

**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

MARCH 2ND

7:00 PM

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.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Thomas's is alive and well. We are worshiping both in -person with appropriate precautions, and live streaming on YouTube. The full-text bulletins for our services can be found on our website, and by email request. We also continue to respond to the needs of the Newark Community through our collaboration with the Newark Empowerment Center and others. Those who would like to support our work may do so by going to our "Giving to St Thomas's" page on our website.

Our prayers are with all those who are ill, all who are caring for them, and all who are striving to hear the voice of God in these challenging times.

Our weekly services:

- **Sunday 8am- Rite I, spoken**
- **Sunday 10:30am- Rite II, with music**
- **Wednesday 12:00pm- Intercessory Prayer with Holy Eucharist**
- **Thursday 7pm- evening Compline Prayer live via Zoom**

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.

There are many opportunities for Christian growth within our parish. During this time of social distancing, many of our meetings are happening online. Our groups include:

- Children's Ministries, age 18mo-6th grade
- Youth CREW, 7th-12th grades
- Youth Confirmation, 8th grade
- ECM, college age students
- The Parlor Class, adult ed
- Novel Theology, all ages
- Lectionary Bible Study, all ages

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 visit our website: StThomasNewarkDe.church

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 your question in the Live Chat online, speak with anyone in the pews around you or contact Fr Howie directly. 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.

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

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures forever.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; 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

Joel 2:1-2,12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near--a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, `Where is their God?'"

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103

Benedic, anima mea

103:8-14



- 8 You are full of compassion and / mercy, *
slow to anger and of / great kindness
- 9 You will not always ac/cuse us, *
nor will you keep your anger / for ever.
- 10 You have not dealt with us according to our / sins, *
nor rewarded us according to / our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high a/bove the earth, *
so is your mercy great upon those / who fear you.
- 12 As far as the east is from the / west, *
so far have you removed / our sins frm us.
- 13 As a parent cares for a / child, *
so do you care for those / who fear you.
- 14 For you yourself know whereof / we are made; *
you remember that / we are but dust.

Epistle Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand

The Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Deacon The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Fr Sasser

Invitation to a Holy Lent

The Celebrant addresses the people:

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All kneel for a period of silent prayer.

Psalm 51 *Miserere mei, Deus*



- 1 Have mercy on me O God, according to your loving / kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out / my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my / wickedness, *
and cleanse me / from my sin.
- 3 For I know my trans-/ gressions, *
and my sin is ev-/ er before me.
- 4 Against you only have I / sinned *
and done what is evil / in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified / when you speak *
and upright / in your judgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my / birth, *
a sinner from my / mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep with-/ in me *
and will make me understand wis-/ dom secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I / shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be / clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and / gladness, *
that the body you have broken / may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face / from my sins, *
and blot out all my / iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O / God, *
and renew a right spi-/ rit with-in me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your / presence, *
and take not your holy / Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help / again, *
and sustain me with your boun-/ tiful Spirit.
- 14 I shall teach your ways to the / wicked, *
and sinners shall / return to you.
- 15 Deliver me from / death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of / my sal-vation.
- 16 Open my / lips, O God, *
and my mouth shall pro-/claim your praise
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered / sac-rifice, *
but you take no delight in burnt-/ offerings.
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled / spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you / will not despise.

Litany of Penitence

Most holy and merciful Father:

We confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
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, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Peace

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

Offertory Hymn

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Hymnal 142

1. Lord, who through - out these for - ty days for us didst fast and
2. As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend and dist the vic - t'ry
3. As thou didst hu - ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra - cious
4. And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy pas - sion -
5. A - bide with us, that so, this life of suf - fering oy - ver -

pray, teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.
win, O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con - quer sin.
Lord, to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.
tide, yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.
past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

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. 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 Hymnal S-123

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

Mozarabic chant; adapt. Howard E. Galley

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:

Acclamation A

S-133



Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens

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.

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

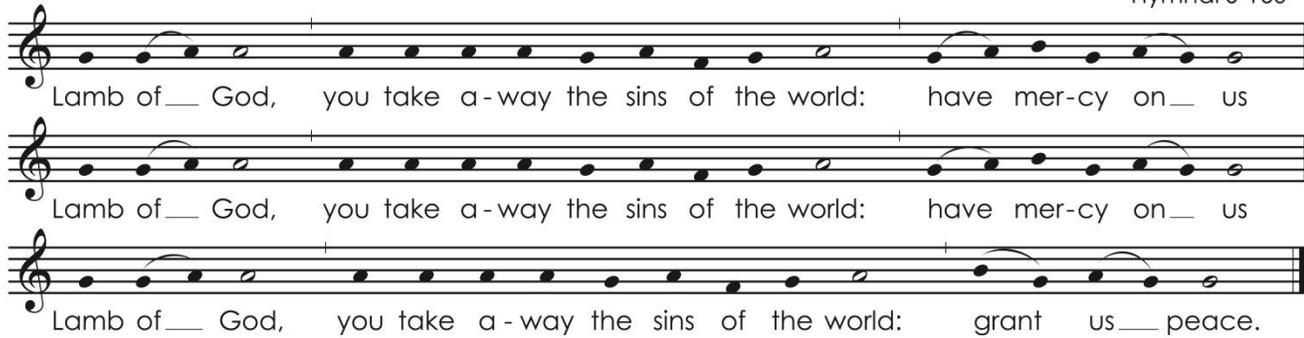
Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Fraction Anthem

Lamb of God

Hymnal S-160



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.

Anaphora chant; Mass 18; adapt. Mason Martens

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.

All 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

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.

The Prayer over the People

Deacon Bow down before the Lord.

Celebrant Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

At the Procession

The Glory of These Forty Days

Hymnal 143



1. The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e - brate with songs of praise; for
2. A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing God who gave the law; and
3. So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered from the li - ions' might; and
4. Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full off in fast and prayer with thee; our
5. O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed, who

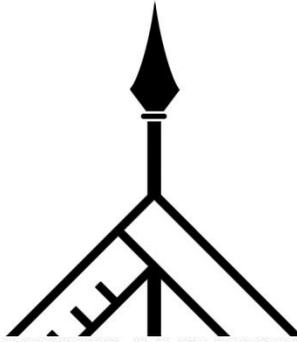


Christ, through whom all things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
to E - li - jah, fast - ing came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
John, the Bride - groom's friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
spi - rits strenth - en with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.
art in three - fold Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**



LEADERSHIP OF ST THOMAS'S

SfThomasNewarkDe.church 302.368.4644

The Vestry

Rector's Warden: Connie Cooper
Treasurer: Amy Keach

People's Warden: Jill Englund Jensen
Clerk of the Vestry: Madeline Johnson

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Jamie Sloan
Kelly Tompkins

Class of 2023
Barbara Graham
Jill Englund Jensen
Madeline Johnson
Kristin Sausville

Class of 2024
Larry Duggan
Cami Seward
Philippa Sunnergren

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