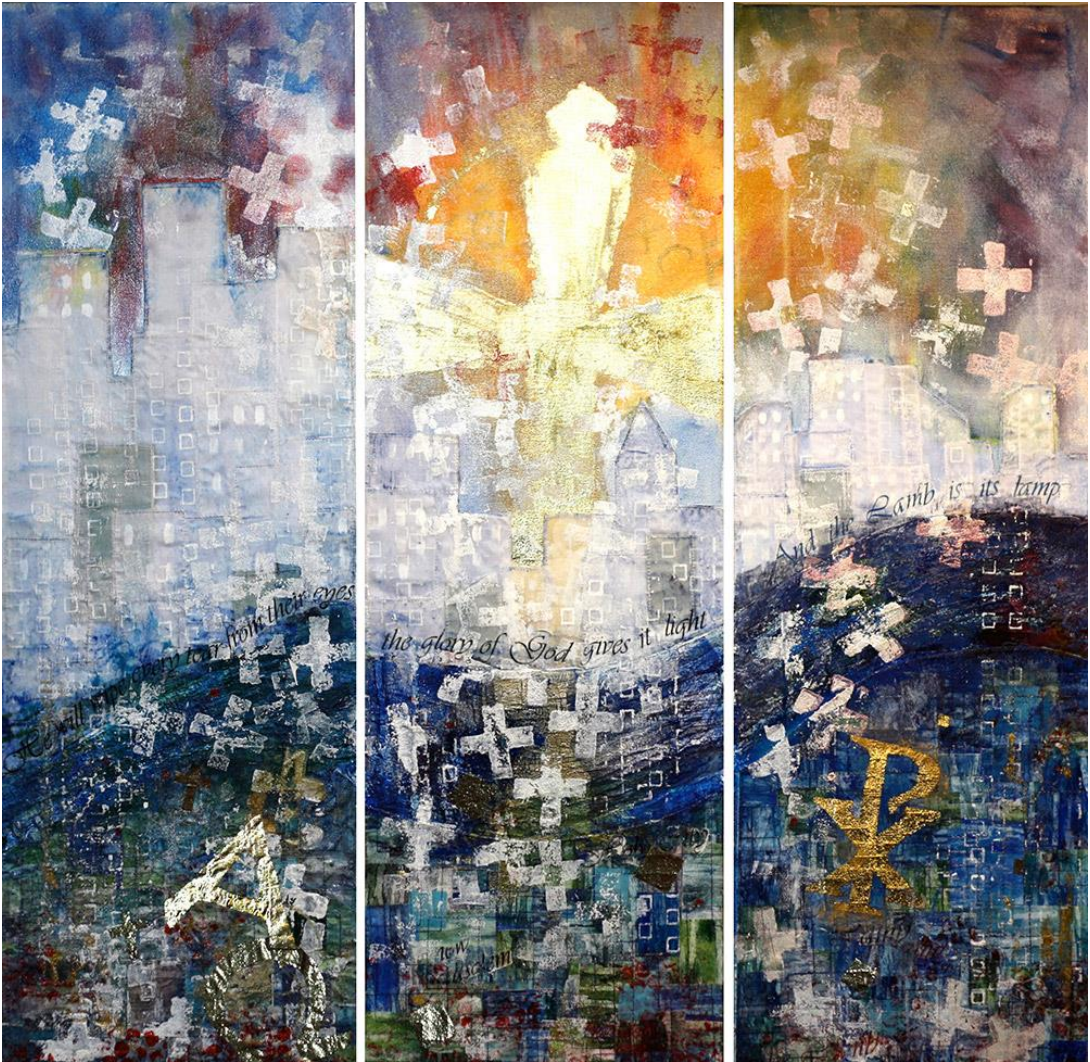


ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist Rite II and Confirmation
Sunday, April 28, 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).

