ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

It is the custom in the Episcopal Church to present ourselves to our Lord in silence before the service begins. Please silence your cell phones.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 10, 2024 10:30 AM

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Prelude

Please stand
Hymn in Procession
My faith looks up to thee **Hymn 691**

A Penitential Order: Rite II **BCP 351**

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People **His mercy endures for ever.**

The Confession of Sin **BCP 352**
Those who are able are invited to kneel.
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.

Lord have mercy **Kyrie eleison** **Hymn S-97**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says
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**.

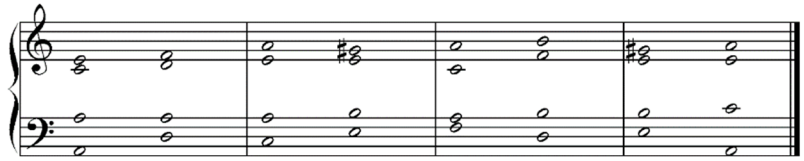
Please be seated.
The First Reading **Numbers 21:4-9**

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and

whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22



1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is `good, *
and his mercy endures for `ever.
2 Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed pro`claim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the `foe.
3 He gathered them out of the `lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the `south.
17 Some were fools and took to rebellious `ways; *
they were afflicted because of their `sins.
18 They abhorred all manner of `food *
and drew near to death's `door.
19 Then they cried to the LORD in their `trouble, *
and he delivered them from their dis`tress.
20 He sent forth his word and `healed them *
and saved them from the `grave.
21 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his `mercy *
and the wonders he does for his `children.
22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanks`giving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of `joy.

The Second Reading **Ephesians 2:1-10**

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn
Rock of ages, cleft for me **Hymn 685**

The Gospel **John 3:14-21**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Children's Moment

Children may come forward to the step in front of the altar as we sing "Jesus loves me, this I know."

The Sermon **The Rev. Donavan Cain**

The Nicene Creed **BCP 358**

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:

by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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 and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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, Form I **BCP 383**

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Glenda our Bishop, and Brian our Assisting Bishop, for Donavan, Jeannie, and Dave our clergy, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For Joe our President, Kay our Governor, and Tommy our Mayor, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the city of Huntsville, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel on land, on water, in the air, or through outer space, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For Nina Alspaugh, Graham Arnold, Cindy & Tom Atkins, Sally Barnett, Eric Cantrell, Sharon Griffin, Jane Harper, Christopher Harris, Larry Hill, Diane Hutson, Ann Knowles, Pam Lloyd, Janet McAlister, Thad Mauldin, Julia & Jack Mayo, Larry Meyer, Linda Mixon, Matthew Neustadter, Norma Oberlies, Stan Prevost, Karly Mauldin Renna, Gloria Roth & family, Dan Seaman, Connie Sharp, Mickey Sharp, Quinn Hattaway Short, Al Stokes, Tim Talley, Ursula Vann, Annie Wells, Lee West, and Jane Williams, and for those we name now, silently or aloud, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those whose birthdays are today or this week, Nancy Sheppard, Mary Anna Brown, Luke Green, Andrew Evans, Michael Fowler, Kristi Boyer, Robbie Clark, Barbara Beebe, Henry Mann, Lily Reid, Mary Elizabeth Marr, Ursula Vann, Gail Perna, Norma Deston.

And for our Companion Diocese of Honduras, for Bishop Allen, for Bob Harwell, our Missioner to Honduras, and for our Colonia Episcopal Students: Seylin, Saira, Wilson, Anthonay, Cesia, Josselin, Jeimy, Angel, Escarleth, Anthony, Cindy, Kierin, Eric, Nora, Grodven, Genesis, Andrea, Derek, Escarleth, Roberto, Daniel, and Kensy, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Thomas, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.
To you, O Lord our God.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and people may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory Anthem

God So Loved the World **John Stainer**

Please stand

Celebrant All things come of thee O Lord,

People **and of thine own have we given thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A **BCP 361**

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It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you. 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 **Hymn S-124**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or stand. Then the Celebrant continues

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."

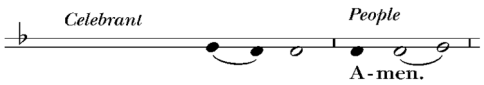
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

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.



