



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

Service of Holy Eucharist

April 19, 2025

6:30 P.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 PASCHAL LIGHT

In the darkness, fire is kindled, and then the Presider says:

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray. [*Silence is kept.*] O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Paschal Candle is lit from the newly kindled fire. It is then carried from the back of the church and placed in its stand, with three pauses for the Presider and People to sing:



The People's candles are lit from the Paschal Candle, and then the Cantor sings the Exsultet.

THE EXSULTET

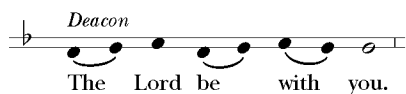
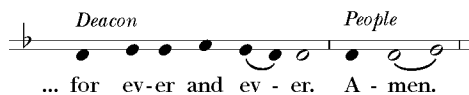
Cantor

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels,
and let your trumpets shout Salvation
for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth,
bright with a glorious splendor,
for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church,
and let your holy courts, in radiant light,
resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame,
pray with me to God the Almighty
for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light;
through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord,
who lives and reigns with him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,



People
And al - so with you.

Deacon
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Cantor

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our forebears, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and we are reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor, the work of the bees, your creatures. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns

Deacon ... for ev - er and ev - er. *People* A - men.

THE SALVATION HISTORY

Presider

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how God's people were saved in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

All are seated.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

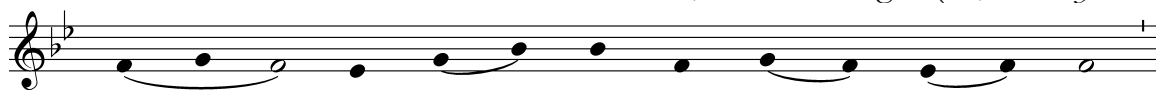
Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

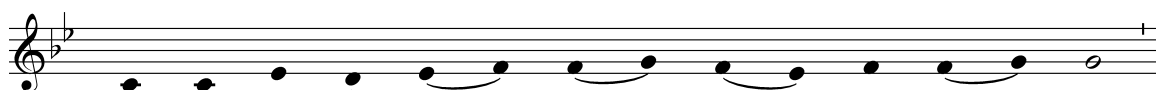
O blest Creator, source of light (27, *The Hymnal 1982*)



1 O blest Cre - a - tor, source of light,
 2 You joined the morn and eve - ning ray;
 3 Lest we, be - set by doubt and strife,
 4 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, help us rise
 5 De - fend us, Fa - ther, through the night,



1 you gave the day with splen - dor bright,
 2 you found it good and called it 'day.'
 3 for - get your bless - ed gift of life,
 4 and strive to gain the heaven - ly prize;
 5 and with your Son, and Spi - rit bright—



1 when on the new and liv - ing earth
 2 But now the threat - ening dark - ness nears—
 3 and an - guished and in mind dis - tressed,
 4 for you a - lone can make us strong
 5 the Tri - ni - ty whom we a - dore—



1 you brought all things to glo - rious birth.
 2 we pray you, Fa - ther, calm our fears.
 3 be crushed by guilt, by sin op - pressed.
 4 to turn from sin and cease from wrong.
 5 be with us now and ev - er - more.

Words: Latin, 6th cent.; tr. Anne K. LeCroy (b. 1930), alt. Copyright © 1982, Anne LeCroy. Music: *Lucis Creator optime*, plainsong, Mode 8, Verona MS., 11th cent.; acc. David Dahl (b. 1937).

Prsider

Let us pray. [*Silence is kept.*] O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AT THE RED SEA

EXODUS 14:10-15:1; 20-21

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE

The Song of Moses (S 208, *The Hymnal 1982*)

The Choir will intone the Antiphon; the People then join in repeating the Antiphon and singing all verses:

Antiphon in Lent and at the Easter Vigil (b)

I will sing to the Lord for he has risen up in might.

1. I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and up - lift - ed;
the horse and its rider has he hurled in - to the sea. 2. The Lord is my
strength and my re - fuge; the Lord has be - come my Sa - vior.

3. This is my God and I will praise him, the God of my people and I
will ex - alt him. 4. The Lord is a might - y war - rior;
Yah - weh is his Name. 5. The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has
he hurled in - to the sea; the finest of those who bear armor have been
drowned in the Red Sea. 6. The fathomless deep has o - ver - whelmed them;
they sank into the depths like a stone. 7. Your right hand, O Lord, is glor - ious

in might; your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the en - e - my.

