

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
St. Petersburg, FL



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
March 19, 2023
10:00 am - Rite II

Welcome to St. Thomas'!

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Coming together, we ready ourselves to worship God. This fourth Sunday of Lent is also known as Mid Lent or Laetare Sunday. The term is derived from the opening words of the Latin Mass, "Rejoice (Laetare) Jerusalem" (Isaiah 66:10). The church is called to joyful anticipation of the victory to be won.

Prelude

Bells of St. Thomas'

"Just As I Am"

arr., Arnold Sherman

Choral Introit

Chancel Choir

"Out of the Deep"

Thomas Tallis

Out of the deep I cry to Thee, Lord, hear me, I implore Thee.

Bow down Thy gracious ear to me, and let my prayer come to Thee. (Ps 130:1, Luther)

Sound of the Shofar

From its first hearing on Mt. Sinai until the hoped-for Day when the final blast will be sounded as Christ comes for those that are alive in Him, the Shofar has and will represent God's call to battle against evil. In the Jewish tradition the Shofar is particularly associated with the high holy days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and the themes of repentance encompassed by those sacred times. Hearing the shofar's call is a reminder for us to look inward and repent for the sins of the past year.

All standing, the Celebrant says,

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People

His mercy endures for ever.

The Decalogue: Please kneel as able.

BCP p. 350

The Confession of Sin and Absolution Kneeling

BCP p. 352

Deacon

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against him. Let us then renounce our willfulness and ask his mercy by confessing our sins in penitence and faith. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept.

All

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.

Celebrant

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.**

Please stand.

Trisagion
Blue Hymnal S101

"Holy God"

Music: John Rutter (b. 1945). Copyright © 1982 Oxford University Press.

The 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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord tells us in scripture and preaching the stories of His saving acts in human history, of which we have become a part through baptism. We respond in hope, proclaiming our belief, praying for the world and ourselves and greeting one another in His name..

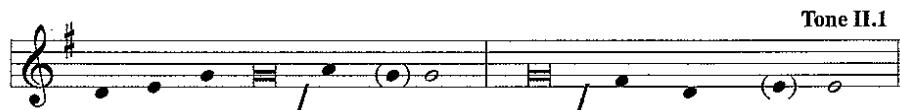
The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite 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." Samuel 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?" 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.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." 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." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." 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." 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." 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

Plainsong Chant



1 The LORD is my/ shepherd; *
I shall/ not be in want.
2 You make me lie down in green/ pastures *
and leads me beside / still waters.
3 You revive my/ soul *
and guide me along right pathways for/ your 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 run/ning 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.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Ephesians 5: 8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light – for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for 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.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Hymn

Green Hymnal 773

"Heal Me, Hands of Jesus"

SHARPE

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

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

John 9: 1-41

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

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then 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." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So 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." The 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 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but 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." His 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. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So 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." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He 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?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. 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." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Ryan Whitley

The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

Prayers of the People *Please stand or kneel.*

We pray to the Lord for courage to give up other things and to give ourselves to him this Lent.

Give your Church the courage to give up her preoccupation with herself and to give more time to your mission in the world. We pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Douglas, our Bishop; Ryan and Anne, our priests; Martha, our Deacon; and David, our Canterbury Chaplain.

Lord, meet us in the silence, **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

May the blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus bring forgiveness to your people and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation.

Lord, meet us in the silence, **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and to seek peace. We pray for Joe our President, Ron our Governor, Ken our Mayor, and all those in civic authority. May the shoulders of the risen Jesus, once scourged by soldiers, bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world. We pray especially for Ukraine.

Lord, meet us in the silence, **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy in our families, neighborhoods and communities. May the presence of the risen Jesus, his body once broken and now made whole, bring peace and direction as we live with one another.

Lord, meet us in the silence, **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up our selfishness as we live for others, and to give time, care and comfort to the sick. We pray for Mark, Dona, Geoff, Sharon Joanne, Tara, Anne, Marsha, Mari, Madison, Don, Ed, Yvonne, Christie, Howard, Ann, Jean, Jan, Brooke, Greg, Elizabeth, Frances, Deborah, Kathy, Tina, Tony, Pat, Shannon, David, Janet, Kim, Joe, Dorothy, Tim, and those we now name.....

