



February 14th, 2024

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**7pm**



# God loves you. No exceptions.

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.



Welcome! It is wonderful have you with us. Everybody you see here was a newcomer at one time, and we've all had questions—possibly like some that you may have today.

The faith community of St. Thomas's Parish believes that everyone has been invited to follow the Way of Jesus, who commands us to love God and to love our neighbors. Therefore, we are committed to embrace and respect people of every age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity; people who live with all mental and physical abilities, in all socio-economic conditions, in all household compositions, and with every citizenship status, including immigrant and refugee; people who hold diverse political and theological backgrounds, beliefs, and questions. Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, as God's beloved, you are worthy and welcome here!

## Today's Service

We are worshipping both in-person and via live-stream on YouTube. Full-text bulletins are distributed at all services and posted on our parish website. At the in-person service, "busy bags" for children and a dedicated sensory-friendly "soft space" can be found at the back of the sanctuary. We follow directions from our diocese for in-person pandemic precautions; masking is currently optional.

We commit ourselves to ensuring that our place of worship is a safe place where all can feel comfortable and know that they are accepted and loved. In the Episcopal church, everybody doesn't always do things in the same way. But **when you're worshipping God, you can't get it wrong!** If you would like help, ask anyone in the pews around you or speak with Fr. Howie.

## Learn More about St. Thomas's

At the end of this booklet, as well as on our website, you will find information about our weekly worship services and about opportunities to learn and grow in the faith through our Christian education programs for all ages. There also you can explore opportunities to join us in service to the Newark community through the Episcopal Campus Ministry and "Blue Hen Bounty" food pantry, through our work in support of the Newark Empowerment Center, through refugee resettlement and other programs of community service.

Thank you for joining us today. Your presence is a blessing to us. Fill out a visitor card in your pew and leave it with a clergy person or an usher if you would like to be contacted. We hope to see you again soon!

<https://stthomasnewarkde.church/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/StThomasEpiscopalChurchNewarkDelaware/>  
<https://www.instagram.com/st.thomas.newark.de/>

*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 have made and forgiven 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.

## 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.**



- 1 Bless the Lord / O my soul, \*  
and all that is within me, bless his / holy Name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, / O my soul, \*  
and forget not all / his benefits.
- 3 He forgives / all your sins \*  
and heals all your in-/ firmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the / grave \*  
and crowns you with mercy and / loving-kindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with / good things, \*  
and your youth is renewed / like an eagle's.
- 6 The Lord executes / righteousness \*  
and judgment for all who / are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to / Moses \*  
and his works to the child-/ ren of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and / mercy, \*  
slow to anger and / of great kindness
- 9 He will not always ac-/ cuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger / for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our / sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to / our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the / earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those / who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the / west, \*  
so far has he removed / our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his / children, \*  
so does the Lord care for / those who fear him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof / we are made; \*  
he remembers that we / are but dust.
- 15 Our days are like the / grass; \*  
we flourish like a flower / of the field;
- 16 When the wind goes over it, it is / gone, \*  
and its place shall know / it no more.
- 17 But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever  
on those who / fear him, \*  
and his righteousness on / children's children;
- 18 On those who keep his / covenant \*  
and remember his command-/ ments and do them.
- 19 The Lord has set his throne in / heaven, \*  
and his kingship has dominion / over all.



- 20 Bless the Lord, you angels of his,  
you mighty ones who do his / bidding, \*  
and hearken to the voice / of his word.
- 21 Bless the Lord, all you his / hosts, \*  
you ministers of his who / do his will.
- 22 Bless the Lord, all you works of his,  
in all places of his do-/ minion; \*  
bless the Lord, / O my soul.

### 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.

### Gradual

*Lead Me, Lord*  
-S.S. Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy righteousness,  
Make Thy way plain before my face.  
For it is Thou, Lord, only, that makest me  
To dwell in safety.

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

### 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.



## Imposition of Ashes

### 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 transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ever 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 within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom 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 spirit within 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 bountiful 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 salvation.
- 16 Open my lips, O Lord, \*  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; \*  
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

