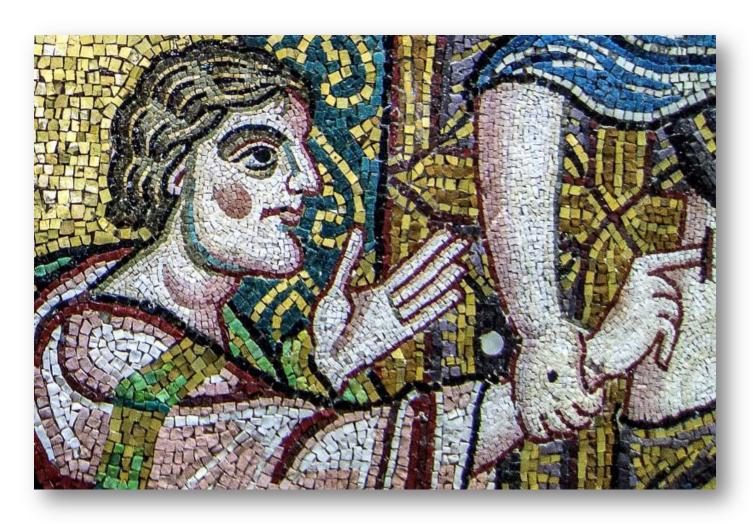
Episcopal Churches of

Saints Nicholas & Thomas



April 19th, 2020

Second Sunday of

EASTER

LIVE on YouTube

Our Prayer

"Let us offer prayers and blessings for all people and all nations of the Earth. Let us bless that, though intense, this will also become a time of conscious awakening and healing for everyone. We know, from the lessons of history, that great difficulties, disasters and challenging times also can strengthen and unify us by dissolving the differences that appear to divide us. Calamities often strengthen us internally, making us more deeply aware of the highest values of life. Troubling times encourages us to work together, to genuinely care for each other. Such events make us more aware of our collective strength when we work together as one united human family. May we grow in unity, love and understanding.

The Lord's Blessings be upon all people and nations affected at this time. May governments and all helpers move in an inspired, co-operative and harmonious way, so that collectively we are able to put right whatever needs to be put right within our capacity. Our prayer is that this disease comes to an end soon. We believe, trust, know this will happen.

This is a prayer for our entire world and its leaders. We pray that the greater, higher Truth which dwells inside us all raise us up in conscious awareness of our true nature and Being so that we become more kind, more open, more loving, wise, peaceful and powerful in the Truth we are. May we live fully in the joy of our real nature in accordance with the will of the Supreme God Almighty."

~ Moojibaba

Online Worship Services for Holy Week

Online services for Holy Week will be updated as the information becomes available. Please check the DE Episcopal Diocese website for a list of online worship opportunities.

www.Delaware.church/covid-19-response

The Episcopal Churches of Sts Thomas and Nicholas will join together to provide online worship opportunities EVERY DAY of Holy Week!

LIVE on YouTube

http://stthomasparish.org/holy-week-2020-and-easter-services-update/

Washington National Cathedral

Palm Sunday (11:15am), Maundy Thursday (7pm), Good Friday (noon), and Easter Sunday (11:15am) 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/



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 worshiping 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. ⁸ For 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



Words: Cyril A. Alington (1872-1955), alt., Copyright © of Hymns Ancient and Modern Limited. St. 5, Norman Mealy (b. 1923) Copyright ©1971 Walton Music Corporation. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: Gelobt sei Gott, Melchior Vulpius (1560?-1616)

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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.

The Gloria



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

Most mighty and merciful God, in this time of great sickness, we flee to you for comfort. Deliver us, we pray, from our peril; give strength and skill to all who minister to the sick; prosper our efforts to protect and heal; and grant that, being aware of the frailty and uncertainty of our life, we may apply our hearts to that heavenly wisdom that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Lesson Acts 2:14a,22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption.

