



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (LAETARE), YEAR A

Service of Holy Eucharist

March 15, 2026 10 A.M.

St. Thomas's Church Welcomes Everyone

Wherever you happen to be on your spiritual journey, **there is a place for you here**, and we invite you to participate as fully as you wish. There is a saying in the Episcopal tradition that answers many a question: “All *may*, some *do*, but none *must*.” We gather to feast on Word and sacrament and song, to learn and inquire, to enjoy relaxed fellowship and find mutual support. And we are sent out to be the Body of Christ in the world, to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

To participate in worship today all you need is this bulletin. If you are new or visiting, we invite you to consider filling out a **blue information card** (located in the pew rack). You can use it to request a **nametag**, which will be waiting for you on the table inside the main entrance.

All church spaces are accessible. Handicapped parking and a wheelchair ramp are located in back of the building; a lift for access to the second floor is located at the stairway.

Restrooms are located on the second floor. Go through the double doors near the pulpit, upstairs to the second floor, and to the far end of the hallway. A **gender-neutral restroom with baby changing table** is in the Vesting Room, located opposite the double doors near the pulpit.

Three seating areas at the front of the nave are reserved for **families with small children**: the area under the array of paper cranes (for children age 3 and under), and the two areas in front of the front pews (for children age 10 and under). For safety, every child should be accompanied by a caregiver.

Wireless access in the Sanctuary is accessible by connecting to wireless network STEC – Guest. Your device will open a web browser and the St. Thomas's website. Bulletins are posted in the website's Bulletin Archive. To reduce printing, we encourage worshippers to use their smart devices to follow the service.

St. Thomas's Church is located on Eansketambawg (Quinnipiac) land. This acknowledgment compels us to pause: in gratitude for the Quinnipiac and other Algonquin-speaking stewards of the territory that is now Connecticut; in regret for Christianity's participation in the colonization of the Americas; and in faith that God's reconciling power will bring true healing to the Earth and all its inhabitants.

The fourth Sunday of Lent is known as **Laetare Sunday** in the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar; it is also known as Refreshment Sunday, or Mothering Sunday. “Laetare” means “rejoice” in Latin. Similar to Gaudete Sunday (the third Sunday in Advent), Laetare Sunday calls the Church to joyful anticipation of

Easter and Christ's triumph over death. This joyful theme provides lightening from the penitential emphasis of Lent. Since the 13th century, the celebrant of the eucharist has been permitted to wear rose-colored vestments which express the change of tone in the Lenten observance. The custom is not required in the Episcopal Church, but may be observed.

VOLUNTARY

Psalm-Prelude, Op. 32, No. 3 (Ps. 23, v. 4)
Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The King of Love my Shepherd is (645, *The Hymnal* 1982)



1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good-ness
2 Where streams of liv-ing wa-ter flow, my ran-somed
* 3 Per-verse and fool-ish oft I strayed, but yet in
* 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear
5 Thou spread'st a ta-ble in my sight; thy unc-tion
6 And so through all the length of days thy good-ness



1 fail-eth nev-er; I noth-ing lack if
2 soul he lead-eth, and where the ver-dant
3 love he sought me, and on his shoul-der
4 Lord, be-side me; thy rod and staff my
5 grace be-stow-eth; and oh, what trans-port
6 fail-eth nev-er: Good Shep-herd, may I



1 I am his, and he is mine for ev-er.
2 pas-tures grow, with food ce-less-tial feed-eth.
3 gent-ly laid, and home, re-joic-ing, brought me.
4 com-fort still, thy cross be-fore to guide me.
5 of de-light from thy pure chal-ice flow-eth!
6 sing thy praise with-in thy house for ev-er.

Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877); para. Psalm 23. Music: *St. Columba*, Irish melody, harm. *Hymnal* 1982.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **God's mercy endures for ever.**

OPENING SENTENCE

Presider

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy (S 95, *The Hymnal 1982*)

The musical score is written on two staves in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff contains three measures: the first measure is marked 'Cantor or Choir' and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4; the second measure is marked 'All' and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4; the third measure is marked 'Cantor or Choir' and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4. The second staff contains three measures: the first measure is marked 'All' and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4; the second measure is marked 'Cantor or Choir' and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4; the third measure is marked 'All' and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.'

