



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH + SCHOOL

Worship | Study | Friendship | Compassion

March 15, 2026—10:00AM

¿ Quiere un boletín en español? Tenemos uno en nuestro vestíbulo.

If you are watching online, please fill out an online Connection Card by clicking the link in the comments. If you are in person, you can find a Connection Card in the church pews.

Welcome

The Rt. Rev. Angela Maria Cortiñas

Wednesday Lenten Dinner Series

The Great Rescue:

How the Cross Saves Us

February 25th - March 25th

Wednesdays in the Parish Hall

6:00pm - Dinner Served

6:30pm-7:30pm - Program for All Ages

The Great Rescue is a five-week Lenten journey into the meaning of the cross, exploring our need for rescue, Christ's saving love, and how the Christian life flows from resting in what He has already done. During the teaching hour, children ages 3 through 5th grade will participate in their own engaging, age-appropriate program, learning the same core story through Scripture, activities, and crafts.

Join us this Lent for dinner and shared formation as we rediscover the beauty and assurance of The Great Rescue and encounter the love of God in a deeper way.

Campus Clean-Up

Saturday, March 28th

9:00am - 2:00pm

Come help us with several outdoor projects around campus. Bring your yard tools, wheelbarrows, gloves, hats, and sunscreen. Please consider volunteering to help keep our campus beautiful.

Soles4Souls Shoe Drive

March 8th - 22nd

This spring, St. Thomas is joining the Christian Assistance Ministry Soles4Souls Shoe Drive. We are collecting new or gently used shoes for men, women, and children of all sizes and brands, and men's work boots. Drop off your donations in the box located in Gosnell Hall.

Palm Cross Making

Wednesday, March 25th

9:30am, in the Church Library

Join us in making Palm Crosses. All Palm Crosses made during this time will be used on Palm Sunday during worship. Please consider volunteering to help.

Volunteer Opportunity: San Antonio Food Bank

Thursday, March 26th , 9:00am - 11:30am

5200 Enrique Barrera Pkwy

Help us support the San Antonio community by sorting and packing food to be distributed to those in need. If you are interested in volunteering, please email the Church Office at stthomaschurch@tom1604.org. Volunteers will be contacted to confirm and to provide registration instructions.

Reception for Rev. Allie Melancon

Sunday, March 29th

following 10:00am worship in the Parish Hall

Join us for a reception honoring Rev. Allie. All are welcome to gather as we celebrate her ministry with us.

Easter Egg Hunt Donations

We are asking for donations of empty Easter eggs, “fun sized” individually wrapped candies, and small trinkets like stickers and stamps. Please no unwrapped candy (jellybeans, marshmallows, candy-coated eggs, etc.) or small toys that could be a choking hazard. All donations must be turned into Gosnell Hall by Friday, March 27th. Thank you for your generosity.

Youth Group—Easter Egg Edition

Sunday, March 22nd and 29th
9:00am in Room 109

All youth 6th grade and up are welcome. We invite you to join Rev. Allie Sunday morning and help our Children’s Ministry stuff Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday - Sunday, March 29th

8:00am Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Holy Wednesday - Wednesday, April 1st

12:00pm Stations of the Cross

Maundy Thursday - Thursday, April 2nd

7:00pm

Good Friday Worship - Friday, April 3rd

12:00pm & 7:00pm

Easter Sunday - Sunday, April 5th

8:00am Festival Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:00am Easter Breakfast in the Parish Hall
10:00am Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II
Easter Egg Hunt following worship.

Save the Date:

Vacation Bible School

Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God

June 15th - June 19th
9:00am - 12:00pm daily
Ages 3 - 5th Grade

Step into Rainforest Falls at VBS and embark on a wild adventure discovering God’s nature!! Kids will explore what it means to be rooted in a relationship with God, finding strength, safety, and joy in life’s storms. Registration for participants and volunteers opens April 5th.

Children’s Summer Music Camp

June 22nd - June 25th
9:00am - 12:00pm daily
Ages Kinder - 6th Grade

Let your child’s creativity shine at Children’s Summer Music Camp. Kids will sing, play, and explore the joy of making music together, building confidence, teamwork, and a love for the arts in a fun, supportive environment. Registration opens April 5th.