Notes on "Messiah" by Georg Frederic Handel

Handel wrote *Messiah* in 24 days, and it was first performed in Dublin, April 13, 1742. The early performance was more than just a showing of outstanding composition, musicianship, and artistry. The musical labor was tied to outreach to the poor folks in debtor's prison.

According to historian Donald Burrows, a well-known editor of Handel's works, the orchestra in Dublin included strings, two trumpets, and timpani. The exact number of players is unknown. Handel had his own organ shipped to Ireland for the performances, and a harpsichord was probably also used.

The three charities were selected to benefit: 1) prisoners' debt relief, 2) the Mercer's Hospital, and 3) Charitable Infirmary. In its report on a public rehearsal, the *Dublin News-Letter* described the oratorio as "... far surpass(ing) anything of that Nature which has been performed in this or any other Kingdom." Seven hundred people attended the premiere on 13 April.

In order to gather the largest possible audience could be admitted to the concert, gentlemen were requested to remove their sword and ladies were asked not to wear hoops in their dresses. The performance earned unanimous praise from the assembled press: "Words are wanting to express the exquisite delight it afforded to the admiring and crowded Audience: The donations amounted to around £400, providing about £127 to each of the three nominated charities and securing the release of 142 indebted prisoners."

Richard Lockett: Handel's *Messiah*: A Celebration

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prelude *Comfort Ye* G. F. Handel
Scott Bradley, soloist

Opening Music *Every Valley* G. F. Handel
Steve Glasscock, soloist

Acclamation

Bishop Blessed by God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***
Bishop There is one Body and one Spirit;
People ***There is one hope in God's call to us;***
Bishop One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People ***One God and Father of all.***
Bishop The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Bishop Let us pray.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Gloria *And the Glory* Handel

*And the glo-ry.
the glory of the Lord
Shall be re - veal - ed and the glory the glory of the Lord
Shall be re - veal'd, and the
glo - ry the glo - ry of the Lord shall be re - veal - ed
And all flesh shall it together
For the mouth of the lord hath spoken
and all flesh shall see it to - geth - er
and the glory the glory of the Lord*

(continued next page)

*and all flesh shall see it to - geth - er the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.
for the mouth of the Lord hath spo - ken it, hath---- spo ----- ken it
and the glo --- ry the glo - ry the glo - ry of the Lord
shall be re - veal - ed
and all flesh-----shall see it to - geth - er to geth - er for the mouth of the
Lord hath spo - kenit,
for the mouth of the Lord----- hath spo - ken it*

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

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

The Lessons

The First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer,

so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

Response ***Thanks be to God.***

The Psalm: *Psalm 22:24-30*

²⁴My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

²⁵The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *

“May your heart live for ever!”

²⁶All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

²⁷For kingship belongs to the LORD; *

he rules over the nations.

²⁸To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *

all who go down to the dust fall before him.

²⁹My soul shall live for him;

my descendants shall serve him; *

they shall be known as the LORD’s for ever.

³⁰They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *

the saving deeds that he has done.

The Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

Response ***Thanks be to God.***

Alleluia

Refrain:

James Chepponis

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Commissioned for the Mass celebrated by His Holiness Pope John Paul II
in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Missouri, January, 1999*

Holy Gospel: *John 15:1-8*

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

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

[Jesus said to his disciples,] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Alleluia response

But Who Will Abide

Handel

Steve Glasscock, soloist

The Sermon

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates for Confirmation

Bishop The Candidates will now be presented.
Presenters I present these persons for Confirmation.

The Bishop asks the candidates

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidate I do.

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidate I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

After all have been presented, the Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying

Bishop Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support
[*these persons*] in [*their*] life in Christ?

People **We will.**

Bishop Let us join with [*those*] who [*are*] committing [*themselves*] to
Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Baptismal Covenant

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Bishop Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People ***I will, with God's help.***

Prayers for the Candidates

Bishop Let us now pray for [*these persons*] who [*are*] to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Bishop Deliver [*them*], O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Bishop Open [*their*] hearts to your grace and truth.