Music: From the Litany of the Saints; adapt. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

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.**

All are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and

anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23 (*sung by the Choir; the People respond with the Antiphon*)

Tone VIII.1

Antiphon:



Though I walk through the val - ley of the sha - dow of death, I shall fear



no e - vil; for you are with me.

1 The LORD is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *

and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul *

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake. **[Ant.]**

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil; *

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. **[Ant.]**

THE SECOND LESSON

EPHESIANS 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN

I want to walk as a child of the light (490, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ.

I want to fol-low Je-sus.
I want to look at Je-sus.
I want to be with Je-sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Clear sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and
When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

star of my life is Je-sus.
show me the way to the Fa-ther.
shall know the joy of Je-sus.

Refrain

rit.

a tempo

Words: Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934). Copyright © 1970, 1975, Celebration, Aliquippa, PA 15001. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: Houston, Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934).

THE GOSPEL

JOHN 9:1-41

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

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

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the

man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

They did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the religious authorities; for they had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

All are seated.

THE SERMON

After the sermon, all remain seated for a period of silence. Then all stand.

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

Deacon or Presider

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your loving kindness; in your great compassion, hear our prayers.

Intercessor and People

We pray for the whole church, all leaders and ministers, and all the holy people of God.

Wash us through and through, and cleanse us from our sin.

We pray for our nation, for all the nations of the earth, and for all who govern.

Purge us from our sin, and we shall be pure.

We pray for those who hunger, those who thirst, those who live under the threat of terror, and those without a place to lay their head.

Make them hear of joy and gladness, that those who are broken may rejoice.

We pray for those who are ill, those in pain, those under stress, and those who are lonely.

Give them the joy of your saving help, and sustain them with your bountiful Spirit.

In this season of Lent we pray that we all might be given the grace and strength to repent and grow closer to you, O God.

Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

We pray for those who have died and who have entered into the land of eternal Light and your abiding peace.

Cast them not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from them.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. *[You are invited to offer your prayer intentions silently or aloud.]*

[The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.]

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Presider

Let us confess our sins to God. *[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 the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

People: **And also with you.**

*Please remain in place while greeting your neighbors with a sign of peace. You may then be seated for brief announcements and the **Offertory Anthem.***

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your financial support is sincerely appreciated. We will not pass a collection plate today; collection plates are located at the doors. To give online, go to the Church website Home page (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), and click GIVE NOW. If viewing this document electronically, simply [CLICK HERE](#). Thank you!

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (*Sung by the Choir*)

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Thou shalt prepare a table before me
against them that trouble me;
thou hast anointed my head with oil,
and my cup shall be full.
But thy loving kindness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Yea, though I walk in the valley of the shadow of
death, I will fear no evil;
thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Words: Psalm 23 Music: Herbert Howells (1892–1983), from *Requiem*, 1932

During the singing of the Offertory Hymn, the Presider sets the table, and the People come forward to encircle the altar for the Eucharistic prayer. You are encouraged to position children where they can see. Standing time is approximately 15 minutes. If this is difficult for you, please feel free to sit in a chair near the altar or in the the front row of pews. You may also remain where you are.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Awake, O sleeper, rise from death (547, *The Hymnal 1982*)



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and
3 There is one Bo - dy and one hope, one Spi - rit
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died and con - quered



1 give you light, so learn his love— its length and
2 fear re - lease, to give the Spi - rit's u - ni -
3 and one call, one Lord, one Faith, and one Bap -
4 he might save; with kind and gen - tle hearts for -
5 in the strife. A - wake, a - rise, go forth in



1 breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
2 ty, the ve - ry bond of peace.
3 tism, one Fa - ther of us all.
4 give as God in Christ for - gave.
5 faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Words: F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984). Copyright © 1980, Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Music: *Marsh Chapel*, Max Miller (b. 1927). Copyright © 1984, Max Miller.

and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Presider

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your children, that with [] and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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.**