**St. Thomas Episcopal School
2026-2027 Enrollment Open
Ages 18 months - 5 years old**

Scan the QR code below to find out more information about our program and schedule a tour of our campus. Enrollment is filling up fast. Schedule your tour today!
Grow, Learn, Lead at STES.



Easter Flower and Music Donations

Donations can be made in the form of memorials, honoraria, or thanksgivings. Donations for flowers are \$20.00, and offerings for music may be given in any amount. The names of donors and honorees will appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Donations due March 20th. Scan the QR code to donate online or visit Gosnell Hall to pick up a donation envelope.



Discipleship Hour - Sundays at 9:00am

Meeting Jesus in Lent

February 22nd - March 29th
in the Parish Hall led by Fr. Mike

This Lent, join us for a five-week class exploring who Jesus is and what He means for our daily lives. Through scripture, reflection, and conversation, we'll encounter Jesus as the Son of God, the Gift of the Father, our Great High Priest, and the Prince of Peace. All are welcome to come, learn, and grow together this season.

Children's Sunday School-Ages 3-5th grade

The Easter Story
February 22nd - March 29th
in Room 112

Kids will explore the Easter story as we discover the events of Holy Week. Through Bible stories and hands-on activities, children will learn about Mary's perfume, the Last Supper, Jesus' prayer, the Crucifixion, and the joy of Jesus' Resurrection.

Children's First Communion Class

February 22nd - March 29th, in Room 112

Discipleship for Moms

in Room 111 led by Paige Martin

Discipleship for Moms is offering a meaningful study through *Brave and Beloved* by Meredith Storrs, exploring the wisdom, courage, and diversity of women of the Bible while encouraging moms to grow together in faith.



The Holy Eucharist, Rite II
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026 • 10:00 AM

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.

The people's responses are in **bold**.

This type of note, offering directions about the service is called a "rubric," which comes from the Latin word *rubrica* (red) referring to a time when these instructional notes were always written in red.

*Today's altar wine is given to the glory of God in memory of
Dennis Martin by Linda Martin.*

*Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of
Brandon & Bradley Stellges & their confirmation by Sara Stellges.*

Baptized Today

Edward Brewer

Confirmed Today

Brooklyn Bellos
Edward Brewer
Katherine Calfee
Nancy Lowry
Brandon Mancine
Bowen Marble
Scarlett Martin
Reginald Mote
William Newman
Gregory Perez
Ava Pulliam
Bradley Stellges
Brandon Stellges
Madeleine Vilsack

Received Today

Tara Mancine
Carrie Summitt

Reaffirmed Today

Lorraine Babcock

After today's service join us in the Parish Hall for a reception.

THE ENTRANCE RITE

THE VOLUNTARY

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HYMN • 671

New Britain

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
*5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

The melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, from *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; compiled by Richard Broaddus and Andrew Broaddus. Music: *New Britain*, from *Virginia Harmony* 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921); harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919). Harmonization Copyright © 1974 by Abingdon Press.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His mercy endures for ever.

The Celebrant then continues

There is one Body and one Spirit;
There is one hope in God's call to us;
 One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
One God and Father of all.

THE WORD OF GOD

The proper of the mass are the scriptural texts that change with the liturgical calendar. The collect, lessons, psalm, Gospel and preface to the communion liturgy are propers. Our lessons come from a prescribed cycle of readings called the lectionary. The lectionary consists of a three year cycle: Year. Each year we retell the story from Advent through Pentecost.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday that "collects" or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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 CHILDREN'S SERMON

We invite your child to join our Children's Church program this morning! Children ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to come up for the children's sermon and then follow our Children's Church Leader, to a classroom down the hallway in our education wing. After the exchange of the peace, children are ushered back to their seats.

THE FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

This reading is typically from the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) which Jesus knew and from which he often referred or quoted.

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem.

The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵ He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 *sung by the choir*

Dominus regit me

The psalms are sung prayers that cover every mood of humanity's relationship with God and one another. The psalm is a response to hearing the Old Testament lesson and usually it relates to the themes heard in the lesson.