You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 16 Conserva me, Domine

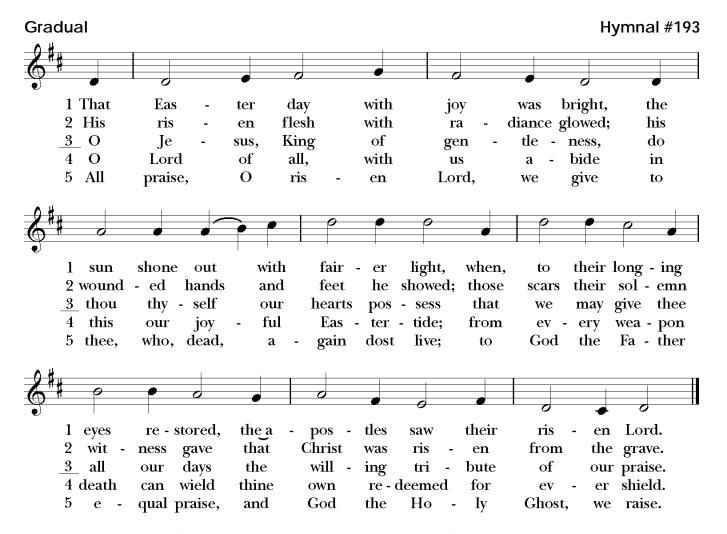
- 1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
 I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord,
 my good above all other."
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, * upon those who are noble among the people.
- 3 But those who run after other gods * shall have their troubles multiplied.
- 4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, * nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.
- 5 O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; * it is you who uphold my lot.
- 6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; * indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 7 I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; * my heart teaches me, night after night.
- 8 I have set the LORD always before me; * because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.
- 9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; * my body also shall rest in hope.
- 10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, * nor let your holy one see the Pit.
- 11 You will show me the path of life; *
 in your presence there is fullness of joy,
 and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Epistle Lesson

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith-- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire-- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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



Words: Latin, 5th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940* Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Puer nobis*, melody from Trier MS., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621); harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern, Revised*, 1950; acc. John F. Erickson (b. 1938) Copyright ©1982 by John Erickson. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

All stand

The Gospel John 20:19-31

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.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon Fr Sasser

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 joy and gladness, let us pray to the Lord.

For the Church throughout the world, that it may be a sign of new life to the weary and the lost, we pray to the Lord. Lord, show us your light.

For all the leaders of the Church, that they may lead us in paths of peace and renewal, we pray to the Lord. Lord, show us your light.

For the nations of the world and those who lead them, that they may strive for justice and a new birth of freedom, we pray to the Lord. Lord, show us your light.

For the peace of the world, that those who use violence and those who condone it may have a change of heart, mind, and soul, we pray to the Lord. Lord, show us your light.

For all whose labor eases our lives, especially those who work in health care, long-term care, and hospice, that they may know themselves to be the hands of God, and may see God's holy angels at work among them, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, show us your light.**

For the sick, the disabled, and all who suffer, especially those we name now, aloud or in our hearts, that they may see new growth from branches long barren, we pray to the Lord. Lord, show us your light.

For St Martha's Church, Bethany Beach, and for the Church of Ireland, that they may know and share the joy of the empty cross and empty tomb, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, show us your light.**

For all who serve in the armed forces and all who go in harm's way to protect others, especially those we name now, aloud or in our hearts, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, show us your light.**

For those who have died, especially those we name now, aloud or in our hearts, that they may have light and peace, and rest with all the saints, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, show us your light.**

With saint and angels, we proclaim:

[All say together]

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death with death, and bringing life to those who dwell in tombs. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Celebrant 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 Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Offertory Hymn LEVAS #43

Because He Lives

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus;

He came to love, heal, and forgive;

He lived and died to buy my pardon,

An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Because He lives I can face tomorrow:

Because He lives all fear is gone;

Because I know He holds the future.

And life is worth the living just because He lives.

