

March 22nd, 2020

The 4th Sunday In

Lent

10:30 am



This Week...is unusual

Go

Go online. Go inward. Go deeper in your faith.
Go to check on your neighbors.
Just don't go into large groups!

Rest

Take this sabbath time seriously. Stay home.
Put down the busyness of life and live into new habits.
Let this be a time of being present to each other in love,
if not in physical proximity.

We may be apart, but we are not alone!

-Episcopal Church of NH

Online Worship Services for Sunday, 3/22

Online services for Sunday, March 22, will be updated as the information becomes available. REMEMBER ... You do NOT need a Facebook account to join a Facebook Live video. There are instructions available:

www.Delaware.church/covid-19-response

St. Peter's, Lewes

9:00 a.m.

Facebook Live

<https://www.facebook.com/SaintPetersLewes/>

Christ Church, Dover

9:00 a.m.

Webcam Link

<http://christchurchdover.org/cant-make-it-to-church/>

Washington National Cathedral

Every Sunday, the 9 am, 11:15 am, and 4 pm services are webcast live on Youtube and Facebook Live.

Let Us Pray

Please visit our website for news and information.

Under the category "News and Sermons", you will find resources such as:

- online resources for prayer
- Christian blogs
- Christian literary journals

<http://stthomasparish.org/let-us-pray/>

Public Health Information

The Episcopal Church encourages everyone to adhere to the Centers for Disease Control's recommendations to prevent the spread of this virus to not unintentionally harm neighbors at home, at school, at work, or others in the community. Please check in with the DE Dept of Health and Social Services for updates.

<https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/>

God loves you. No exceptions.



The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.

Greetings! We're delighted you are here, and want for you to be comfortable so you can worship God and enjoy your visit today. We suspect you may have some questions. Everybody you see here was a newcomer at one time, and we've *all* had questions- probably some of the same you have today.

In the Episcopal Church, everybody doesn't always do things the same way. But, **when you're worshipping God, you can't get it wrong!** If you need help, ask the person next to you. We are friendly, helpful people here at St Thomas. Please bear in mind, regardless of what anybody else is doing, do what makes *you* comfortable.

Our weekly services:

Sunday 8am- Rite I (spoken Eucharist)

Sunday 10:30am- Rite II (sung Eucharist)

Wednesday 12:00pm- Intercessory Prayer with Holy Eucharist

The Christian life is a source of endless fascination. Just when we think we have seen and heard everything it has to offer, something new turns up. Committing to a life of learning and growing in the faith is an excellent way to make sure there is always enough fuel in the spiritual tank.

Ask, Seek, Knock from Matthew 7:7-8

⁷ "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

There are many opportunities for Christian growth within our parish. We welcome everyone to drop in and check out the many offerings. Our groups include:

- Children's Ministries, age 18mo-6th grade- meet weekly at 9:15am
- Youth CREW, 7th-12th grades- meet semi-weekly at 11:45am
- Youth Confirmation, grades 7 and 8- meet weekly at 9:00am
- ECM, college age students- meet weekly on Weds at 5:30pm
- The Parlor Class, adult ed- meet weekly at 9:15am
- Novel Theology, all ages- meet monthly at 9:15am
- Lectionary Bible Study, all ages- meet weekly on Weds at 10:30am

In addition to these groups, we also welcome the occasional guest speaker or activity during coffee hour, as well as special 6-week lecture series. For more information about any of our educational offerings, please ask any member of the vestry, speak with Fr Howie, or visit our website:

www.stthomasparish.org

Thank you for joining us today, and we hope to see you again soon!

Five minutes before the service begins, the bell in the Great Hall will be rung, calling us to a period of quiet and preparation.

Prelude

At the Procession

Hymnal 493, vv. 1, 6

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People His mercy endures forever.

Celebrant Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."
[Mark 12:29-31]

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

The Kyrie

Kyrie

S-95

The musical notation consists of three measures on a single staff. Each measure begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first measure is labeled 'Solo, then Cong.' and contains the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.'. The second measure is also labeled 'Solo, then Cong.' and contains the lyrics 'Christ, have mer - cy.'. The third measure is labeled 'Solo, then Cong.' and contains the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.'. The notes are primarily quarter notes and half notes, with some phrasing slurs.

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.*

First Lesson

1 Samuel 16:1-13

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

Dominus regit me

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.

Epistle Lesson

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.”

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

Gradual

instrumental procession

All stand

The Gospel

John 9:1-41

Deacon The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Fr Howie

The Nicene Creed

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

With all our heart and all our mind, let us come before the Throne of Grace and ask God's mercy for ourselves and for the whole world.

For the evil we do	Lord, have mercy
For the good we fail to do	Lord, have mercy
For the faith we lack	Lord, have mercy
For the blessings we take for granted	Lord, have mercy
For the grace to turn again and believe	Lord, have mercy
For the light of the Gospel to guide our feet	Lord, have mercy
For the example of the saints to strengthen our faith	Lord, have mercy
For the glory of the Cross to shape our lives	Lord, have mercy
For the Church in every place	Lord, have mercy
For the faithful who suffer for Christ	Lord, have mercy
For those who do not yet believe	Lord, have mercy
For those who have lost their faith	Lord, have mercy
For the nations and peoples of the world	Lord, have mercy
For those who make war and those who make peace	Lord, have mercy
For those driven from their homes by fear	Lord, have mercy
For those blinded by greed and hatred	Lord, have mercy
For our neighbors who go hungry	Lord, have mercy
For our neighbors who are unemployed	Lord, have mercy
For our neighbors who are lonely	Lord, have mercy
For our neighbors who have no hope	Lord, have mercy
For all we love who are sick or in any kind of trouble, those we name now, silently or aloud, and those known only to God	Lord, have mercy
For the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui And for The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and Christian Council	Lord, have mercy
For those who serve in the armed forces, especially those we name now, silently or aloud, and all who risk their lives for others	Lord, have mercy
For all the faithful departed, especially those we name now, silently or aloud, and all those who have gone before us in this parish	Lord, have mercy

Holy God
Holy and mighty
Holy and immortal
Have mercy on us.
Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn

Hymnal 645, vv1, 4, 6

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. 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 S-124

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er 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.

