



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR B

Liturgy of the Word

March 14, 2021 10 A.M.

VOLUNTARY

Prelude in B minor

Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin (1810–1849), *24 Préludes*, Op. 28, No. 6, 1839

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 92, *The Hymnal 1982*

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON

NUMBERS 21:4-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 107:1-3,17-22

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
- 3 He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
- 17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.
- 18 They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.

- 19 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.
- 20 He sent forth his word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.
- 21 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.
- 22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

THE SECOND LESSON

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

Come, Thou fount of every blessing (111, *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*)

1. Come, Thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, Tune my heart to sing thy
2. Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by thy help I'm
3. O, to grace how great a debt - or, Dai - ly I'm con - strained to

1. grace; Streams of mer - cy nev - er ceas - ing, Call for songs of loud - est
2. come; And I hope, by thy good pleas - ure, Sure - ly to ar - rive at
3. be; Let that grace, Lord, like a fet - ter, Bind my wan - d'ring heart to

1. praise. Teach me some me-lo-dious son-net, Sung by flam-ing tongues a-
 2. home. Je-sus sought me when a stran-ger, Wan-d'ring from the fold of
 3. Thee. Prone to wan-der, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I

1. bove. Praise the mount, O fix me on it. Mount of God's un-chang-ing love.
 2. God. He, to save my soul from dan-ger, In-ter-posed His pre-cious blood.
 3. love. Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, Seal it from thy courts a-bove.

THE GOSPEL

JOHN 3:14-21

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

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

Jesus said, “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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 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), 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!

1 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
 2 Should my tears for ev - er flow, should my zeal no lan - guor know,
 3 While I draw this fleet-ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side that flowed,
 all for sin could not a - tone: thou must save, and thou a - lone;
 when I rise to worlds un - known and be - hold thee on thy throne,

be of sin the dou-ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.
 in my hand no price I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Words: Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778), alt. Music: *Toplady*, Thomas Hastings (1784-1872)

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

**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.*] Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who pause before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

God so loved the world

God so loved the world
that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whoso believeth in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son into the world
to condemn the world;
but that the world through him might be saved.

Words: John 3:16-17 Music: John Stainer (1840–1901), *The Crucifixion*, 1887

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 18, Week 6: The Human Condition. Details are in the Enews.

Holy Week Worship. For each of the Triduum services (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil), we are offering two worship options: (1) a do-it-yourself "Liturgy for Dispersed People" that you can use any time at home, and (2) an online Zoom service at 8 p.m. (On Good Friday, you might also consider using one of the Way of the Cross resources linked below.) Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, worship will be as usual at via Zoom at 10 a.m.

Lenten Almsgiving. Remember, the three traditional Lenten practices are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. If you need some Lenten almsgiving ideas, the Connecticut Food Bank continues to have pressing need during the pandemic. You might also consider Episcopal Relief & Development's US Disaster Fund. Remember, 100% of your ERD donation goes to program.

Serving Today

Presider: The Rev. Keri Aubert

Preacher: Kyle Holton

Musician: Dr. Noah Horn

Lectors: Jennifer Herdt, Bob Herdt

Intercessor:

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those on our Parish prayer list: Cynthia (Sally Edwards' sister-in-law), Franklin (Heather and Alexandria Robison's grandfather), Sally (Edwards)

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially: those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including all who have lost loved ones, all frontline workers, and all who lack the income necessary for adequate food and shelter

Pray for those have died.

In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of Prayer, pray for: Grace & St. Peter's, Hamden; Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford; Good Shepherd, Hartford; Bishops, ECCT staff, and parish employees, and their families

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for: Iglesia Anglicana de Chile

In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, pray for: Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden

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

Don Edwards William English

Jeralyn Fantarella Linda Meyer

Kenneth Paul Ontoniel Reyes

Denise Terry (Church 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