

1ST SUNDAY
IN LENT

MARCH 6TH
5:00 PM

A service of penitence and reconciliation

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 worshipping 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!

Prelude

All stand.

Leader Blessed is our God, now and always.

All Amen.

Leader The Lord be with you.

All An also with you.

Leader 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.

All sit.

Reader A reading from Isaiah

Shout out, do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

"Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;

you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Reader
All

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

All sit or kneel.

Leader Let us recall in the silence of our hearts our role in causing division and brokenness:

Do I recognize the dignity of all people?

Silence

O God, the creator and preserver of all humankind, we humbly pray for all sorts and conditions of men; that you would be pleased to make your ways known to them, your saving health to all nations. More especially we pray for thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by your good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to your fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or spirit; that it may please you to comfort and relieve them according to their needs, giving them patience in their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

The image shows a musical score for a prayer. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Lord have mer - cy u - pon us, Lord have mer - cy u - pon us, Lord have mer - cy u - pon us." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The score ends with a double bar line.

Marc F. Cheban

Do I allow God to speak to me through the lives of the impoverished and marginalized?

Silence

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The image shows a musical score for the prayer "Lord have mercy upon us." It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord have mer - cy u - pon us, Lord have mer - cy u - pon us, Lord have mer - cy u - pon us." The score is written in a simple, accessible style with clear lyrics and musical notation.

Do I strive to remove barriers between people?

Silence

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Lord have mercy upon us". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord have mer - cy u - pon us, Lord have mer - cy u - pon us, Lord have mer - cy u - pon us." The score is written in a standard musical notation style with treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are placed below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

Marc F. Cheban

Do I play my part in creating a fair and just global society?

Silence

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Musical score for the prayer "Lord have mercy upon us". The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Lord have mer - cy u - pon us, Lord have mer - cy u - pon us, Lord have mer - cy u - pon us." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The score concludes with a double bar line.

Lord have mer - cy u - pon us, Lord have mer - cy u -
pon us, Lord have mer - cy u - pon us.

Marc F. Cheban

Do I challenge unjust systems and structures?

Silence

God of grace, giver of every good thing, your Holy Spirit breathes into our hearts and sets our souls on fire: Give us grace and courage to speak your truth with boldness, that the principalities and powers of this world may be turned from oppression and recast in the image of your most holy kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The image shows a musical score for the prayer "Lord have mercy upon us". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord have mer - cy u - pon us, Lord have mer - cy u - pon us, Lord have mer - cy u - pon us." The score is written in a clean, modern style with clear lyrics and musical notation.

Do I use the earth's resources wisely?

Silence

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Musical score for the prayer "Lord have mercy upon us". The score is written for voice and piano accompaniment in a minor key (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system shows the vocal line and piano accompaniment for the first two phrases: "Lord have mer - cy u - pon us, Lord have mer - cy u -". The second system continues with "pon us, Lord have mer - cy u - pon us." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The score concludes with a double bar line.

Marc F. Cheban

Do I allow society to degrade and dehumanize people?

Silence

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this and every land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The image shows a musical score for a prayer. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord have mer - cy u - pon us, Lord have mer - cy u - pon us, Lord have mer - cy u - pon us." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady accompaniment in the bass line. The score ends with a double bar line.

Do I speak out when others are fearful, oppressed or treated unfairly?

Silence

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

The image shows a musical score for the prayer "Lord have mercy upon us." It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord have mer - cy u - pon us, Lord have mer - cy u - pon us, Lord have mer - cy u - pon us." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The score ends with a double bar line.

Do I work to influence my country's foreign and domestic policies?

Silence

O Lord, you rule all things in heaven and on earth: give us the wisdom to understand your will and the strength to work for the justice and mutual respect that are the fruits of our dwelling together in unity; for the sake of your Son, the King of kings and Prince of peace, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The image shows a musical score for a prayer. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord have mer - cy u - pon us, Lord have mer - cy u - pon us, Lord have mer - cy u - pon us." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady rhythm. The accompaniment in the bass staff provides a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines. The score ends with a double bar line.

Do I work for peace not only in my community or country, but throughout the world?

Silence

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The image shows a musical score for the prayer "Lord have mercy upon us." It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lord have mer - cy u - pon us, Lord have mer - cy u - pon us, Lord have mer - cy u - pon us." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The score ends with a double bar line.

Leader

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end war;

For we know that You have made the world in a way that people must find their own path to peace within themselves and with their neighbors.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end starvation;

For You have already given us the resources with which to feed the entire world, if we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to root out prejudice;

For You have already given us eyes with which to see the good in all people, if we would only use them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair;

For You have already given us the power to clear away slums and to give hope, if we would only use our power justly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease;

For You have already given us great minds with which to search out cures and healing, if we would only use them constructively.

Therefore we pray to You instead, O God, for strength,
determination and will,
To do as well as pray,
To become instead of merely to wish.
Amen.

Leader

The peace of the Lord be with you.

All

And also with you.

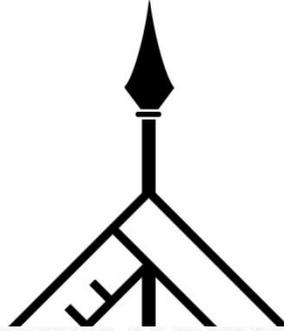
Leader

The grace, mercy, and peace of God with us all tonight and always.

All

Amen.

Postlude



LEADERSHIP OF ST THOMAS'S

StThomasNewarkDe.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

Class of 2022
LaRue Manning
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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