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Bishop Fill [*them*] with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Bishop Keep [*them*] in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Bishop Teach [*them*] to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Bishop Send [*them*] into the world in witness to your love.

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Bishop Bring [*them*] to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Bishop Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Then the Bishop says

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with *them* at their Baptism. Send *them* forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before *them*; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

For Confirmation

The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says

Defend, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your heavenly grace, that *he/she* may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until *he/she* comes to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

For Reception

N., we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion, God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. **Amen.**

The Bishop concludes with this prayer

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with *them*; and so lead *them* in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that *they* may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Glory to God

Handel

*Glory to God, Glory to God, glory to God in the highest,
and peace on earth,
Glory to God, Glory to God, glory to God in the highest,
and peace on earth
goodwill towards men.
Glory to God, glory to God in the highest.
and peace on earth
Good will toward men.*

He Shall Feed His Flock
Maggie Hendricks, soloist

Offertory

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

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so 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.

OFFERING

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.

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.

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

Richard Proulx



Celebrant 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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant 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.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

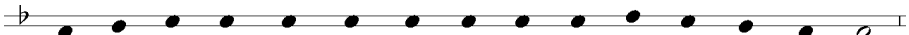
People and Celebrant

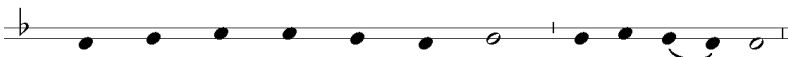
***Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.***

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Celebrant 
Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

People 
There-fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

This setting may be sung full by all, or by the choir, or as a versicle and response.

Celebrant 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. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.

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

Communion Music	<i>I Know that My Redeemer Liveth</i>	Handel
	Hope Dedrick, soloist	
	<i>Worthy is the Lamb</i>	Handel
	Chancel Choir	

Sending Forth

When a Lay Eucharistic Visitor is to take the sacrament to those hospitalized, ill at home or home-bound, the following is said:

Celebrant

In the name of this congregation, go forth bearing these holy gifts; that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

Congregation

***We who are many are one body,
because we all share one bread; one cup. Amen.***

Postcommunion Prayer

***Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

Easter Blessing

Closing Music

Hallelujah Chorus

Handel

*Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah
Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah*

*For the lord God omnipotent reigneth
Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah
For the lord God omnipotent reigneth
Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah
For the lord God omnipotent reigneth (Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah)
For the lord God omnipotent reigneth (Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah)
Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah (Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah)
For the lord God omnipotent reigneth (Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah)
Hallelujah*

*The kingdom of this world - Is become - The kingdom of our Lord,
And of His Christ. And of His Christ*

*And He shall reign forever and ever
And He shall reign forever and ever (And He shall reign forever and ever) – 3X*

*King of kings (Forever and ever hallelujah hallelujah)
And lord of lords (Forever and ever hallelujah hallelujah)
King of kings (Forever and ever hallelujah hallelujah)
And lord of lords (Forever and ever hallelujah hallelujah)
King of kings (Forever and ever hallelujah hallelujah)
And lord of lords. King of kings and lord of lords*

*And he shall reign forever and ever (And he shall reign)
And he shall reign forever and ever (And he shall reign)*

*King of kings forever and ever
And lord of lords hallelujah hallelujah
And he shall reign forever, forever and ever*

*King of kings and lord of lords. King of kings and lord of lords
And he shall reign forever and ever (And he shall reign forever and ever)*

Forever and ever, forever and ever (King of kings and lord of lords)

*Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah.
Hallelujah!*

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the spirit.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

People ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!***

Postlude

Hallelujah Chorus

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ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
12251 Antioch Road
Overland Park, KS 66213
913-451-0512

Email: stthomas@stthomasop.org
Website: www.stthomasop.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stthomasop