8. Who can be compared with you, O Lord, a - mong the gods? Who is like you, glorious in holiness, awesome in renown, and worker of won - ders?

9. You stretched forth your right hand; the earth swal - lowed them up.

10. With your constant love you led the peo - ple you re - deemed; with your might you brought them in safety to your ho - ly dwell - ing.

11. You will bring them in and plant them on the mount of your pos - ses - sion, 12. The resting - place you have made for your - self, O Lord, the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has es - tab - lished.

13. The Lord shall reign for ever and for ev - er. [Ant.]

Antiphon in Lent and at the Easter Vigil (b)

I will sing to the Lord for he has ris - en up in might.

Presider

Let us pray. [*Silence is kept.*] O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SALVATION OFFERED FREELY TO ALL

ISAIAH 55:1-11

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
 come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.
Seek the LORD while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
 and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
 giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
 it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
 and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM (*Sung by the Choir & Schola Antiqua*)

Sicut cervus – Sitivit anima mea

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum
ita desiderat anima mea ad te Deus.

As the deer longs for the water-brooks,
so longs my soul for you, O God.

Sitivit anima mea ad Deum fontem vivum:
quando veniam et apparebo
ante faciem Dei?

My soul is athirst for the living God;
when shall I come to appear
before the presence of God?

Fuerunt mihi lacrimae meae panes die ac nocte,
dum dicitur mihi quotidiae:
Ubi est Deus tuus?

My tears have been my food day and night,
while all day long they say to me,
“Where now is your God?”

Words: Psalm 42:1-3 Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c1525–1594), 1587

Presider

Let us pray. [*Silence is kept.*] O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

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.”

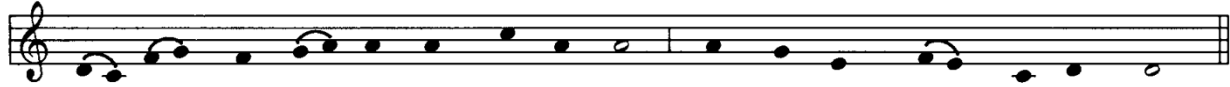
Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 30:1-6,12-13 (*sung by the Choir*)

Tone I.2

The Choir will intone the Antiphon; the People then join in repeating the Antiphon and at all times marked [Ant.]:



O LORD my God, I cried out to you, and you re - stored me to health.

- 1 I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up *
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 O LORD my God, I cried out to you, * and you restored me to health.
- 3 You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; *
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave. [Ant.]
- 4 Sing to the LORD, you servants of his; * give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.
- 5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, * his favor for a lifetime.
- 6 Weeping may spend the night, * but joy comes in the morning. [Ant.]
- 12 You have turned my wailing into dancing; *
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.
- 13 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; *
O LORD my God, I will give you thanks for ever. [Ant.]

Presider

Let us pray. [*Silence is kept.*] Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Presider

Dear friends, through the Paschal mystery we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

Presider: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People: **I do.**

Presider: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Presider: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: 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.

Presider: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: 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.

Presider: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: I will, with God's help.

Presider: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

Presider: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Presider: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Presider: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

Presider: Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

People: I will, with God's help.