David Hurd

The people stand or kneel.

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."

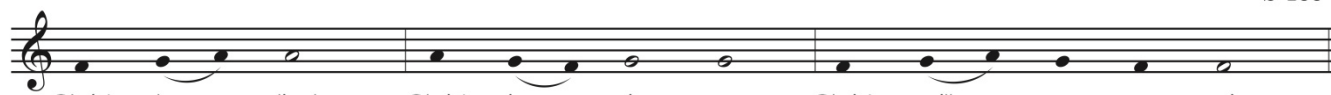
After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Acclamation A

S-133



Christ has___ died, Christ is___ ris - en, Christ will___ come a - gain.

Ambrosian chant

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.

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

All 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

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All Therefore let us keep the feast.

Fraction Anthem

Agnus Dei S-161

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.

David Hurd

Celebrant Behold the Lamb of God,
Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world;
Happy are they who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

***O Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof,
but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.***

The Communion

All baptized persons are invited to receive communion. Extend your palms to receive the bread. For the wine, you may either dip a portion of your bread into the chalice, or drink directly from it. To do so, allow the Eucharistic minister to raise the chalice to your lips, and grasp the base of the chalice to tip it. Those who do not wish to receive communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. Cross your arms in front of your chest when the priest or deacon comes by to let him or her know you would like a blessing.

Communion Hymn

Hymnal 490, v.1

Sending of Lay Eucharistic Visitors (on some Sundays)

Celebrant In the name of God and of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the body and blood of Christ.

All We who are many are one body because we all share in one bread and one cup.

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All 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.

Announcements

Blessing of Birthdays and Anniversaries

The Prayer over the People

At the Procession

Hymnal 671, all vv.

Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Parish Prayer List

Alma	Jane & Family	Pat
Amanda	Jayne	Pat & Dan
Andre	Jenna Puleo	Peter & Mike
Andrea, Lucia, & TJ	Jesson & Family	Phil & Terri
Archer Family	Jim	Phyllis
Arline	Josh	Rashida
Arthur	Josh Moyer	Reginald
Alana Davies	Jule & Family	Reid
BabyDawson	Katy & Family	Roman
Beverly and Larry	Ken & Family	Samuel
Becky	Kevin	Sandy
Beryl	LaneFamily	Shirley
Bob	Lisa	Sondra & Jeff
Bob	Luke	Sophia & Family
Carol	Margaret Haner	SouthFamily
Charles Baxter	Marian & Family	Susan & James
Chaun	Marie	Stanley
Chris & Ginger	Mary & Family	Steven
Cindy	Michael	Thadine
Colin	Michael Farrell	Tom
Dale & Family	Mike & Angie	Thomas
Dave	Mike Reynolds	Tim and Family
Delores	Morgan & Family	Vicki
Elmer	Nan	Vivian
Elsie	Nancy & Family	Wanda
Giorgio & Family	Nathalie & Maya	Wayne
Greg	Nelson	WeaverFamily
HarrisonFamily	Nicole	William McClements
Ina	Nikki & Family	WilsonFamily
James & Clair	Olivia	

We pray for all who serve our country abroad, in the military, in embassies, and in non-governmental organizations, especially...

Adam	James	Marvin
Annie	Joe	Matthew
Ben	Josh	Nate
Bob	Kagen	Nicholas
Bradley	Kate	Stuart
Brett	Kathy	Tina
Brian	Kevin	Tyler
Christie	Luke	Victoria
Dave		

Lord, hear the prayers of thy people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

LEADERSHIP OF SAINT THOMAS'S

The Vestry

Rector's Warden: Joy Lynam
Treasurer: Amy Keach

People's Warden: Mark Burchess
Clerk of the Vestry: Regina McCann

Class of 2020

Joe Corsello
Rejane deMoraes
Regina McCann
Ronnie Wilbur

Class of 2021

Denise Burgher
DJ Ferguson
Barbara Graham
Joy Lynam

Class of 2022

Mark Burchess
LaRue Manning
Jamie Sloan
Kelly Tompkins

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Howell Sasser	704-578-4724	howell.sasser.jr@gmail.com
Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Cecily Sawyer Harmon	302-530-3493	csawhar@udel.edu
Priest Associate: The Rev. Juan George	302-834-8341	georgevjtaurus@yahoo.com
Parish Administrator: Cana Hartman	302-368-4644	cana.hartman@gmail.com
Organist & Choir Director: Marc F. Cheban	302-220-9680	a1b2celeste@yahoo.com
Children's Minister: Belinda Young-Payne		belmar43@aol.com
Pastoral Care: Donna Weaver	302-753-1910	dweaver214@gmail.com
Registrar: Wendy Campbell	302-368-9562	wjcampbell7@yahoo.com
Episcopal Campus Ministry (ECM):		
Denise Burgher, Convening Advisor	323-627-4782	dburgher@udel.edu
Devon Miller-Duggan, Faculty Advisor	302-388-4758	
Sexton: Brian Smith	302-368-4644	

Website	http://StThomasParish.org
Facebook	StThomasEpiscopalChurchNewarkDelaware
Instagram	st.thomas.newark.de
Parish Email	StThomassOffice@googlegroups.com

The parish office is open Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

During Lent, the images on the bulletin covers are black and white photographs of desert landscapes, mostly found in the southwestern US.