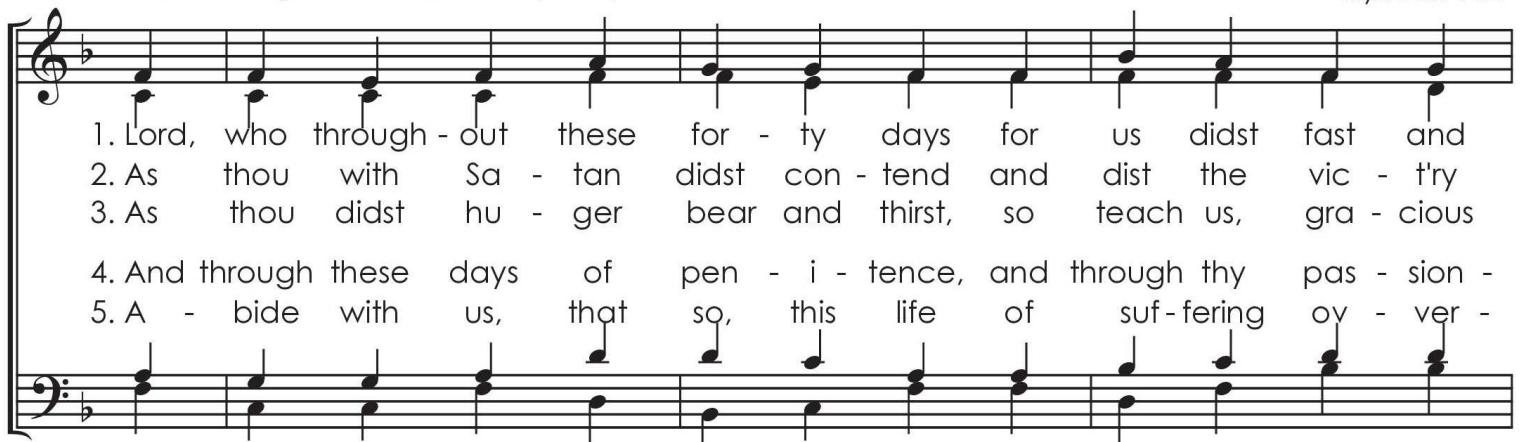
*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** And also with you.