May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch, and the light of his presence fill their rooms.

Lord, meet us in the silence, **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up our fear of death and to rejoice with those who have died in faith. Especially, those we now name

Lord, meet us in the silence, **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up indifference and boldly care for your creation. May our prayers, work, and the labor of others at Benison Farm, community gardens, and all agricultural ministries provide rich yields, both tangible and spiritual.

Lord, meet us in the silence, **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Celebrant

May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross, walk alongside the dying and bereaved in their agony, and walk with us and all your Church through death to the gate of glory.

Lord, meet us in the silence, give us strength and hear our prayer, here and in eternity. **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand.

Celebrant Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

Community Announcements and Welcome of Visitors

Please be seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE HOLY COMMUNION
*To sustain us until he comes for the final time
the Lord comes to us now in His sacrifice banquet and we receive Him*

The Offertory
Chancel Choir

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

arr., Moses Hogan
African American Spiritual

*Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more holy...Lord, I want to be like Jesus.*

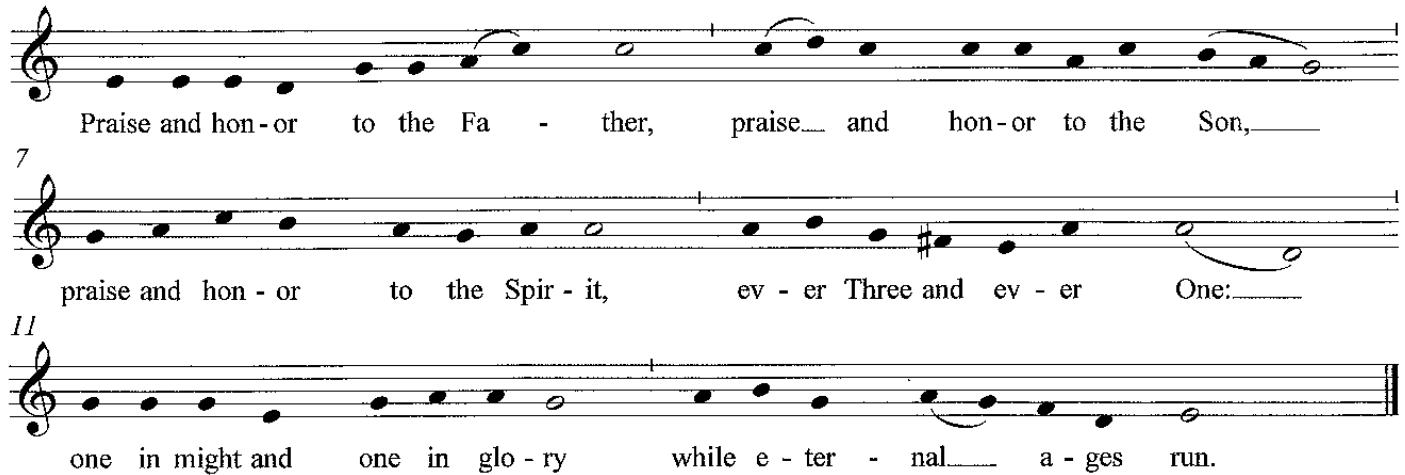
Please stand.

The Presentation Hymn
Blue Hymnal 166

"Praise and Honor to the Father"

PANGE LINGUA

Vs. 6



Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or to the Son,
7
praise and hon - or to the Spir - it, ev - er Three and ev - er One:
11
one in might and one in glo - ry while e - ter - nal a - ges run.