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

THE EPISTLE

Ephesians 5:8-14

This reading from the New Testament is typically from a letter (epistle) from Paul to the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Revelation to John.

⁸For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them.

¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE HYMN • 488

Slane



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,



all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!



thou my best thought,— by day or by night,
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart,— what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

Words: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931); tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), alt. Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

This reading is taken from one of the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, which depict the life, teachings, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel is the summit of the Liturgy of the Word and means "good news" and specifically the good news of Jesus. We stand for the Gospel reading to show respect for the particular importance of Jesus' words and actions.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.

²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rt. Rev. Angela Maria Cortiñas

The sermon directly follows the Gospel because it illuminates the scriptural readings and relates them to daily life.

PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

BCP 301

The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

The candidates who are able to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Sponsors, as follows

Sponsor I present Edward to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Celebrant asks each candidate when presented

Do you desire to be baptized?

Candidate I do.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

When there are others to be presented, the Bishop says

The Candidates will now be presented.

Presenters I present these persons for Confirmation.

or I present these persons to be received into this Communion.

or I present these persons who desire to reaffirm their baptismal vows.

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

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

People **We will.**

The Celebrant then says

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

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

BCP 304

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Celebrant 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 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.

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant 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.**

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

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

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

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

Celebrant 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

BCP 305

The Celebrant then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for this person who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth and for those who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant says

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 forever. **Amen.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISM

BCP 307

Edward, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Then the Bishop places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross and saying

Edward, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

When all have been baptized, the Celebrant says

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

FOR CONFIRMATION

BCP 309

The Bishop says to the congregation

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

Silence may be kept. 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 the 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.**

The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says:

For Confirmation:

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your Holy Spirit; empower *him* for your service; and sustain *him* all the days of *his* life. **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.**

For Reaffirmation:

N., may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. **Amen.**

Then the Bishop says

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 PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

THE BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness and shared in the peace, we are prepared for Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give.

All are invited to make a gift to support St. Thomas' ministry of sharing God's love with the world.

The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

W. K. Stanton

Christ is the world's true light,
its Captain of salvation,
the Daystar clear and bright
of every land and nation;
new life, new hope awakes,
for all who own his sway:
freedom her bondage breaks,
and night is turned to day.

In Christ all races meet,
their ancient feuds forgetting,
the whole round world complete,
from sunrise to its setting:
when Christ is throned as Lord,
all shall forsake their fear,
to plough-share beat the sword,
to pruning hook the spear.

One Lord, in one great name
unite us all who own thee;
cast out our pride and shame
that hinder to enthrone thee;
the world has waited long,
has travailed long in pain;
to heal its ancient wrong,
come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

THE DOXOLOGY

Old 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

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 every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said.*) 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:

THE SANCTUS • S 114

Healey Willan

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -
- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

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.

The Celebrant continues

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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

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

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 FRACTION ANTHEM • S 158

Healey Willan

The presider breaks the bread.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of

God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.

THE INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

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.

The people are invited to come forward to receive communion. Gluten -free wafers are available. Inform the priest when they come to you.

Individual prayers for healing are offered in the Chapel of the Cross. We encourage you to visit them after receiving communion.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

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.

THE SENDING OUT

We send you out to share the communion today.

May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this sacrament of Christ's presence.

