



# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR B

Liturgy of the Word

February 28, 2021 10 A.M.

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## VOLUNTARY

Clair de lune

Claude Debussy (1861–1918), *Suite bergamasque*, c1890

*The invitation to worship is sounded with the ringing of the bell.*

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

**Presider:** Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**People:** **God's mercy endures for ever.**

*Presider*

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

*Presider*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. [*Silence is kept.*]

*Presider and People*

**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.**

*Presider*

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.**

**KYRIE**

**S 94, *The Hymnal 1982***

The musical score consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is for the vocal line, with lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' The second staff is for the piano accompaniment, with lyrics 'Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.' The third staff is for the vocal line, with lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' The score is divided into two sections: 'Cantor or Choir' and 'All'.

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**Presider:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Presider:** Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**THE FIRST LESSON**

**GENESIS 17:1-7,15-16**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

- 22 Praise the LORD, you that fear him; \*  
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;  
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
- 23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;  
neither does he hide his face from them; \*  
but when they cry to him he hears them.
- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: \*  
“May your heart live for ever!”
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, \*  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; \*  
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \*  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him; \*  
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \*  
the saving deeds that he has done.

**THE SECOND LESSON****ROMANS 4:13-25**

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned

to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

The God of Abraham praise (401, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 The God of A - braham praise, who reigns en - throned a - bove;  
2 He by him - self hath sworn: we on his oath de - pend;  
3 There dwells the Lord, our King, the Lord, our Right - eous - ness,  
4 The God who reigns on high the great arch - an - gels sing,  
5 The whole tri - um - phant host give thanks to God on high;

1 An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love;  
2 we shall, on ea - gle - wings up - borne, to heaven a - scend:  
3 tri - um - phant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace;  
4 and "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," cry, "Al - might - y King!  
5 "Hail, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!" they ev - er cry;

1 the Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con - fessed:  
2 we shall be - hold his face, we shall his power a - dore,  
3 on Zi - on's sa - cred height his king - dom he main - tains,  
4 Who was, and is, the same, and ev - er - more shall be:  
5 hail, A - braham's Lord di - vine! With heaven our songs we raise;

we bow and bless the sa - cred Name for ev - er blest.  
and sing the won - ders of his grace for ev - er - more.  
and, glo - rious with his saints in light, for ev - er reigns.  
e - ter - nal Fa - ther, great I AM, we wor - ship thee."  
all might and ma - jes - ty are thine, and end - less praise.

Words: Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt. Music: *Leoni*, Hebrew melody; harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, alt.

THE GOSPEL

MARK 8:31-38

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

**Presider:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## THE SERMON

### THE NICENE CREED

*Presider and People*

**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:**

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly 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,  
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.**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** [*The Rev. Keri Aubert*]

*Intercessor and People*

Even the most barren landscapes contain seeds of life awaiting a season favorable for emergence. With gratitude for God's creative and re-creative power, we pray for the church and for the world.

We pray for Christ's one holy catholic and apostolic church, that all who proclaim Jesus' name may find unity of purpose in humble service to others. Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy.**

We pray for all in authority around the world, including the elected and appointed officials of this nation, that they may see in every person the image of God. We pray especially for the President and Vice-President, Congress, Supreme Court, governors of all states, and mayors of all towns. Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy.**

We pray for all that you have created and named good, especially the land, sea, sky, and life surrounding us, that it may be cherished in the present and preserved for the future. Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy.**

We pray that our nation will continue the turning necessary to resolve its sinful legacy of slavery and racism, that all Americans may at last attain the promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy.**

We pray for St. Thomas's Church and Day School, that we may continue to cultivate our unique gifts for making this a better world. Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy.**

We pray for the children and youth of this and every community, that they may know love and safety, and grow in wisdom and kindness. Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy.**

We pray for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, that they may find solace, strength, and healing. Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy.**

We pray for all who have been most touched by the coronavirus pandemic, especially those who have lost loved ones, those suffering from lingering health effects, and those who work in health care, that they may know peace. Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy.**

We pray for those who have died, that they may join the saints in your eternal glory. Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy.**

We pray for the intercessions and thanksgivings that we now name before you, either silently or aloud. [*You may unmute yourself to offer a prayer intention.*]

Presider

God of compassion, hear the prayers of your people: help us look past the temporary desolation of our earthly trials, and reach toward the eternal majesty of your heavenly kingdom, where all divisions dissolve, all creation prospers, and all believers rejoice; we pray through our redeemer Jesus Christ, in our advocate the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Your ongoing financial support of St. Thomas's Church is especially appreciated at this time. To give online with a debit or credit card, go to the Home page of the Church website ([www.stthomasnewhaven.org](http://www.stthomasnewhaven.org)), and click GIVE NOW. If you are viewing this document electronically, you can simply [CLICK HERE](#). Know also that the Church office is able to process checks that have been mailed. Thank you!*

## HYMN

How firm a foundation (636, *The Hymnal* 1982)

1 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
2 "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed!  
3 "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
4 "When through fier-y tri-als thy path-way shall lie,  
5 "The soul that to Je-sus hath fled for re- pose,