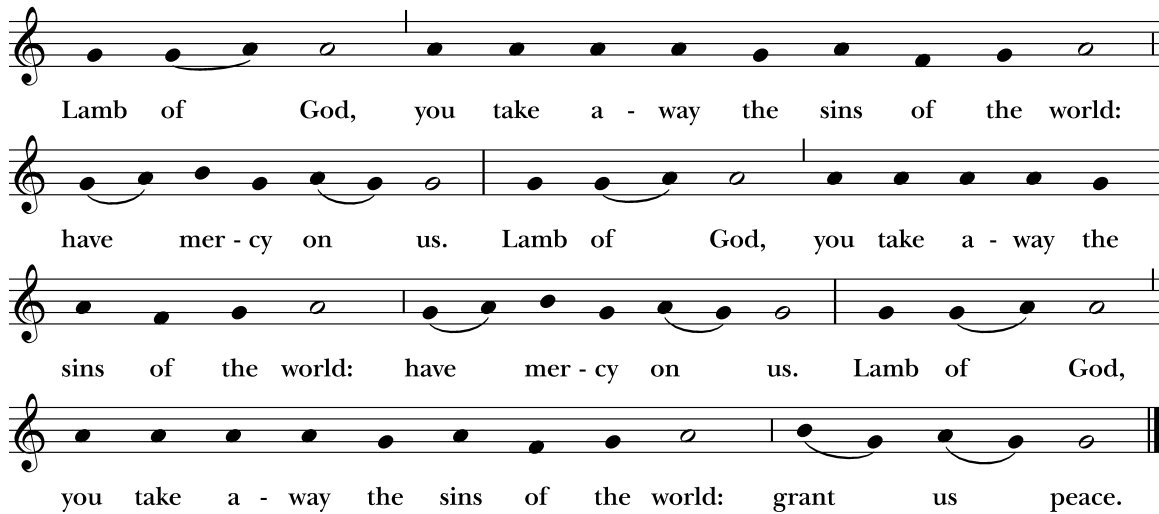
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Lamb of God (S 160, *The Hymnal* 1982)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: Anaphora chant; Mass 18; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991). Copyright © 1984 Mason Martens.

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are invited to receive Holy Communion at God's table in this church. Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. For the distribution of Holy Communion, the priest and Eucharistic minister will come to you. To receive a blessing instead of communion, cross your arms over your chest. You may choose not to partake of wine—Holy Communion is complete and efficacious when received in one kind only. To receive wine, you may sip from the common cup, or intinct (dip the bread into the wine). If you choose to intinct, please dip only the tip of the bread into the wine—fingers that touch the wine are a source of contamination. After receiving communion or a blessing, please return to your original seat.

COMMUNION ANTHEM (*Sung by the Choir*)

My eyes for beauty pine

My eyes for beauty pine,
My soul for Goddès grace,
No other care nor hope is mine,
To heaven I turn my face.

And every gentle heart
that burns with true desire,
Is lit from eyes that mirror part
of that celestial fire.

One splendour thence is shed
from all the stars above:
'Tis named when God's name is said,
'Tis Love, 'Tis heavenly Love.

Words: Robert Bridges (1844–193) Music: Herbert Howells (1892–1983), 1928

After all have received communion, all stand.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People

God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

Presider: *[The Presider blesses the People.]*

People: Amen.

HYMN

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound (671, *The Hymnal 1982*)

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 * 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
 2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, from *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; compiled by Richard Broaddus and Andrew Broaddus. Music: *New Britain*, from *Virginia Harmony* 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921); harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919). Harmonization Copyright © 1974 by Abingdon Press.

DISMISSAL

Presider: *[The Presider dismisses the People.]*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

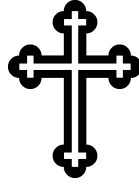
You may be seated for the voluntary or exit the church.