Presider

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF EASTER

EASTER PROCLAMATION

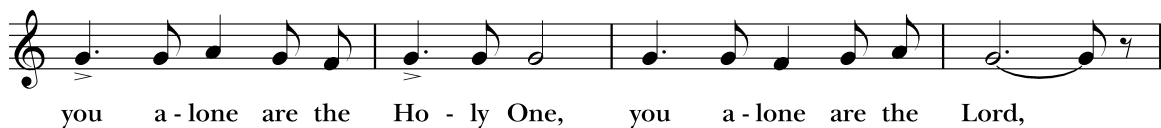
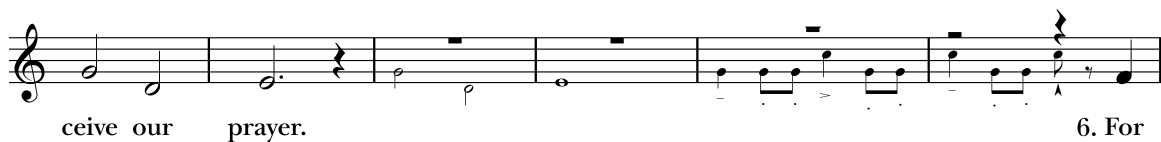
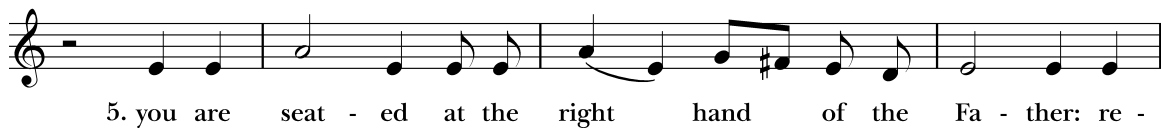
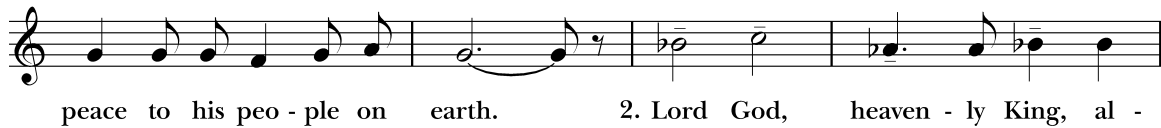
Presider: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The organ is sounded, and the lights are turned up. The People extinguish their candles and ring their bells.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest (S 278, *The Hymnal 1982*)



7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of
 God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT FOR EASTER

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

THE EPISTLE

ROMANS 6:3-11

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

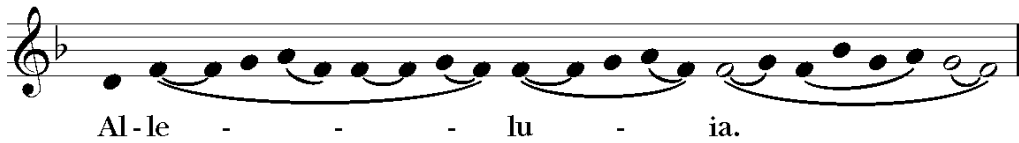
Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

THE GREAT ALLELUIA

After the Epistle, this Alleluia is traditionally sung three times by the Celebrant or by a Cantor, at successively higher pitches (one whole tone each time), the Congregation repeating it each time.



THE GOSPEL

LUKE 24:1-12

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

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

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women who had come with Jesus from Galilee came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

All are seated.

THE HOMILY

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: FORM III

Intercessor and People

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The People may add their own petitions, either silently or aloud.

Presider

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

THE PEACE

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

People: And also with you.

*Please greet your neighbors with a sign of peace, in whatever way seems welcome. 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*)

The Lord is my strength

The Lord is my strength and my song,
and is become my salvation.
I shall not die but live,
and declare the works of God.

O Lord of all, with us abide,
In this our joyful Eastertide.

From ev'ry weapon death can wield
Thine own redeem'd forever shield.

All praise be Thine, O risen Lord,
From death to endless life restored,
All praise to God the Father be,
And Holy Ghost eternally. Amen.

Words: Psalm 118:14, 17 and *Claro paschali gaudio*, medieval Latin hymn, translated by John M. Neale (1818-1866)
Music: Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912), 1892

During the singing of the *Offertory Hymn*, the Presider sets the table. The People may remain in place.

OFFERTORY HYMN

The day of resurrection! (210, *The Hymnal 1982*)