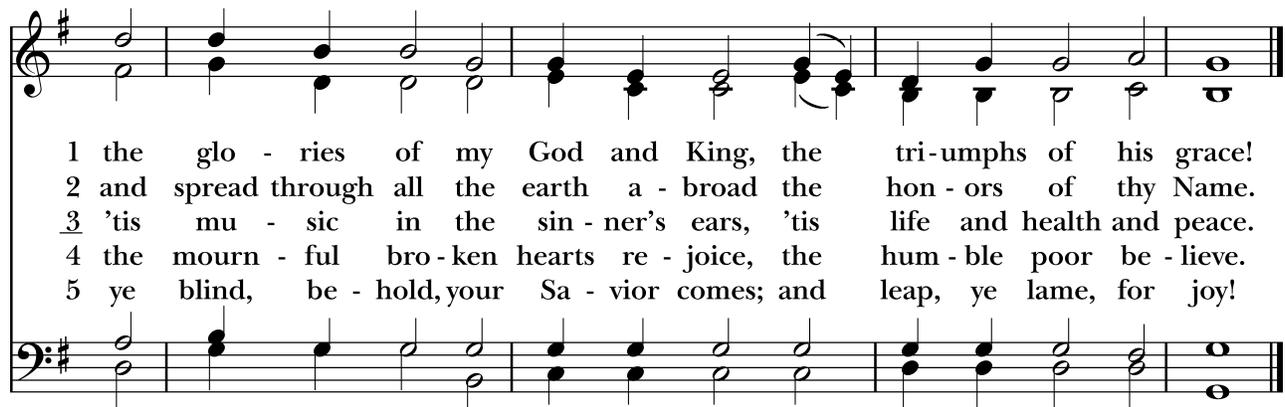
May those who receive it from you be strengthened and encouraged in that community we have together in our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

THE HYMN • 493

Azmon

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim
3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;
4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,
5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos - ened tongues em - ploy;



1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
 2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.
 3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
 4 the mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - jice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
 5 ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love
 be now and ever given
 by saints below and saints above,
 the Church in earth and heaven.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

THE VOLUNTARY

Laetare Sunday: Why Are There Flowers on the Altar During Lent?

“Laetare Sunday” takes its name from the Introit appointed for the Fourth Sunday in Lent: *Laetare Jerusalem* — “Rejoice, O Jerusalem.” This Sunday has long been observed as a brief moment of refreshment within the Lenten season, a day of hope and anticipation as we look ahead to the joy of Easter. It is especially fitting for us today as we renew our baptismal covenant and celebrate with those who are being baptized and confirmed.

At St. Thomas, we typically mark the season of Lent by keeping the altar simple and free of floral arrangements. In past years, we have used a single green plant as a modest decoration. This year, we have placed a simple cluster of willow branches on the altar. Over the past weeks, many have noticed them slowly sprouting green leaves and even beginning to grow roots. In this way, they can serve as a quiet reminder of the spiritual growth that can take place within us as we journey through Lent.

Historically, the Church set Laetare Sunday apart from the other Sundays in Lent by allowing signs of joy to appear again—flowers on the altar, more festive music, and even rose-colored vestments. These small touches remind us that the season of penitence is moving toward the celebration of new life in the Resurrection.

So if you are wondering why there are rose-colored flowers on the altar today, the answer is simple: Rejoice, it is Laetare Sunday!



St. Thomas Episcopal Church + School

An inclusive and kind church that learns and serves together
Worship | Study | Friendship | Compassion

Prayer Requests

Submit a prayer request by filling out a prayer card located in the pew or by contacting the church office.

Connection Card

Need to sign up for our weekly email list? New to St. Thomas? Are you looking to become a member? Connect with us by filling out a connection card located in the pew or by scanning the QR code.



Follow us on Social Media



Donate Online

Scan the QR code to donate today



St. Thomas Healing Ministry

The St. Thomas Healing Ministry offers prayers in the Chapel of the Cross (located to the left of the altar) on Sundays at 8:00am and 10:00am. If you are interested in joining the group, learning about healing, or in need of concentrated prayers contact the church office or fill out a connection card.

Wear a Name Tag!

Do you have a St. Thomas nametag? We encourage you to wear one on Sunday. Don't have a nametag? Visit Membership & Growth Coordinator, Sarah Anderson at the Welcome Table in Gosnell Hall and we'll make you one. All name tags will be ready in 2-3 weeks from sign up date. Please look at our name tag display in Gosnell Hall for pick-up on Sunday.

Download our App

View your giving history, explore the member directory, check the calendar, read bulletins, catch up on sermons, and more — all from your phone or tablet. Scan the QR code to download it today.



Middle School & High School Choir

Students are invited to join our new Middle School and High School choir. Rehearsals take place Sundays after the 10am service, from 11:15am–12:00pm in the choir room. For more information, contact Minister of Music, Ryan Becker at rbecker@tom1604.org.

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