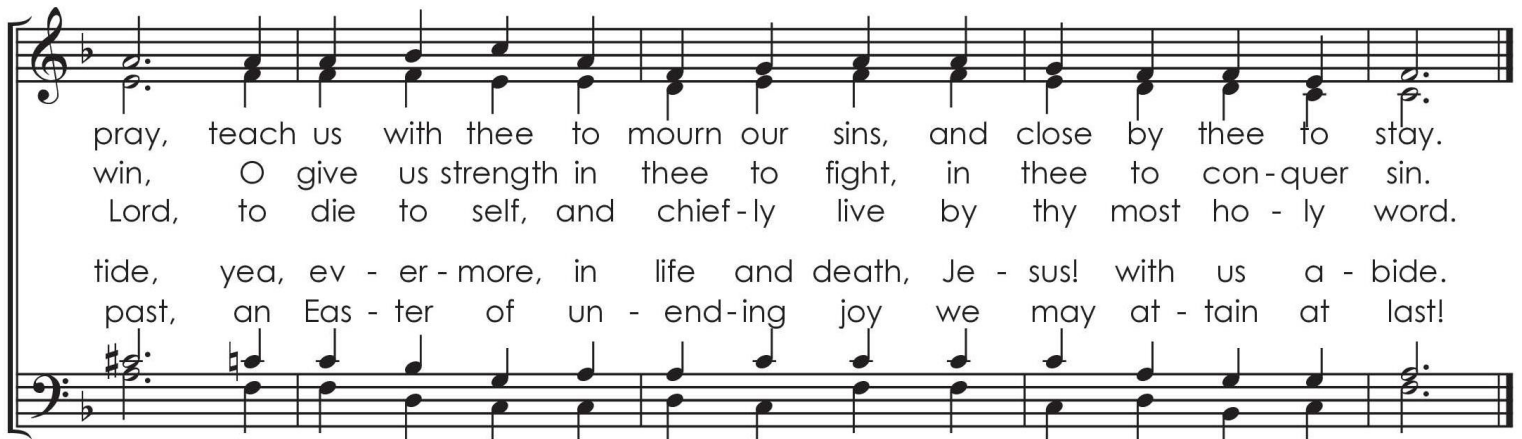
## Offertory Hymn

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

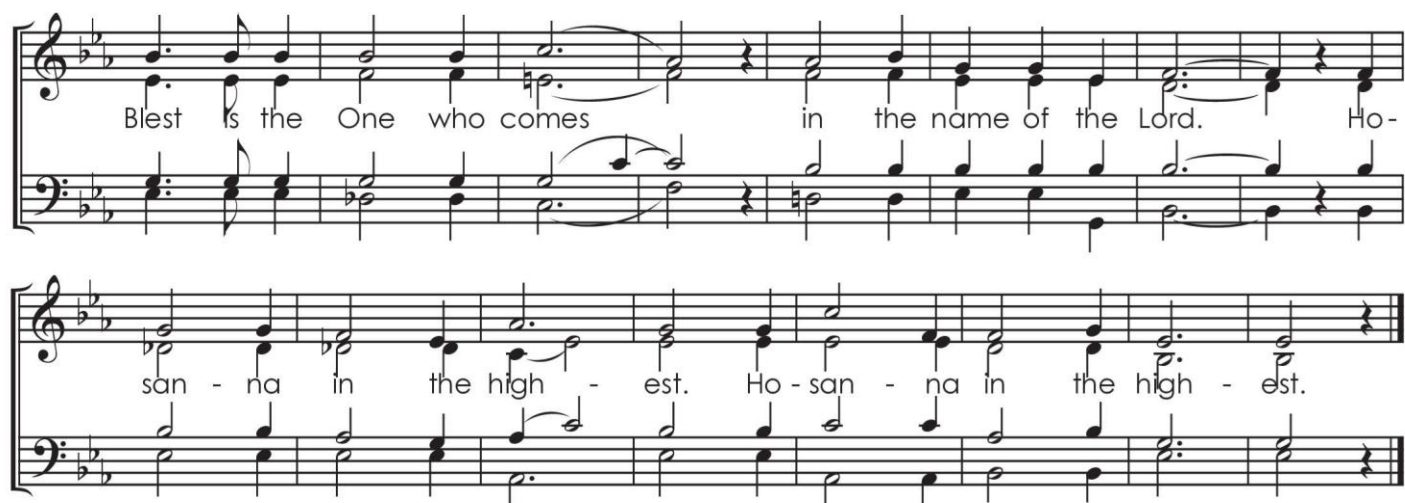
Hymnal S-130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

hea - ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



*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.

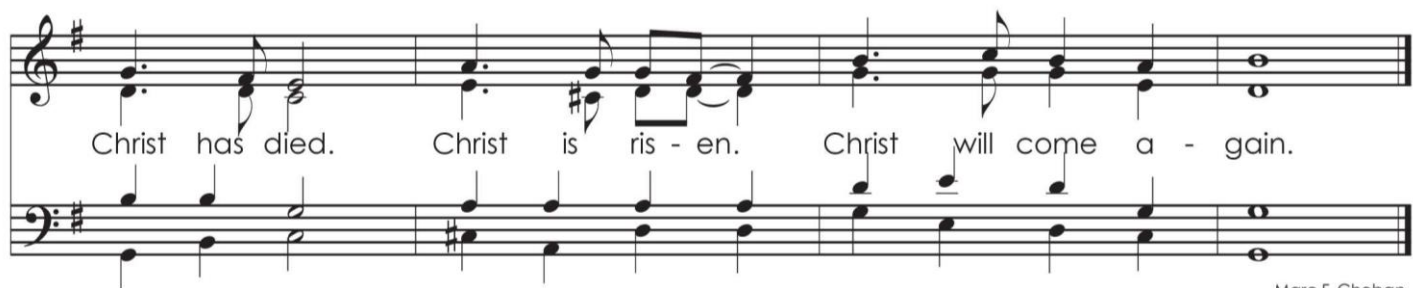
On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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



Marc F. Cheban



*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.**

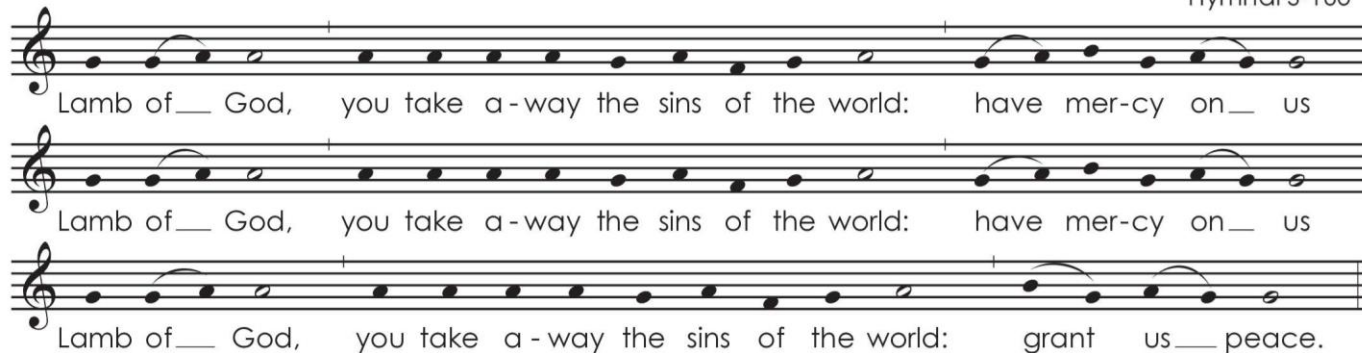
**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
**All** Therefore let us keep the feast.

