



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 worshiping God**, **you can't get it wrong!** If you would like help, ask anyone in the pews around you or speak with Fr. Howie.

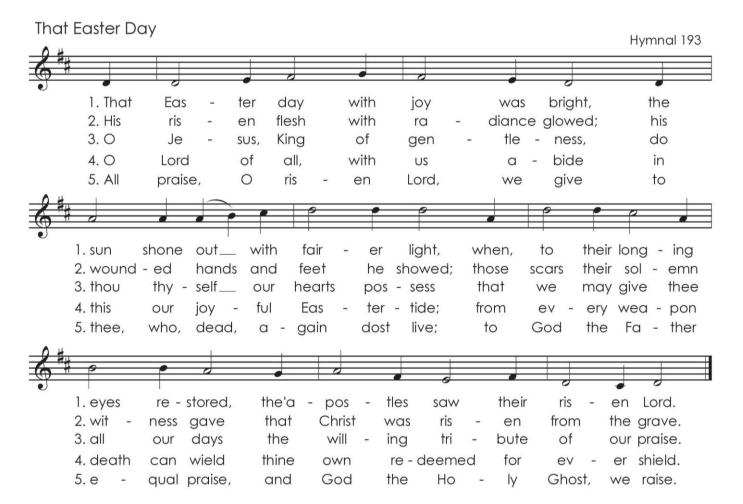
Learn More about St. Thomas's

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 clergyperson or an usher if you would like to be contacted. We hope to see you again soon!

Prelude

Procession standing



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.**

Gloria



Collect

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.

THE LESSONS

First Lesson Acts 4:32-35 seated

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133

Ecce, quam bonum!

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, * when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head * that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, * and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon * that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: * life for evermore.

New Testament Lesson

1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

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

seated at the preacher's invitation

THE NICENE CREED standing

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 human. 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.

Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. Who 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.

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 The Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria, and for St Luke's Church, Seaford, 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:

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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 standing

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

OFFERTORY

Our offerings are an act of worship through which we respond with gratitude to God's grace, love, and mercy, putting our trust in the Lord into action. You may place your offering in the plate, or—you can give electronically though our website (QR code on the back of this booklet) and place an "online giving" card in the plate. With the bread and the wine, these donations are carried to the altar and offered to the Lord on our behalf.

Offertory Hymn



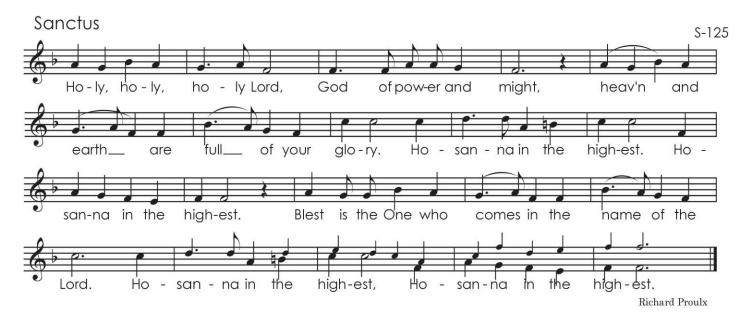
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

We lift them to the Lord. People

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. Celebrant It is right to give him thanks and praise. People

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:



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.

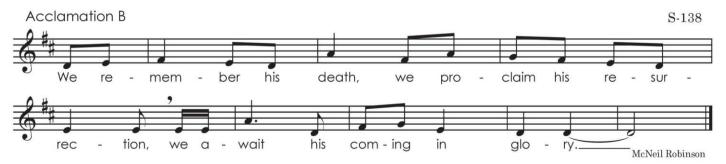
In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

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



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 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,

ΑII

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

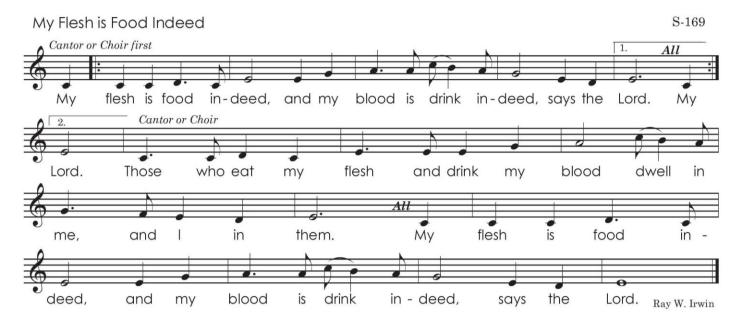
Celebrant

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.

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 it 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.

Announcements
Blessing of Birthdays and Anniversaries

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Processing into the comminuty



Dismissal

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

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
 - o Check our parish calendar for a complete listing
- Sundays at 10:00 am Children's Ministries in the Undercroft
- 3rd 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
- 3rd Monday of the month- Hope Dining Room service
- Wednesdays at 10:30 am Lectionary Bible Study

Upcoming Parish Events:

- April 13th Martha Baumeister funeral, in the morning
- April 28th visit from Bishop Brown, 10:30am service, lunch following
- May 19th Pentecost, outdoor worship and picnic

If you have anything to add to the <u>Parish calendar</u> or the <u>Carpenter's Helper newsletter</u>, please email the office at StThomassOffice@googlegroups.com.

