



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY, YEAR B

Liturgy of the Word

January 31, 2021 10 A.M.

INTROIT

O magne Pater

O magne Pater
 in magna necessitate sumus
 nunc igitur obsecramus te
 per verbum tuum
 per quod nos constituisti
 plenos quibus indigemus
 nunc placeat tibi Pater
 quia te decet ut aspicias in nos
 per adiutorium tuum
 ut non deficiamus
 et ne nomen tuum in nobis obscuretur
 et per ipsum nomen tuum
 dignare nos adjuvare.

O Father great,
 in great necessity we are.
 Thus we now beg of you
 according to your Word,
 through whom you once established us
 full of all that we now lack.
 Now may it please you, Father,
 as it behooves you—look upon us
 with your kindly aid,
 lest we should fail again
 and, lost, forget your name.
 By that your name we pray—
 please kindly help and bring us aid.

Words and Music: Hildegard of Bingen (1098–1179)

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

HYMN

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim (535, *The Hymnal* 1982)

1 Ye ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,
 2 God rul - eth on high, al - might - y to save;
 3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne!
 4 Then let us a - dore, and give him his right:

and pub - lish a - broad his won - der - ful Name;
 and still he is nigh: his pres - ence we have.
 Let all cry a - loud, and hon - or the Son.
 All glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,

the Name all - vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol:
 The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,
 The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
 and hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a - bove,

his king - dom is glo - rious; he rules o - ver all.
 as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus our King.
 fall down on their fa - ces, and wor - ship the Lamb.
 and thanks nev - er - ceas - ing and in - fi - nite love.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.
 Music: *Paderborn*, melody from *Catolisch-Paderbornisches Gesang-buch*, 1765; harm. Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947)

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Presider

Let us confess our sins to God. [*Silence is kept.*]

Presider and People

God of all mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned against you,
 opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,
 in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
 the evil we have done,
 and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
 through our Savior Jesus Christ,
 that we may abide in your love
 and serve only your will. Amen.**

Presider

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20

Moses said: The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 111

Daniel Pinkham

1 Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! *

they are studied by all who delight in them.

3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, *

and his righteousness endures for ever.

4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; *

the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

5 He gives food to those who fear him; *

he is ever mindful of his covenant.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works *

in giving them the lands of the nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *

all his commandments are sure.

8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *

because they are done in truth and equity.

- 9 He sent redemption to his people;
 he commanded his covenant for ever; *
 holy and awesome is his Name.
- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *
 those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
 his praise endures for ever.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ALLELUIA

(121, *Enriching Our Music 2*)

1
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

2
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

3
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Setting: Adapt. from *Exsultate, Jubilate* by W.A. Mozart (1756–1791).

Cantor: I will worship toward thy holy Temple and praise thy name.
It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD;
and to sing praises unto thy Name, O Most Highest.

The People sing the Gospel Alleluia again.

THE GOSPEL

MARK 1:21-28

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

[The Rev. Kay Sylvester, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Tustin, CA]

Presider and People

This is what we know to be true:

out of the chaos of the waters,
God spoke light and life into the world,
creating all things to contain God's glory
and display God's love.

This is what we know to be true:

In the midst of the chaos and beauty of human life,
Jesus was born.
He lived a life completely full of God.
He fed and healed, taught and turned the world upside down.
He spoke the truth of love to power
and died with that truth intact.
The Risen Christ lives among us and within us,
that we might do even greater things.

This is what we know to be true:

The Holy Spirit, like breath, like wind,

is the power of God moving over and through us.
By the power of the Spirit,
we proclaim God's kingdom and serve God's world.

This is what we know:

We are God's, because God loves us. Amen.

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

Presider

Joining our hearts in hope and faith, let us pray to God, saying, "Light of Christ, shine on all creation."

Intercessor and People

Flame of abundant love, give us joy in proclaiming your Good News to the world. We pray for your universal church and for all ministers of your Word. Light of Christ, **shine on all creation.**

Ember of steadfast presence, fuel our passion to challenge injustice and violence, and to pursue peace and reconciliation. We pray for this nation and for all the nations of the world. Light of Christ, **shine on all creation.**

Star of wondrous glory, lead us to care for this fragile earth, our island home. We pray for the land on which we stand, the waters that surround us, and the creatures that inhabit them. Light of Christ, **shine on all creation.**

Lamp of eternal wisdom, guide us as we seek and follow you. We pray for St. Thomas's Church and Day School, and especially for the leaders who are listening to hear the guidance of your Spirit. Light of Christ, **shine on all creation.**

Radiance of boundless compassion, direct our hands to your loving service. We pray for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the homeless, and for all those in any need or trouble. Light of Christ, **shine on all creation.**

Spark of true liberation, send us your redeeming and reconciling grace. We pray for the dying and the dead. Light of Christ, **shine on all creation.**

We pray for the appreciations and concerns that we now share aloud or carry in our hearts.
[You may unmute yourself to offer a prayer intention.]