How sweet to hold a new born baby,

And feel the pride, and joy he gives;

But greater still the calm assurance,

This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

Refrain

And then one day I'll cross the river;

I'll fight life's final war with pain;

And then as death gives way to vict'ry,

I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

Refrain

Words: Gloria Gaither (b. 1942) and William Gaither (b. 1936)

Music: William Gaither (b. 1936)

Presentation of the Offerings

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.People And also with you.Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

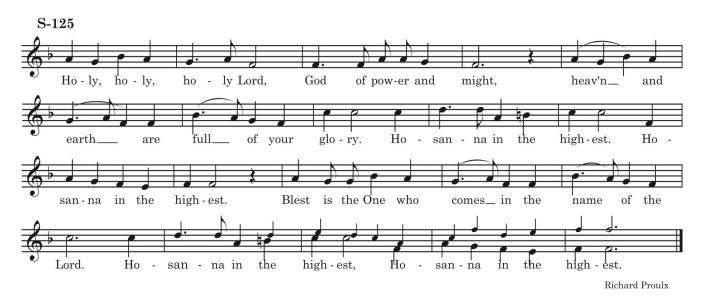
People We lift them to the Lord.

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. [*Proper Preface*] 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



The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by

the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Thomas, Blessed Nicholas and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

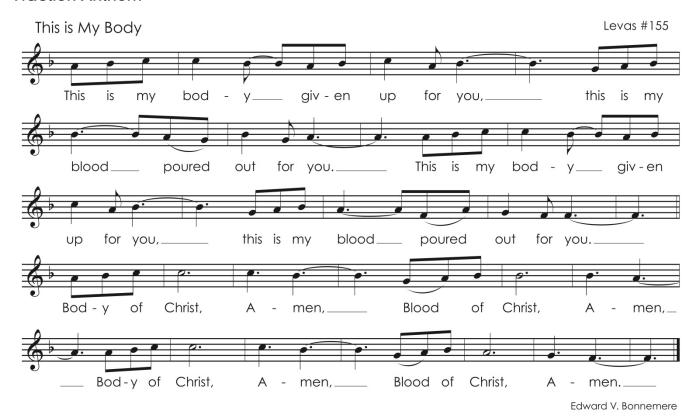
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem



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



Words: Latin, 1632; tr. Robert Campbell (1814-1868), alt. Music: Salzburg, melody Jakob Hintze (1622-1702); harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

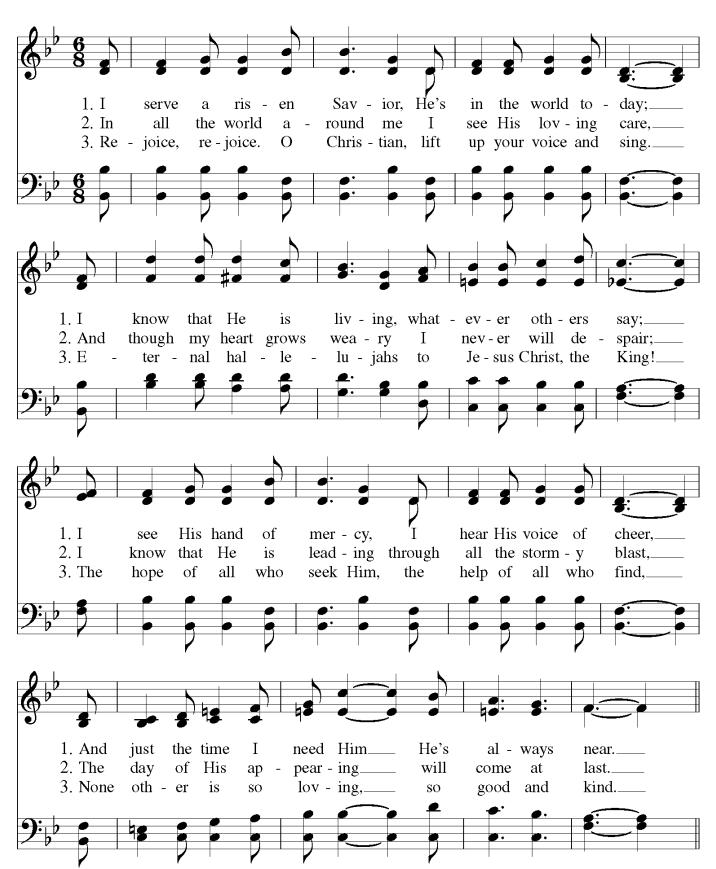
All Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness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

Announcements
Blessing of Birthdays and Anniversaries

The Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

At the Procession LEVAS #42





Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

The leaflet picture this morning is of the Doubting Thomas story. It is of a mosaic in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.