Descant

3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth her song be - gin,

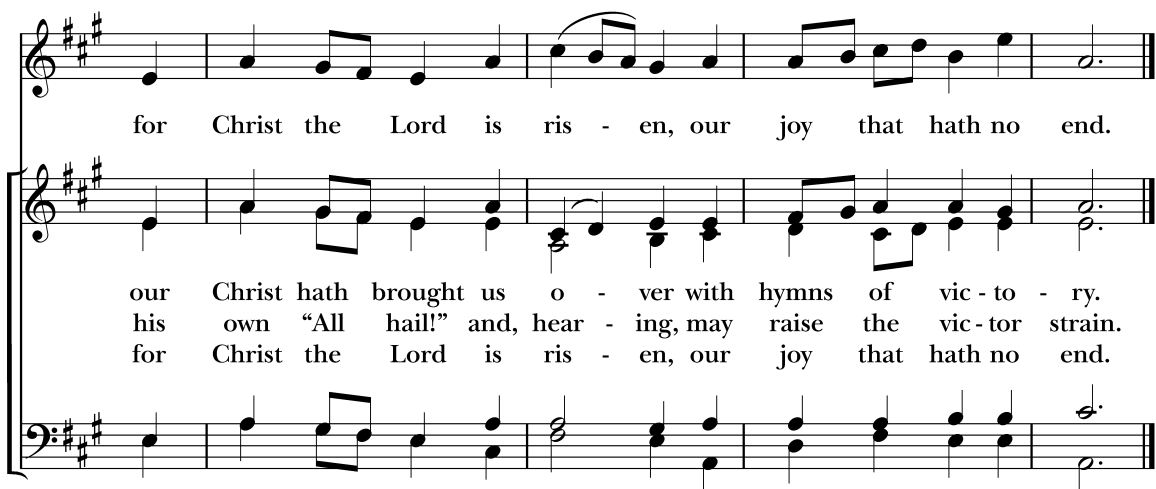
1 The day of re - sur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth her song be - gin,

the round world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of re - sur - rec - tion light;
the round world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

let all things seen and un - seen their notes to - geth - er blend,

From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,
and, lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear so calm and plain
let all things seen and un - seen their notes to - geth - er blend,



for Christ the Lord is ris - en, our joy that hath no end.
our Christ hath brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
his own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
for Christ the Lord is ris - en, our joy that hath no end.

Words: John of Damascus (8th cent.); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *Ellacombe*, melody from *Gesangbuch..der Herzogl. Wirtembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle*, 1784, alt.; adapt. *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, 1863; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Cyril Winn (1884-1973). Descant by permission of Oxford University Press.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A



Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider


It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord (S 128, *The Hymnal 1982*)



Ho - ly, ho - ly,

ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

Presider

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many 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

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may

faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

FRACTION ANTHEM

Christ our Passover (S 155, *The Hymnal 1982*)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is
sac - ri - ficed for us; There-fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Setting: Gerald R. Near (b. 1942)

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

You may be seated.

All are invited to receive Holy Communion at God's table in this church. Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. Ushers will invite congregants to come forward for the distribution of Holy Communion. 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. Gluten-free wafers are available.

COMMUNION ANTHEM (*Sung by the Schola Antiqua*)

Christ lag in Todesbanden

Christ lag in Todesbanden
für unser Sünd gegeben,
er ist wieder erstanden
und hat uns bracht das Leben;
Des wir sollen frölich sein
Gott loben und dankbar sein
und singen halleluja,
Halleluja!

Christ lay in death's bonds
given over for our sins,
he has risen again
and brought us life;
therefore we should be joyful,
praise God and be thankful to him
and sing hallelujah,
Hallelujah!

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546), 1524

Music: Michael Praetorius (1571-1621), *Musae Sioniae, Fünffter Theil*, 1607

After all have received communion, all stand for the hymn. During the singing of the hymn, the People are invited to accentuate the Easter "alleluias" with the ringing of bells.

COMMUNION HYMN

Jesus Christ is risen today (207, *The Hymnal 1982*)

Descant

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en-dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all ye heaven - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
 you have graciously accepted us as living members
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
 and you have fed us with spiritual food
 in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
 Send us now into the world in peace,
 and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you
 with gladness and singleness of heart;
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE PASCHAL BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God. [Alleluia! Alleluia!]**

You may be seated for the voluntary or exit the church. Happy Easter!

VOLUNTARY

Choral-Improvisation sur le 'Victimae paschali'

Charles Tournemire (1870–1939), transcr. Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986), 1930-1931

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*May abundant blessings
be upon you and yours
this Eastertide!*



Easter, Flower, and Music Offerings made by ...

Ricardo & Jenny Chavira, in memory of Mario & Rosario Gonzales and Sally Edwards

Elizabeth Clark, in memory of Alice K. and David W. Clark

Heidi Herrick

Joan Hogan

Leslie Kearney,

in memory of Olga, Lester, Anna, Paul, Dawn, William, Robert, Arthur, Dean, and Josef

Chris & Roseanne Martinez

Alan Murchie, in loving memory of Alice Clark

Gary Robison

Hearty thanks to the St. Thomas's Choir ...