## Lamb of God

Hymnal S-160



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

*All are welcome to come forward up the center aisle to receive from the priest either the sacrament of Christ or a blessing. If you desire a blessing, cross your arms over your chest. Receive the host in open hands. Gluten-free bread is available; you may request it from the priest when you come to the front of the line. Receiving the wine is optional. To take the wine, drink from the cup or intinct (carefully dip) the bread into the cup. Please use the side aisles to return to your pew. If you are unable to come forward, ask an usher to let the clergy know, and communion will be brought to you.*

- silent prayer-

## 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.

## Processing into the community

### The Glory of These Forty Days

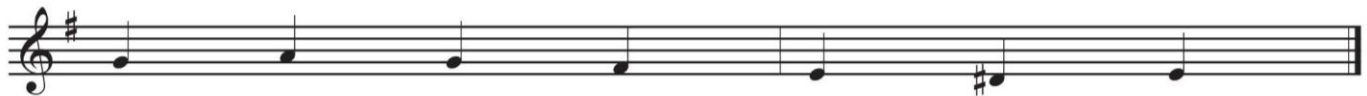
Hymnal 143



1. The\_\_\_ glo - ry\_\_\_ of these for - ty days we cel - e - brate with
2. A - lone and fast - ing\_\_\_ Mo - ses saw the lov - ing God who
3. So\_\_\_ Dan - iel\_\_\_ trained his\_\_\_ mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered from the
4. Then\_\_\_ grant us, Lord, like\_\_\_ them to be full oft in fast and
5. O\_\_\_ Fa - ther, Son, and\_\_\_ Spi - rit blest, to thee be ev - ery



songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all things were made, him -  
gave the law; and to E - li - jah, fast - ing came the  
li - ons' might; and John, the\_\_\_ Bride - groom's friend, be - came the  
prayer with thee; our spi - rits\_\_\_ strength - en with\_\_\_ thy grace, and  
prayer ad - dressed, who art in\_\_\_ three - fold Name a - dored, from



self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
give us joy to see thy face.  
age to age, the on - ly Lord.

## Dismissal

*Deacon* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.



**Please take this service booklet home with you**, and mark your calendar with upcoming events. These dates are also noted on our parish calendar, found in the emailed weekly newsletter "The Carpenter's Helper" as well as through on our website. If you choose to leave this service booklet, please know that it will be recycled as part of our commitment to care for creation.

### **Worship Opportunities:**

- Sundays at 8:00 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I spoken, in-person and via YouTube
- Sundays at 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II with music, in-person and via YouTube
- Wednesdays at noon - Intercessory Prayer with Holy Communion, in-person
- Thursdays at 7 pm - Compline Evening Prayer, live via Zoom

### **Growth and Fellowship:**

- Scheduled Sundays at 9:15 am- adult education in the great hall classroom
  - Check our parish calendar for a complete listing
- Sundays at 10:00 am - Children's Ministries in the Undercroft
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 9:15 am - Novel Theology in the parlor and via Zoom
- Last Sunday of the month - Family Church Sunday
- Last Sunday of the month - Coffee and Fellowship between services
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month- Hope Dining Room service
- Wednesdays at 10:30 am - Lectionary Bible Study

### **Upcoming Parish Events:**

- Feb 14- Valentines Day and Ash Wednesday
- Feb 25- Annual Meeting planning 9-10am
- March 10- Annual Meeting and Daylight Savings
- March 23- Blood Drive
- March 25-30 Holy Week
- March 31- Easter Sunday

If you have anything to add to the [Parish calendar](#) or the [Carpenter's Helper newsletter](#), please email the office at [StThomasOffice@googlegroups.com](mailto:StThomasOffice@googlegroups.com).

To see a full listing of parish worship, events, or news, visit our website:  
[www.StThomasNewarkDE.church](http://www.StThomasNewarkDE.church)



## LEADERSHIP OF ST THOMAS'S

StThomasNewarkDe.church 302.368.4644

### The Vestry

Rector's Warden: Kristin Sausville  
Treasurer: Amy Keach

People's Warden: Philippa Sunnergren  
Clerk of the Vestry: Sally Price

Class of 2024  
Larry Duggan  
Cami Seward  
Philippa Sunnergren

Class of 2025  
Joan Bennett  
Mike Grabowski  
Marilyn Prime

Class of 2026  
Sally Price  
Robert Sido  
Belinda Young-Payne

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