Presider

Holy God, you embrace the whole universe and sanctify all you have created: continually manifest in our hearts the constant awareness of your affection and the persuasive revelation of your desire, and thereby prepare us to offer our voices and bodies as courageous and confident bearers of the Good News of your light and love; through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

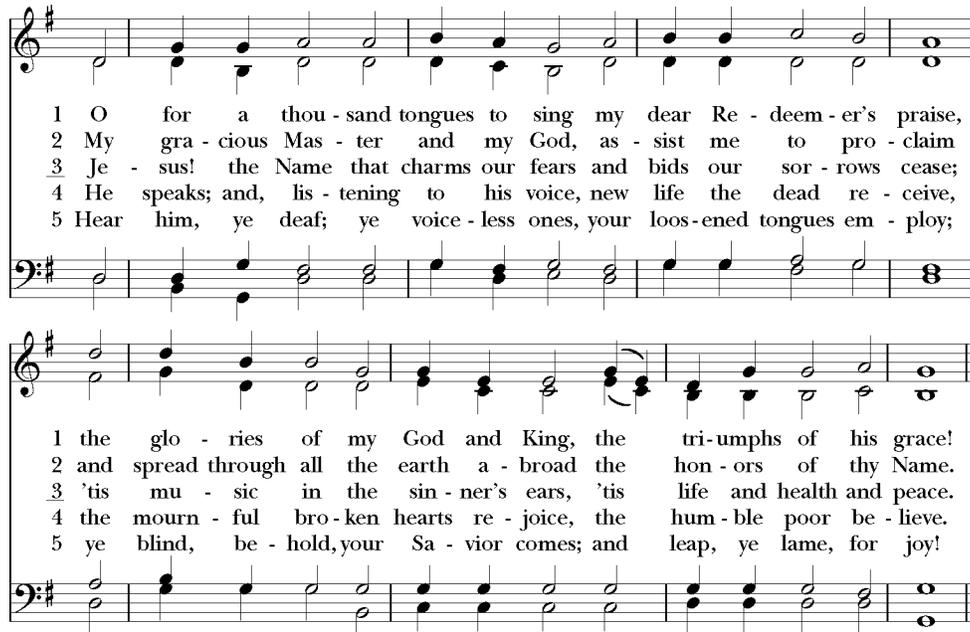
People: **And also with you.**

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), 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

O for a thousand tongues to sing (493, *The Hymnal 1982*)



The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'O for a thousand tongues to sing'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass clef staff. The first system contains five lines of lyrics, and the second system contains five lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and a steady rhythm.

6 Glory to God and praise and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heayen.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Azmon, Carl Gotthilf Gläser (1784-1829); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

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

God of abundant love, we thank you for nurturing us with this holy gathering of holy people. When we are alone, remind us of the communion we share with one another and with you. When we are hungry, show us the banquet that you are preparing for the redemption of the world. Keep peace in our hearts, so that we can sow peace in the world, walking in gladness the way of your beloved child, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Presider

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Presider: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Ubi caritas

Ubi caritas et amor Deus ibi est
congregavit nos in unum Christi amor
exsultemus et in ipso jucundemur
timeamus et amemus Deum vivum
et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen.

Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
Let us fear and love the living God.
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.

Words: 8th-century Music: Maurice Duruflé (1902–1986), Op. 10, 1960

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.

St. Thomas's Parish Annual Meeting: TODAY, during our Zoom Coffee Hour. You'll elect parish leaders and get a report on the 2021 parish budget, all with a streamlined agenda. Please plan to grab a drink and a snack and join us.

Our Racial Reconciliation Book Club. Second of a two-part discussion of "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents" by Isabel Wilkerson: **Tuesday, February 2, at 7 p.m. by Zoom.** Denise Terry will moderate the discussion. Use the usual church Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/5185223842>.

Farewell, Elizabeth! Elizabeth Peters has recently moved to Salem, OR, to take a new job at the archives at Willamette University (the oldest university west of the Mississippi). She greatly regrets not being able to say goodbyes in person, but hopes to come by for a visit sometime when she is back in Connecticut to see family.

ECCT RHJ&R Meditation Series. ECCT's Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation Network, in conjunction with ECCT's Office of Mission Communications and Media, is sponsoring a Sunday meditation series to cap our initial two-year Season of Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation. This is a series of pre-recorded meditations by both clergy and lay members of the ECCT and allies. The series launched on October 11 and will run through February 7th with a meditation offered by Bishop Ian Douglas. Here's a link to the meditations to date as part of a YouTube playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnl1aa6ZBZrjNiVcG8RZq5VdH1ojrgA7z>



Serving Today

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Keri Aubert
Musician: Dr. Noah Horn
Lectors: Jenny Chavira, Bob Herdt
Intercessor: Jocelyn Tidwell

This Week's Prayer Intentions

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

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

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

Epiphany, Durham; St. Gabriel's, East Berlin; St. Stephen's, East Haddam; Comite Hispano, Spanish-language Cursillo, Latino/Hispanic ministry in CT

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:
Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, pray for:

Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Church Vestry

Kyle Holton (Senior Warden)
Denise Terry (Junior Warden)
Ricardo Chavira (Treasurer)
Linda Meyer (Clerk)
Greg D'Andrea
Bill English
Chris Martinez
Alexandria Robison
Catherine Stricklan
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)

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

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Day School: (203) 776-2123 ♦ www.stthomasday.org