1 is laid for your faith in his ex-cel-lent word!  
2 For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
3 the riv-ers of woe shall not thee o-ver-flow;  
4 my grace, all-suf-fi-cient, shall be thy sup-ply;  
5 I will not, I will not de- sert to its foes;

1 What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
2 I'll strength-en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
3 for I will be with thee, thy trou-bles to bless,  
4 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on-ly de-sign  
5 that soul, though all hell shall en-deav-or to shake,

1 to you that for ref-uge to Je-sus have fled?  
2 up-held by my right-eous, om-ni-po-tent hand.  
3 and sanc-ti-fy to thee thy deep-est dis-tress.  
4 thy dross to con-sume, and thy gold to re-fine.  
5 I'll nev-er, no, nev-er, no, nev-er for-sake."

*Optional Interlude*

Words: K. in John Rippon's *Selection*, 1787, alt. Music: *Foundation*, melody from *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harmon. Calvin Hampton (1938-1984) Copyright ©1984, Calvin Hampton. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

*You are invited to say the Lord's Prayer in the language of your choice.*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,**

**as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## A PRAYER OF COMMUNION *[The Rev. Keri Aubert]*

*Presider and People*

**Holy God, we are your people,  
bound to you by Jesus Christ,  
through whom you assumed our fleshly vulnerability,  
and in whom we find salvation and reconciliation.  
We remember his birth, and grow in joy;  
we remember his life, and grow in love;  
we remember his passion, and grow in compassion;  
we remember his resurrection, and grow in hope;  
for all this, we give thanks.  
As we course through our days,  
make us ministers of your abiding Word,  
with the power of your eternal Spirit. Amen.**

## THE SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

*Presider*

Bow down before the Lord. *[Silence is kept.]* Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

**Presider:** Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

Steal away

Steal away to Jesus!  
Steal away home,  
I ain't got long to stay here.

My Lord calls me, He calls me by the thunder;  
The trumpet sounds within-a my soul:  
I ain't got long to stay here.  
Green trees are bending,  
Poor sinner stands a-trembling.

Words: Traditional Music: Harry T. Burleigh (1866–1949)

*After the Anthem, you are invited to stay online for virtual Coffee Hour. Please see the Parish Enews for the latest announcements and information.*

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## **Announcements**

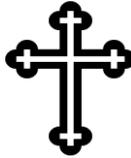
*Stay in touch! Subscribe to the Weekly Parish Enews and “like” St. Thomas’s on Facebook.*

**Bible Study, Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. - March 4, Week 4: Royal Psalms.** We are using the [Yale Bible Study - Psalms](#) curriculum. Details are in the Enews.

**The Practice of Prayer.** When times are really hard, a short prayer can go a long way. This one, from St. Columba, the 6th century Irish abbot and evangelist who established the monastic community on Iona, is a simple invocation of God's protection.

### ***A Prayer from St. Columba***

My dearest Lord,  
Be Thou a bright flame before me,,  
Be thou a guiding star above me,  
Be Thou a smooth path beneath me,  
Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me,  
Today and evermore.



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## Serving Today

**Presider & Preacher:** The Rev. Keri Aubert

**Musician:** Dr. Noah Horn

**Lectors:** Jennifer Herdt, Bob Herdt

**Intercessor:** Claire Scully

## This Week's Prayer Intentions

**Pray for those on our Parish prayer list:**  
Sally, Franklin

**Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:**  
all who are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including those who work in healthcare and those who have lost their livelihood

**Pray for those have died, especially:**  
William Echols (father of Greg),  
the more than 500,000 people who have died  
of COVID-19 in the United States

**In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of Prayer, pray for:**

St. David's, Gales Ferry; St. James', Glastonbury; St. Luke's, Glastonbury; Christ Church, Greenwich; Prison ministry and prison chaplains; the ECCT Faith Behind Bars & Beyond Ministry Network

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:**  
Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

**In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, pray for:**  
Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands

## Leadership at St. Thomas's

### Church Vestry

Greg D'Andrea (Senior Warden)

Linda Meyer (Junior Warden)

Bill English (Treasurer)

Denise Terry (Clerk)

Valerie Garlick

Claire Scully

Sara Zampierin

The Rev. Keri Aubert (Rector)

### Church (Volunteer) Associate Priests

The Rev. Canon K. Dexter Cheney

The Rev. Jakki Flanagan

### Day School Board of Trustees

Gina Criscuolo (Chair)

John Forrest (Vice-Chair)

Heather Tookes Alexopoulos (Treasurer)

Eileen O'Donnell (Secretary)

Alexander Babbidge      Christopher Cavallaro

William English      Jeralyn Fantarella

Linda Meyer      Kenneth Paul

Denise Terry (Parish Junior Warden)

The Rev. Keri Aubert (President, Day School Corp.)

Gina Panza (Head of School)

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## ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

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Day School: (203) 776-2123 ♦ [www.stthomasday.org](http://www.stthomasday.org)