



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY, YEAR B

Liturgy of the Word

February 14, 2021 10 A.M.

VOLUNTARY

Arabesque

Claude Debussy (1861–1918), No. 1 from *Deux Arabesques*, 1888

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

HYMN

Songs of thankfulness and praise (135, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Jes - us, Lord, to thee we raise,
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Pro-phet, Priest, and King su - preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
4 Man - i - fest on moun - tain height, shin - ing in re - splen - dent light,

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far;
and at Ca - na, wed - ding - guest, in thy God - head man - i - fest;
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
where dis - ci - ples filled with awe thy trans - fi - gured glo - ry saw.

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;
man - i - fest in power di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring - ing good from ill;
When from there thou led - dest them stead - fast to Je - ru - sa - lem,

an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
cross and Eas - ter Day at - test God in man made man - i - fest.

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.

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; 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

2 KINGS 2:1-12

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 50:1-6

Henry Smart

- 1 The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; *
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *
God reveals himself in glory.
- 3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; *
before him there is a consuming flame,
and round about him a raging storm.
- 4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above *
to witness the judgment of his people.
- 5 “Gather before me my loyal followers, *
those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice.”
- 6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; *
for God himself is judge.

THE SECOND LESSON

2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim

ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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: This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.
Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light upon my path.

The People sing the Gospel Alleluia again.

THE GOSPEL

MARK 9:2-9

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

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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!

Descant

4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by this great

1 O won - drous type! O vi - sion fair of glo - ry
 2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh the in - car - nate
 3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray, Christ deigns to
 4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by this great

vi - sion's mys - ter - y; for which in joy - ful

1 that the Church may share, which Christ up - on the
 2 Lord holds con - verse high; and from the cloud, the
 3 man - i - fest to - day what glo - ry shall be
 4 vi - sion's mys - ter - y; for which in joy - ful

strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

1 moun - tain shows, where bright - er than the sun he glows!
 2 Ho - ly One bears re - cord to the on - ly Son.
 3 theirs a - bove who joy in God with per - fect love.
 4 strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

Words: Latin, 15th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, after John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *Wareham*, melody William Knapp (1698-1768), alt.; harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, after James Turl (1802-1882); desc. Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947) Copyright © by permission of Royal School of Church Music. 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

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

Swing low, sweet chariot

Swing low, sweet chariot,
coming for to carry me home.
I looked over Jordan, and what did I see,
coming for to carry me home?
A band of angels coming after me,
coming for to carry me home.

If you get there before I do,
tell all my friends I'm coming too.
The brightest day that ever I saw:
when Jesus washed my sins away.

Words and Music: Traditional Spiritual

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.

Happy Valentine's Day! Happy Presidents' Day! The staff will be off on Monday, February 15, for the Presidents' Day Holiday.

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 Study - Psalms. On February 11, our first week, we will begin with Psalm 23, one we've all encountered. See more in the Enews.

Serving Today

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Keri Aubert

Musician: Dr. Noah Horn

Lectors: Jennifer Herdt , Bob Herdt

Intercessor: William English

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:

Ruth Anderson, Paul Baker

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

Christ's Church, Easton; Holy Trinity, Enfield; St. John's, Essex; St. Paul's, Fairfield; The Union of Black Episcopalians CT and the Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation Ministry Network

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, pray for:

The Anglican Church of Canada

In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical

Prayer Cycle, pray for:

Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland

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)

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

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