VOLUNTARY

III. Finale-Allegro, from First Sonata for Organ

Florence Price (1887-1953)

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Serving Today

Coffee Hour Hosts: St. Thomas's Choir, Debbie Rice
coordinator

Flowers: Heather Robison

Intercessor: Max Ballardo

Lector: Ricardo Chavira

Music Director: Dr. Matthew Cramer

Organist: Dr. Stephen Gamboa-Diaz

Presider & Preacher: The Very Rev. Dr. Marcus G.
Halley

Sacristan: Bryan Hiott, Claire Scully

Subdeacon: Max Ballardo

Ushers: Debbie Griffin, Claire Scully

Vestry Host: William English

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Church Vestry

Max Ballardo

Morgen Campbell

Ricardo Chavira (Junior Warden)

Maria Coffin

Don Edwards

Bill English (Treasurer)

Jennifer Herdt (Senior Warden)

Linda Pivarnik

Claire Scully (Clerk)

St. Thomas's Clergy

The Rev. Eric Jeuland, Priest Associate

The Rev. Jane Jeuland, Priest Associate

The Rev. Alan C. Murchie, Rector

The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp, Preacher-in-Residence

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL
830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 777-7623 ♦ www.stthomasnewhaven.org

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially:
for Keyna, Maria, Martin, Michael, Susan
for the people of Iran

for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia
for the people of Gaza and the people of Israel
for victims of civil war in Syria and the Sudan
for all who are afflicted by war, violence, and natural
disaster

Pray for those who have died, especially: Joan,
Keyvon

**In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of
Prayer, pray for:** St. Peter's, Hebron; St. James',
Higganum; All Saints', Ivoryton; Bishops, The
Commons staff & parish employees

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

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

Dr. Matthew Cramer, Music Director

♦ music@stthomasnewhaven.org

Dr. Stephen Gamboa-Diaz, Organist

s.gamboa-diaz@stthomasnewhaven.org

Bryan Hiott, Seminarian Intern

Julie Kelly, Administrator ♦ j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org

The Rev. Alan Murchie, Rector

♦ alan@stthomasnewhaven.org



Announcements

For all the latest news and information, see last week's edition of the Weekly Parish Enews. From the Parish website Home page (www.stthomasnewhaven.org), click Enews Archive for the latest edition or Enews (subscribe) to subscribe.

HOLY WEEK CALENDAR 2026 March 29 – April 5

- ✠ **Palm Sunday** at 10 AM | Liturgy of the Palms, Procession with Bagpipes, and Full Choir
- ✠ **Holy Wednesday** at 6:30 PM | Musical Meditation for Tenebrae (with the Schola Antiqua)
- ✠ **Maundy Thursday** at 6:30 PM (at St. Peter's, Cheshire) | *Agape Supper, Holy Eucharist, and Foot Washing*
- ✠ **Good Friday** at 12PM and 6:30 PM | Good Friday (6:30PM Liturgy with choir) with Sung Passion
- ✠ **Easter Vigil** (Saturday) at 6:30 PM | Lighting of Paschal Fire, First Alleluias of Easter (with choir)
- ✠ **Easter Day** at 10 AM | Festal Eucharist; Easter Brunch follows at 11:15!

Easter Flower & Music Offerings

Your gift contributes to our beautiful Easter celebration, and it may be made in honor or memory of someone important to you. Giving envelopes are available in the pews and at the doors. You may also donate online using [this link](#). Thank you!

EASTER BRUNCH 🌸

We look forward to a festive potluck Easter brunch following the 10 am service. If you are able to bring a favorite food to contribute to the feast, that would be very much appreciated. All are warmly invited!

Children and Youth

Sundays in Lent we will offer sessions of children's education focused on **Lent, Holy Week, and Easter**. During **coffee hour**, a table will be set aside for Sunday School. All are welcome.

Fill your plate and join Denise Terry Sundays during Lent.

- On March 15th and 22nd, we will meet during coffee hour.
- On March 29, please join us for a walk in Edgerton Park as we learn about Holy Week on Palm Sunday. We will start out from church at 9:15 a.m. and then attend the service.

Questions? Denise Terry (240-481-8537 or terry.df@gmail.com)

Inquirers' Class

Our new Inquirers' Class invites all interested in learning more about what it means to be Episcopalian to gather at St. Thomas's on the first Tuesday of each month from 5:15-6:15. Our next class session will be held in the Lounge on Tuesday, **April 7**. Join us!