To see a full listing of parish worship, events, or news, visit our website: www.StThomasNewarkDE.church

Parish Calendar

Monday, 4/8

- (U) Private Meeting, 6-7:30pm
- (G) Scottish Dancing, 7-9:30pm

Tuesday, 4/9

- (G) Private Meeting, 4:30-6:30pm
- (G) Ballroom Dancing, 6-10pm
- (U) AA group, 8-9:30pm

Wednesday, 4/10

- (C) Lectionary Bible Study, 10:30-11:30am
- Service of Intercessory Prayer, 12-1pm
- (G, K) Private meeting 6-9pm

Thursday, 4/11

- (Z) Compline Evening Prayer, 7pm
- (G) Bluegrass acoustic jam 7:15-10pm

Friday, 4/12

- (C) Blue Hen Bounty, 9am-12pm
- (P) Al-Anon, 11:30am-1:30pm
- (P) Women's AA Group, 6:30-7:30pm

Saturday, 4/13

- (S) Martha Baumeister funeral, am
- (S, G) Vocal recital 7:15pm

Sunday, 4/14

- Holy Eucharist, Rite I spoken, 8-8:45am
- Sunday School, 10:15am
- Holy Eucharist, Rite II with music, 10:30-11:45am
- (P) Vestry Meeting 12-1pm
- (G) Private Meeting, 3-6pm
- (G) Ballroom Dancing, 6-10pm

Location key:

- (C) Classroom off the Great Hall
- (G) Great Hall
- (Gr) Grove
- (K) Kitchen
- (M) Music Room
- (P) Parlor
- (S) Sanctuary
- (U) Undercroft
- (Z) Zoom

Parish Prayer List

Chuck & Paula R Adele T Archer family Claire L Art W Connie L Austin M & Krissy V Court W Barbara S D Green Barry G Dana Bernice R Daphne D Betty H David W Blackman family Denise B Dennis R Bob M Bob P Devon MD Bob S Diane B Bob T Elaine W Brendan S Elmer T Brennan family Erin & family Brighton P Flora R Carew family Frank W Carl J Fred & Lori Carol G Freddie B Carol M Geoff C Carolyn V George H Cecily SH Gina H

Charles B Giorgio & family Charlie H Harrison family Charlie M & Ellen S Janice F Chaun Jean & Richard P Chris C Jeff S Chris E Jim B Chris G Jim R Christine & Erich Jim T Christine A & Francis John D

John M

Christine D

John S Jonny K Judy B Julie June G Karen R Kari F Kathrvn D Kay Kelly K Krista B Lane family Larry Laura G Liz R Lorraine CS Mara, Mike, & Martha K

Marge C

Margy H

Maria P Marian S & family Marianne A Martha M Mary T Maryanne & Bob Matt S Michael C Mike G

Morgen and family Mullens family Nancy G

Nicholas

Pam D

Pat & Emmett J

Paula B Reggie I

Richardson family

Rick R Ricky G Rory Sabhi Shannan D Shannon A Sharon O Sheron H Shirley B Sondra B Sophie A South family Stacey & family Stephen M Stover B

Susan & family Terri B Thomas M

Tom H Tom P Tom S Vicki G Walelgne

Sue L

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

Adam Christie J Annie R Duncan P Ben Grace H Bob James Bradley Jeremy Brett Joe Brian Josh Charlie K Kagen

Stacy Kate Kathy Stuart Kevin Tina Luke Tyler Victoria Marvin Matthew Nate

To update or add to our parish prayer list, please contact the office or speak with Fr Howie directly. Please include a last name initial, and let us know if your loved one would like to be contacted by our pastoral care ministry or have a visit from a priest.

April Birthdays

David Payne	April 3
Judy Grabowski	April 6
Julie Hall	April 8
Dawn Law	April 10
Catherine Westbrook	April 10
Francine Belinski	April 14
Joline Fincher	April 14
Tracy Tunis	April 14
Donna Weaver	April 15
Lisa DiRenzo	April 16
George Grier	April 16
Tammy Gregg	April 18
Barbra Eldred	April 22
Georgio Melloni	April 22
Dan Moore	April 23
Cameron Mathias	April 29

April Anniversaries

Frank & Stephanie Belinski	April 24
Brook & Nicole Cebula	April 25
Bob & Cathy Wojewodzki	April 25





LEADERSHIP OF ST THOMAS'S

StThomasNewarkDe.church 302.368.4644

The Vestry

Rector's Warden: Marilyn Prime Treasurer: Amy Keach People's Warden: Joan Bennett Clerk of the Vestry: Sally Price

Class of 2025 Joan Bennett Mike Grabowski Marilyn Prime <u>Class of 2026</u> Sally Price Robert Sido Belinda Young-Payne Class of 2027 Mark Bastianelli Jinglan Redder Justin Sausville

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