



# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR A

Service of Morning Prayer

March 29, 2020 10 A.M.

## INTROIT

Ave Maria

Ave Maria gratia plena Dominus tecum  
benedicta tu in mulieribus  
et benedictus fructus ventris tui Jesus. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Amen.

Words: Angelus (Luke 1:28,31) Music: Franz Schubert (1797–1828), D.839, Op. 52, 1825

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HYMN

Seek ye first the kingdom of God (711, *The Hymnal* 1982)

1

Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
Ask, and it shall be given unto you,  
and its right-eous-ness, and all these things shall be  
seek, and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be  
add-ed un-to you; Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia!  
o-pened un-to you; Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia!

*Refrain*

2

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!  
Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia!

## OPENING SENTENCE

*Officiant*

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us, but if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

## THE CONFESSION

*Officiant*

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

*Officiant 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.**

*Officiant*

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

## THE INVITATORY

**Officiant:** Lord, open our lips.

**People:** And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*Officiant and People*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## JUBILATE

*Officiant and People*

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.**

**Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.**

**For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

**PSALM 130**

*Officiant and People*

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; \*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.**
  - 2 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O Lord, who could stand?**
  - 3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.**
  - 4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; \*  
in his word is my hope.**
  - 5 My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.**
  - 6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, \*  
for with the Lord there is mercy;**
  - 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**THE FIRST LESSON**

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

A Reading from Ezekiel.

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy,

and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

Here ends the Lesson.

**CANTICLE 15** (*Sung by soloists from the Choir*)

The Song of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

**THE SECOND LESSON**

JOHN 11:1-45

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?"

Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Here ends the Lesson.

## THE HOMILY

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

*Officiant and People*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### THE PRAYERS

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

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

**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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

Officiant: Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**People: And grant us your salvation.**

Officiant: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**People: Let your people sing with joy.**

Officiant: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
**People: For only in you can we live in safety.**  
Officiant: Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
**People: And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
Officiant: Let your way be known upon earth;  
**People: Your saving health among all nations.**  
Officiant: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**People: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
Officiant: Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**People: And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

*Officiant*

*(The Collect of the Day)* Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*(A Prayer attributed to St. Francis)* Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

*(A Prayer for Mission)* Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and our prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*The Officiant will add prayers of intercession and thanksgiving.*

## THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

*Officiant and People*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,**

not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
 by giving up our selves to your service,  
 and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
 to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

HYMN

Abide with me (662, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide;  
 2 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;  
 3 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
 4 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide:  
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?  
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

when o - ther help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
 heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain sha - dows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.  
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847) Music: *Eventide*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889)



## DISMISSAL

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

## ANTHEM

If with all your hearts

"If with all your hearts ye truly seek me,  
ye shall ever surely find me."  
Thus saith our God.

Oh! that I knew where I might find Him,  
that I might even come before His presence!

Words: Job 23:3 Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847), *Elijah*, Op. 70, 1846

*After the Anthem, please stay online for virtual Coffee Hour.*



## Serving Today

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

**Musician:** Dr. Noah Horn

**Lectors:** Jenny Chavira, Greg D'Andrea

## This Week's Prayer Intentions

**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

**Pray for those who have died.**

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

Trinity, Hartford; St. Peter's, Hebron; St. James', Higganum; All Saints', Ivoryton; The Program & Budget Committee, Faith & Order Commission; Convention planning committee; Convention worship committee.

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:**

The Anglican Communion Season of Prayer and Repentance

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

The Balkans - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia

## Leadership at St. Thomas's

### Church Officers and 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 Panza (Head of School)  
The Rev. Keri Aubert (President, Day School Corp.)  
Gina Criscuolo (Chair)  
John Forrest (Vice-Chair)  
Tracey Meares (Treasurer)  
Eileen O'Donnell (Secretary)  
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William English  
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Kenneth Paul  
Tony Reyes  
Kathryn Crabb Scherer  
Denise Terry  
Heather Tookes Alexopoulos

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

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