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

The Lord's Prayer **BCP 364**

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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem **Agnus Dei** **Hymn S-161**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, Grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion in The Episcopal Church. If you do not wish to receive, you are welcome to receive a blessing. Come to the altar, cross your arms over your chest, and the clergy will provide a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Communion Hymn

I am the bread of life **Hymn 335**

Postcommunion Prayer **BCP 366**

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Solemn Prayer over the People

Celebrant Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn in Procession

Lift high the cross **Hymn 473**

Dismissal

Postlude

Worship Team for March 10, 2024

Celebrant and Preacher	The Rev. Donavan Cain
Deacon	The Rev. Dave Drachlis
Director of Music	Katherine Heim
Organist	Samuel Wright
Eucharistic Minister	Gail Perna, Steve Werner
Lectors	Bob Thurber, Susy Thurber
Ushers	Richard Thompson, David Hattaway
Greeters	John Callahan, Rebekah Callahan
Acolytes	Landis Price, Luke Carrier, Robyn Price, Olivia Price
Vestry on Duty	Kathie Clayton, David Hattaway
Altar Guild	Pat Johnson, Al Johnson, Penny Nielsen, Barbara Meyer
Flower Guild	Susy Thurber
Breakfast	Continental Bagels
Refreshments	Cyndi Jones, Martha Wilson

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OUR PRAYERS FOR MARCH 10, 2024

We pray for the ill or distressed: **Dean**, **Brian, Robert Lee, Brook** (D. Baker's father, brother, friends); **Kathy, James, Sylvia** (S. Barnett's relative & friends); **Angie** (P. Bedenbaugh's friend); **Pam** (B. Beebe's sister); **Matt** (A. Cain's father); **Larry** (D. Cain's uncle); **Paige** (B. Cantrell's friend); **Glen Yates** (S. Carrier's friend); **Glenda, Thomas** (K. Carter's mother & brother); **Maria** (A. Clark's relative); **Mary, Mark** (D. Clark's niece, friend); **Martha** (K. Clayton's aunt); **Randy** (T. Clements' brother-in-law); **Laura, Ralph** (Conover's friends); **Brad** (C. Covell's brother); **Rob** (Covell's friend); **Fred** (B. Dodson's relative); **Lois-Anne, Al** (C. Doyle's friends); **Cindy** (D. Eppling's daughter); **Tanya** (J. Eskew's sister-in-law); **Cecelia** (K. Evan's sister & S. Kittle's daughter); **Roger** (T. Evans friend); **Jan** (M. Evans' friend); **Marcella** (L. Fowler's mother); **Rhonda, Helen** (The Geis' friends); **Martha** (O. Gibson's relative); B. Kendrick (B. Greenaway's friend); **Beth, Will, Tim, Jane, Kathy** (G. Griffith's daughter, grandson, friends) **Libby** (M. Harris' friend); **Patrick, Destiny** (D. Hattaway's friends); **Stark, Spencer, Krystin, Rolly** (K. Heim's friends); **Buddy, Kelsey** (P. Heim's friends); **Randy** (M. Hill's friend); **Danny** (The Johnsons' nephew); **Ann** (E. Jones' friend); **Lois, Holland** (J. Jurhs' friend & daughter); **Alton** (M. King's grandfather); **Judy** (C. Knickelbein's aunt); **Paul** (L. Kreider's father); **Jimmy** (M.&T. Lackey's friend); **Jerry, Dennis** (T. Lee's father, brother); **Frances** (P Lloyd, N. Oberlies friend); **Sandra, Amy** (K. MacLeod's relatives); **Dan** (D. McCauley's brother); **Jesse** (C. McGill's son); **Rusty** (M. Marr's friend); **Jorge** (Mauldin's friend); **Bonnie, Jeff** (G. Mauldin's friends); **Cassie, Beth** (friends of J. Mayo); **Gail** (B. J. Merchant's friend); **Joseph** (Meyers' friend); **Bambi, Pat** (S. Mohler's parents); **Daisy** (W. Moore's mother); **Bennie, Allison** (Moy's friend and daughter); **Paul** (P. Nielsen's son); **Will** (W. Patterson's friend); **Amelia** (B. Pawluk's niece); **Hadley, Doug** (T. Perry's friends); **John** (L. Potter's friend); **Terry** (D. Palumbo's mother), **David** (B. Rackley's son); **Roseanne** (R. Redfield's mother); **Theresa** (R. Ross' friend); **Eric** (C. Roy's nephew); **Janet** (L. Ryder's friend); **Nancy, Lorri** (C. Seaman's sister, sister-in-law); **Linda** (friend of B. Smith); **Alan, Mack, Kimberly, Maddie** (S. Smith's son; family; friends); **Melanie** (friend of F. Steel); **Pam** (friend of B. Stilson); **Eric, Zach** (J. Stokes' friend); **Kay** (C. Sutton's mother); **Dorothy** (G. Taylor's friend); **Sharon, Valerie** (N. Teasdale's friends); **Gina** (L. Thurber's friend); and **Rachel, Will, Lily, Eli** (R. Verschoore's friends.

