



# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY, YEAR B

Liturgy of the Word

February 7, 2021 10 A.M.

## INTROIT

O rest in the Lord

O rest in the Lord,  
wait patiently for Him,  
and He shall give thee thy heart's desires.

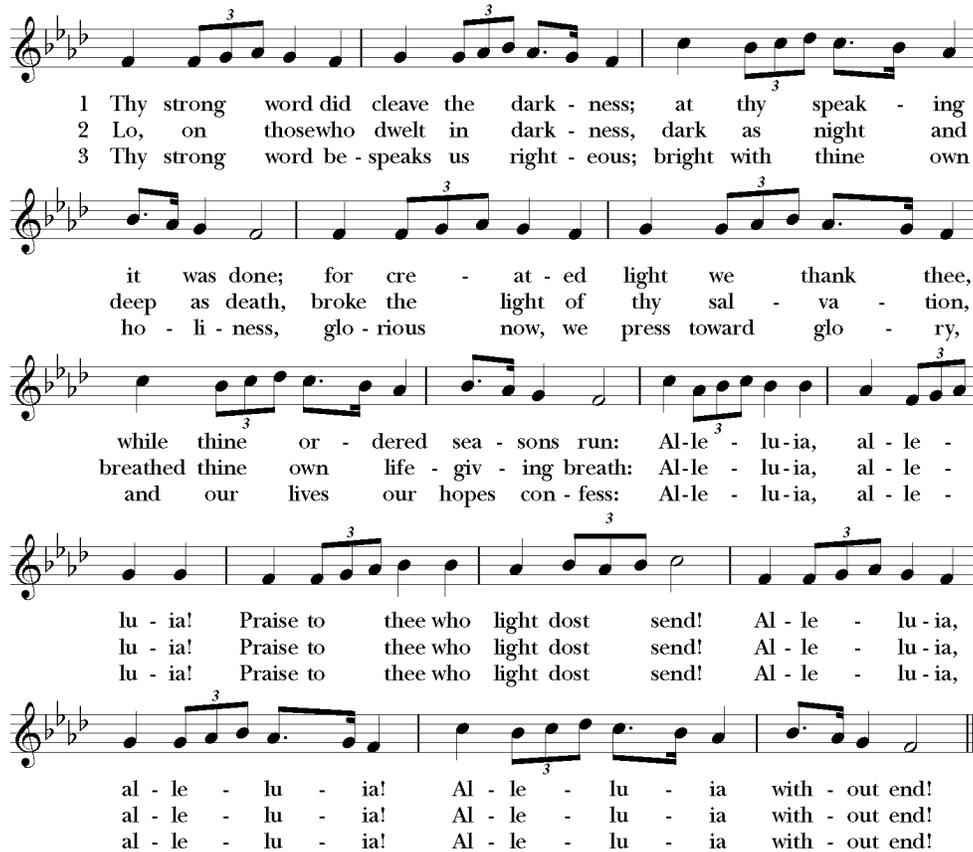
Commit thy way unto Him,  
and trust in Him,  
and fret not thyself because of evildoers.

Words: Psalm 37:1,7 Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847), *Elijah*, Op. 70, 1846

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

## HYMN

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness (381, *The Hymnal 1982*)



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy speak - ing  
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as night and  
3 Thy strong word be - speaks us right - eous; bright with thine own  
it was done; for cre - at - ed light we thank thee,  
deep as death, broke the light of thy sal - va - tion,  
ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward glo - ry,  
while thine or - dered sea - sons run: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
breathed thine own life - giv - ing breath: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
and our lives our hopes con - fess: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

Words: Martin H. Franzmann (1907-1976) Copyright ©1969, Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used with permission.  
Music: *Ton-y-Boetel*, Thomas John Williams (1869-1944)

## 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.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

who brings princes to naught,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;

but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 147:1-12,21

Frederick Arthur Gore Ouseley

1 Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! \*  
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; \*  
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted \*  
and binds up their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars \*  
and calls them all by their names.

- 5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power; \*  
there is no limit to his wisdom.
- 6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, \*  
but casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; \*  
make music to our God upon the harp.
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds \*  
and prepares rain for the earth;
- 9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains \*  
and green plants to serve mankind.
- 10 He provides food for flocks and herds \*  
and for the young ravens when they cry.
- 11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; \*  
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- 12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, \*  
in those who await his gracious favor.
- 21 Hallelujah!

## THE SECOND LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

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: Bring presents, and come into his courts:  
O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

*The People sing the Gospel Alleluia again.*

## THE GOSPEL

MARK 1:29-39

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

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

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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](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!*

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish, like leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - tor - ious, thy great Name we praise.  
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 then with - er and per - ish; but nought chan - geth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908), alt.  
 Music: *St. Denio*, Welsh hymn, fom *Caniadau y Cyssegr*; 1839; adapt. John Roberts (1822-1877); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906, alt.

## 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

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done in earth,  
As it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
But deliver us from evil:  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Words: Traditional Music: Albert Hay Malotte (1895–1964), 1935

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

*Unless otherwise indicated, all printed music and anthem texts are used by permission.  
Reprinted using ritesong, Church Publishing Incorporated License #90148. All rights reserved.*



## Announcements

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

**Ash Wednesday Worship: February 17, 7 p.m.** This will be a simplified version of the standard Ash Wednesday liturgy. We can't impose ashes this year, but this simple service will nonetheless be an fitting opening to Lent.

**Bible Study, Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., beginning February 11. Week 1, February 11: What are the psalms?** We will be using the [Yale Bible Studies](#). If the group agrees, at the beginning of each session there will be an opportunity for each participant to highlight a favorite Psalm. On February 11, our first week, we will begin with Psalm 23, one we've all encountered. See more in the Enews.

**Support Episcopal HBCUs.** In honor of Black History Month and Blessed Absalom Jones, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has invited Episcopalians everywhere to deepen our participation in Christ's ministry of reconciliation by engaging with and supporting Episcopal Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). See the Enews for details.

**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 pre-recorded Sunday meditation series to cap our initial two-year Season of Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation. Here's a link to the meditations to date: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnl1aa6ZBZrJniVcG8RZq5VdH1oJrgA7z>



---

## Serving Today

**Presider & Preacher:** The Rev. Keri Aubert  
**Musician:** Dr. Noah Horn  
**Lectors:** Madeleine Anderson, Bill English  
**Intercessor:** Don Edwards

## 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, including those who work in healthcare and those who have lost their livelihood

**Pray for those have died, especially:**  
Don McCarrol (uncle of Jocelyn Tidwell),  
Euna Mae Adams (great-aunt of Jocelyn Tidwell)

**In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of Prayer, pray for:**  
All Saint's, East Hartford; Christ & the Epiphany, East Haven; St. John's, East Windsor; Haitian ministry in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:**  
The Anglican Church of Burundi

**In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, pray for:**  
Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Vatican City

## Leadership at St. Thomas's

**Church Vestry**  
Greg D'Andrea (Senior Warden)  
Linda Meyer (Junior Warden)  
Ricardo Chavira (Treasurer)  
Bill English (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)

---

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

830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511

Church: (203) 777-7623 ♦ [www.stthomasnewhaven.org](http://www.stthomasnewhaven.org)

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