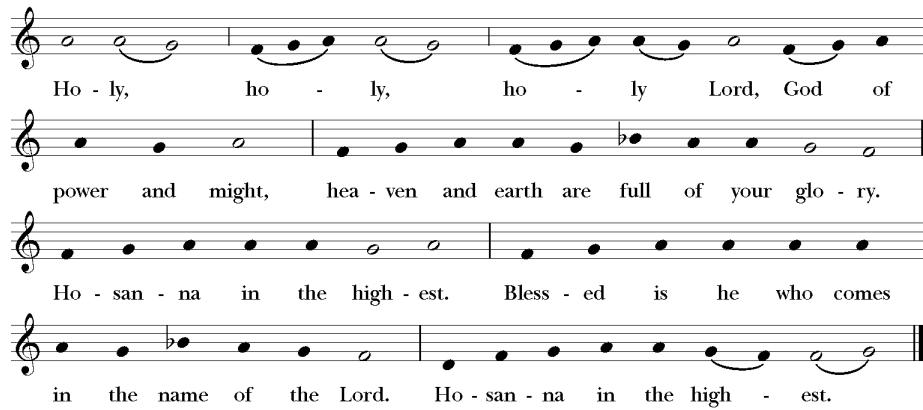
The Great Thanksgiving †

Eucharistic Prayer C

BCP p. 369

Sanctus

Blue Hymnal S122



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
power and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

After the Sanctus, the people remain standing or kneel.

The Lord's Prayer

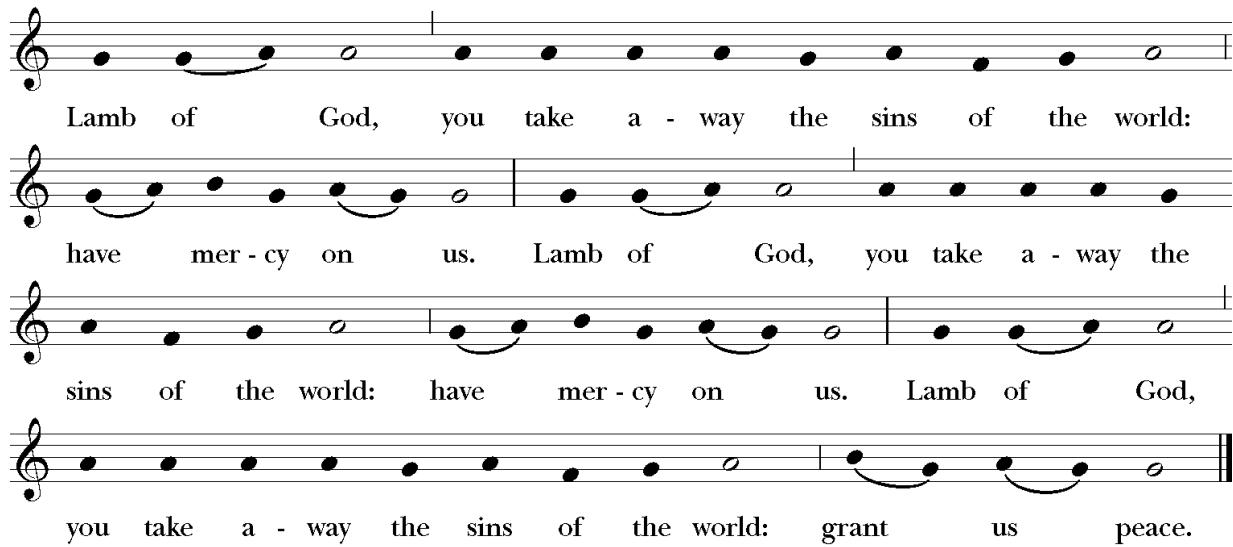
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The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem
Blue Hymnal S160

“Lamb of God”



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

All baptized persons regardless of denomination are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

If you desire a blessing, please come forward and cross your arms over your chest. Gluten-free host is available.

As part of our life together at St. Thomas Church, we continue a ministry practiced by our Lord Jesus Christ – the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. If you wish additional prayer for any reason, please gather around the Baptismal font after you receive Holy Communion. We welcome you to participate in this life-enriching ministry.

Communion Hymn
Green Hymnal 339

“Deck Thyself with Gladness”

SCHMUCKE DICH

The Post-communion Prayer

Please stand or kneel. Celebrant and People together say,

BCP p. 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 OF THE LORD'S PEOPLE

We go out into the world having received the Body and Blood of Christ. As our time of worship ends, our time of service begins.