Soprano
Morgen Campbell
Jennifer A. Herdt
Alexandria Robison
Maggie Lieberman
Sherezade Panthakj

Alto
Faith Brill
Nancy Campbell
Linda Meyer
Heather Robison
Debbie Rice
Scottie Rogers

Tenor
Sheldon Campbell
Don Edwards
Stephen Gamboa-Diaz
Sully Hart
Bryan Hiott

Bass
Matthew Cramer
Robert Herdt

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 2025

✠ **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!

Childcare Available on Sunday Mornings!

St. Thomas is now offering childcare during Sunday morning services. We love to have children of all ages with us in the sanctuary, but understand that sometimes kids (or their parents) need a little break! Feel free to drop your child in the Vesting Room directly adjacent to the sanctuary before the service begins, or slip out during the service at any time. Contact Denise Terry or Jennifer Herdt with any questions. Please note that there will NOT be childcare on Easter.

Sunday School

Sunday School has concluded for this program year. Look for news about youth education for Fall 2025, beginning with Season of Creation.

Contact Denise Terry (terry.df@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Save The Date: THOMAS SUNDAY -- April 27

Every year on the Sunday after Easter, we share the story of Thomas, our patron saint. It's the day when we celebrate the apostle whose unique journey inspires and informs our own, both individually and as a community. And -- here at St. Thomas's -- it's a day when we can celebrate our identity as a "Thomas" parish, one that embraces inquiry, inquisitiveness, and knowing God in myriad ways. Plan to be with us on Thomas Sunday, which falls on April 27 this year, as we celebrate with music for choir, brass, violin and more; with visits from members of our extended St. Thomas's family; and with Italian Cream Cake.

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.

Coffee-Hour: Help our Hosts!

You are warmly invited to contribute to St. Thomas's signature Coffee Hour. Consult the poster in the lounge or the online signup link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4AACAD2CABFE3-coffee>. Thank you to the anchor hosts who have signed up for each week between now and Easter—please consider joining them as a co-host! As we grow, we would like to have two or three hosts per week.

Time for 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

Safe Church Training

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut requires parish leaders to do "Safe Church" training, and to update that training every three years. The diocese is offering training times in the coming months. There is no fee for this training. <https://www.episcopalct.org/events/category/safe-church-training/>

Flower Ministry: Contributions Welcome!

Heather Robison, choir member and artist, coordinates our Flower Ministry here at St. Thomas's. While the parish has a budget for flowers, we encourage parishioners to bring offerings from your gardens. As temperatures warm and blooms once again appear, please consider joining Heather in providing flowers to adorn our altar.

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 short-sleeved 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.).



Serving Today

Cantor: Dr. Matthew Cramer
Crucifer: Donnie Fragale
Intercessor: Bryan Hiott
Lectors: Christy Chandler, Jenny Chavira, Don Edwards, Bryan Hiott
Epistle: Morgen Campbell
Flowers: Heather Robison
Gospel: The Rev. Alan Murchie
Music Director: Dr. Matthew Cramer
Organist: Dr. Stephen Gamboa-Diaz
Preacher & Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp
President: The Rev. Maureen Peitler-Lederman
Sacristan: Jennifer Herdt
Subdeacon: Bryan Dougan
Usher: Gary Robison
Vestry Host: Denise Terry

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Church Vestry

Max Ballardo
Morgen Campbell
Ricardo Chavira (Junior Warden)
Bill English (Treasurer)
Jennifer Herdt (Senior Warden)
Alexandria Robison
Claire Scully
Denise Terry (Clerk)

St. Thomas's Clergy

The Rev. Eric Jeuland, Priest Associate
The Rev. Jane Jeuland, Priest Associate
The Rev. Alan C. Murchie, Priest-in-Charge
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: the people of Russia and the people of Ukraine; the people of Gaza and the people of Israel; all who are afflicted by war and natural disaster.

Pray for those who have died.

In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut Cycle of Prayer, pray for: St. Peter's, Milford; Trinity, Milton; St. Peter's Grace, Monroe; Hospital chaplains, Stephen Ministers, pastoral care groups, ministries of healing, wellness programs, recovery ministries

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

In the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, pray for: Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania

Dr. Matthew Cramer, Music Director

♦ music@stthomasnewhaven.org

Dr. Stephen Gamboa-Diaz, Organist
s.gamboa-diaz@stthomasnewhaven.org

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

The Rev. Alan Murchie, Priest-in-Charge

♦ alan@stthomasnewhaven.org