LENTEN BOOK STUDY

Please plan to join us for this year's Lenten adult formation series as we gather weekly to explore Rowan Williams's *Being Christian*. Our friends at St. Peter's in Cheshire will once again be joining us. Participants from both parishes are invited to choose between two weekly options: Wednesdays at 6:30 or Thursdays at 6:30. All sessions will be held via Zoom. For more information, see Alan or be in touch with him at alan@stthomasnewhaven.org. This beautiful book is appropriate for folks at all levels of background and experience; all are warmly welcome.

Evensong for the Eve of the Annunciation | 5:30 PM on Tuesday, March 24 at Christ Church

St. Thomas's Choir joins the choirs of Christ Church and Trinity on the Green for a special service of choral evensong celebrating the Annunciation. Featuring music by Ralph Allwood for choir and saxophone as well as Howells' Gloucester canticles.

☞ Save the Date: THOMAS SUNDAY -- April 12

Each year, on the Sunday after Easter, the church shares the story of Thomas, our patron saint. It's the day when we celebrate the famously inquisitive apostle whose faith and witness inspire and inform our own. Please plan to be with us on **Thomas Sunday**, which falls on April 12 this year, as we celebrate with special music for choir and instruments, with visits from members of our extended St. Thomas's family, and with Italian Cream Cake. 🍰🍷

Youth Confirmation Class at St. T's

We are delighted to offer Confirmation preparation for youth ages 13+ on select Sunday afternoons after Coffee Hour. This is a rich opportunity to explore faith through conversation, activity, off-campus experiences, and more. Classes are led by Alan alongside experienced mentors from our community. Be in touch with Alan anytime to discuss further! You can chat with him at coffee hour or write to him at alan@stthomasnewhaven.org.

Responding to Food Insecurity in our Community

Connecticut Food Pantries have seen a sharp rise in need this year, serving 23% more households. The need is great. Please join us in supporting Loaves and Fishes. You can give at this [link](#).

Winter Weather

In case of unsafe travel conditions, the Vestry will cancel church services. We will announce a cancellation by 8:30 a.m. via Facebook, the website, and a special edition of the E-news. Be sure to look for this before you leave home on a Sunday morning.

Coffee Hour: Help Needed!

Our team of coffee-hour hosts is small and our congregation is growing! Please consider joining us as a host, co-host, or contributor. Consult the poster in the lounge or the online signup link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4AACAD2CABFE3-coffee>. Ideally, as our congregation grows we would like to have two or three hosts/contributors per week. Thank you!

Parish Directory Updates

Please [email Julie](#) with any changes to your address or contact info, or if you wish to be added to the directory. Thank you.

Name Tags

Wearing name tags is a simple and wonderful way to practice radical welcome. If you have never had a St. Thomas's name tag, or have lost the one you had, please sign up in the narthex or at coffee hour and look for your new name tag in a week's time. You can also email Julie in the parish office, j.kelly@stthomasnewhaven.org to request a name tag. Name tags may be left in the basket in the lounge following coffee hour, or at the rear of the church in the name tag holders. Please wear your name tag every week!

Sunday Server Sign-ups

There are many ways to contribute to the worship life of St. Thomas's. We are eager to welcome new servers in the roles of lector, usher, intercessor, subdeacon, and sacristan. If you are interested in learning more or in receiving training, please reach out to Vestry member Claire Scully, chiarasam@comcast.net. We would love for you to share your gifts with St. Thomas!

Interested in joining St. Thomas's Choir?

The St. Thomas's Choir sings for Sunday morning and special liturgies during the program year, offering anthems, canticles and psalms. The choir includes volunteers and professional section leaders. Its repertoire is drawn from the rich tradition of Anglican choral music, spanning many centuries.

The St. Thomas's Choir rehearses on Sundays at 9 a.m. and from 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m., from September to June. New members are always welcome; an ability to read music and prior choral experience is desirable.

Contact Matthew Cramer at m.cramer@stthomasnewhaven.org

Donating Clothing for Loaves and Fishes. Our support for the clothing ministry is ongoing. Please be thoughtful in your selection of items. Current specific requests include: men's/women's jeans; men's shirts, sweaters, jackets, shoes, new socks. Bring donations to St. Thomas's (leave them in the tub at the Whitney Ave. entrance) or to Loaves and Fishes (Thurs-Sat, 9-11 a.m., in the driveway at 57 Olive St.).