The Solemn Prayer over the People

Celebrant Bow down before the Lord.

Please kneel as you are able or incline your head.

Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. Amen. Bow down before the Lord.

People **Amen.**

Processional Hymn
Blue Hymnal 493

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

AZMON

The Dismissal

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

Postlude Organ Improvisation



Easter Flowers

The glorious Day of Resurrection is April 9th and the Flower Guild is making preparations to beautify the church building for this most important Feast Day. If you would like to make a donation for flowers appropriate for the day, in memory of a loved one, in thanksgiving for a family member or for a special occasion, please fill in the form below and send it with a check in the amount of \$30 to the church office. The deadline is Monday, April 2nd in order for your dedication to appear in the bulletin. We do hope that you will want to glorify God in this unique ministry for this Holy Day.

<u>Easter Flower Order Form</u>	
Your Name: _____	
Name of person(s) to be remembered: _____ _____	
- or thanksgiving: _____ _____ - _____	

Community Announcements

FACEBOOK LIVE SERVICES

Holy Eucharist, Sunday, 10 am

WOW, WOMEN OF THE WORD

Thursdays at 9:15 am in the Founder's Room

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Study Wednesday at 7:30 am in the Founder's Room.

EVENING CHAPEL SERVICE

Wednesdays at 5:15 pm

SUPPER, SONG, AND PRAYER

Wednesday at 6:00 pm

YOUTH AND CHILDREN

Saturday, April 1st, 1pm – Tall Ships Festival. We will be able to walk on the Tall Ships, but children 6 or under will need to bring and wear their own life jackets. The church will pay for the chaperones' and kids' tickets. Bring your friends!

For all events, reserve tickets by calling or texting Mtr. Anne at 954-253-4414.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

St. Thomas' Art Project with Dee Perconti presents: Stations of the Cross. See Dee's vision of unity through her interpretation of the Stations.

ST. THOMAS' ART PROJECT

The St. Thomas' Art Project invites all congregants and Canterbury School of Florida students, parents, faculty, and staff to help us complete our upcoming art show, Peace Takes Flight. In addition to our origami dove project (please keep folding those doves!) we'd like to have art on the ambulatory walls in the church for our opening reception on **Friday, April 21**. Please see the details on the Draft which can be found on the home page of our website: <https://www.stthomasstpete.org/>



ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1200 Snell Isle Blvd.
St. Petersburg, FL, 33704

The Rev. Ryan R. Whitley, *Rector*

Thanks to those who are helping today ...

Acolytes: David Gould, Luke Evanoff, Caroline Whitley
Altar Guild: Pat Bernfeld, Beth and David Gould
Camera Operator: Matthew White
Coffee Host: Ellen Burkhart
Eucharistic Ministers: Ann Leavine
Healing: Joan and Bill Barns
Lectors 10am: Michael Mahoney, Elise Whitley
Musicians: Chancel Choir, Bells of St. Thomas
Oblations: Gina and Mike White
Prayers of the People: Joan Barns
Ushers: Teri and Lee Coryell

The Rev. Anne Hartley, Curate
The Rev. Martha Goodwill, Deacon
The Rev. Hayden Crawford, Assisting Clergy
Rick Smith, Director of Music
The Rev. Randy Hehr, Interim Organist
Joe Master, Director of Finance
Grace Smith, Director of Communications
Jon Ward, Sexton

Church Telephone: 727-896-9641
Rector's Cell Phone: 727-685-9224
Email: graces@stthomasstpete.org
Website: www.stthomasstpete.org
Facebook: [comeseestthomas](https://www.facebook.com/comeestthomas)

Vestry Members

Class of 2023
Russ Ball
Michelle Jennings, *Jr. Warden*
Ann Leavine, *Treasurer*

Class of 2024
Bill Barns, *Secretary*
Pam Holley
Mary Jane Park, *Sr. Warden*

Class of 2025
Mary Clark
Lee Coryell
Wade Hamby