We pray for those who serve in and with the United States Armed Forces, especially: **Benjamin** (L. Cooper's son, L. Anders' grandson); **Logan Dodson** (Dodson's grandson); **Kathryn & Juan Muñera** (M. Erker's daughter, son-in-law); **Zach Young** (N. Fisher's son-in-law); **Nick Moultrie, Parker Byrd, Chris Garcia** (J. Fletcher's friends); **Christopher Harris** (M. Harris' son); **Grover Lee Wilson**, **Teddy Lovejoy, Zane Goodnite** (S. Kittle's relatives); **Drexel Martin** (C. Knickelbein's cousin); **Patrick Macala** (R. Macala & K. Clayton's son); **Jackson Mayo** (Mayo's grandson); **Julia Flores** (D. McCauley's cousin); **Ben Meyer** (B. & L. Meyer's grandson); **Jaden Smith** (Irene Smith's son); **Daniel** (L. Thames' son); and **Caden Zabel** (J. Zabel's grandson).

The Staff of St. Thomas

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The Week at a Glance

Sunday, March 10	**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS**
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Nave
9:00 AM	Breakfast Continental-Bagels
9:30 AM	Adult Christian Formation with Father Donavan, Parish Hall
9:30 AM	Youth Christian Formation, Youth Room
9:30 AM	Children's Christian Formation, Hiers Hall Classrooms
10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist, Nave
5:00 PM	"Come As You Are" Holy Eucharist, Nave
Monday, March 11	
10:00 AM	St, Thomas Book Club, Parlor
7:00 PM	Esau Society, Parish Hall
Wednesday, March 13	
9:30 AM	Bible Study, Conference Room 1
11:00 AM	Bible Study, Conference Room 1
4:30 PM	Treble Choir, Choir Room Hudson Hall
5:30 PM	Taizé Prayer, Nave
6:00 PM	Soup and Supper, Parish Hall
6:20 PM	Lenten Series: *Satan – The Evolution of Evil in the Bible and in the Church*
6:20 PM	Children's Lenten Program: Journeys, Parlor
7:15 PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room Hudson Hall
Thursday, March 14	
1:00 PM	Silver Saints, Parish Hall
4:00 PM	Centering Prayer, Crossroads
Friday, March 15	
12:05 PM	Pray the Rosary with Father Donavan, Nave
Saturday, March 16	
8:00 AM	Spring Clean Up Day, Parish Hall
8:00 AM	Habitat for Humanity, 215 Lake Drive

Easter Flower donations in honor, memory, or in thanksgiving of someone special begin today. Donation envelopes are in the pews through Tuesday, March 26th and require a $50 minimum.

Easter Brunch needs YOU! Sign up today in Information Hall. We need help with set up, food prep and serving, and clean up after the brunch. We will have egg trays for deviled eggs on Sunday March 17th & 24th between the services. We also need fruit salads! See all the details in the Epistle and sign-up to help!

Adult Christian Formation continues with Father Donavan's Class for Lent today in the Parish Hall at 9:30 AM.

St. Thomas Book Club meets Monday, March 11th at 10:00 AM in the Parlor. We are discussing *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt.

Wednesdays in Lent continue with: Taizé Prayer, Soup and Salad Supper, Adult Lenten Series, *Satan-The Evolution of Evil in the Bible and in the Church*, and the Children's Lenten Program through March 20th beginning at 5:30 PM in the Nave.

Silver Saints is this week! Meet us Thursday, March 14th at 1:00 PM in the Parish Hall to watch *Michael,* a divine romantic comedy about the Arch Angel, Michael. We will serve up fun, fellowship, drinks, and snacks.

Pray the Rosary with Father Donavan. We meet on Friday, March 15th at 12:05 PM in the Nave.

Spring Clean-up day is Saturday, March 16th, at 8:00 AM. Bring your garden tools and gloves and meet in the Parish Hall for a light breakfast and then get to work! We will work to make St. Thomas beautiful for Easter.

Habitat for Humanity continues Saturday, March 16th at 8:00 AM at 215 Lake Drive. Lunch is provided. Call Elouisa Stokes at 256-604-8669 for more details and see the current Epistle article.

ONGOING

A new opportunity to help from the Daughters of the King! It's a sock and underwear drive (new or used) for our homeless citizens in Huntsville. Drop your donations in the bin in Information Hall.

The St. Thomas Easter Bunny needs treats for our annual Easter Egg Hunt (wrapped/packaged candies/food or small goodies to fill the eggs). Drop off your contributions in the basket in Information Hall. Look for all the details in the current Epistle.

SAVE THE DATE and look for all the details in the current Epistle!

- **Newcomers Class is Sunday, March 17th at 9:30 AM**
- **Crosses and Cuisine is Saturday, March 23rd from 5:00 - 7:30 PM**
- **Choral Mediation is Sunday, March 24th at 6:00 PM**
- **Seder Service and Supper is Tuesday, March 26th at 6:00 PM**
- **Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, March 30th at 10:30 AM**