



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church  
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Fourth Sunday in Lent  
9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, March 11, 2018

## Announcements and Welcome

### Opening Hymn: Come thou fount

#686

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: *His mercy endures forever.*

*The Celebrant says to the people:*

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept. Celebrant 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.*

*The Priest, stands and says*

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

### **Kyrie**

*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

Celebrant: *The Lord be with you.*

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: *Let us pray.*

## **The Collect of the Day**

*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.*

## **The Lessons:**

### **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 proclaim \*  
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 distress.

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 thanksgiving \*  
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

### **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.*

### **Hymn: Amazing Grace**

**#671**

*The Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying*

### **The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 3:14-21**

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."

Celebrant:    The Gospel of the Lord.

People:       *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

### **The Sermon**

**Mrs. Amy Shimonkevitz**

### **The Nicene Creed**

## **Prayers of the People**

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

Reader: 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 and judge.

Purge us from our sin,  
**And we shall be pure.**

We pray for those who hunger, those who thirst, those who cry out for justice, 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, especially...

We pray for those in the armed forces at home and abroad...

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

Officiant: Lord Jesus, you taught your disciples that you must undergo great suffering and be killed before rising again; grant us the strength and wisdom to be your followers and to take up our cross to follow you, this day and always. **Amen.**

**The Peace** **pg. 360**

**The Blessing of Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries** **pg. 830**

**The Offertory: Rock of Ages** **#685**

**The Doxology** **#380**

**The Great Thanksgiving (Prayer C)**

**Sanctus**

**Fraction Anthem: Agnus Dei**

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

*Grant us peace; grant us peace.*

**The Communion of the People** (St. Thomas' extends the invitation to all baptized members of any Christian Church to receive the consecrated bread and wine. Please come forward to one of the stations, or kneel or stand at the altar rail.)

**Communion Hymn: When I survey the wondrous cross** #474

**Post Communion Prayer** pg. 365

**The Blessing**

**Recessional Hymn: When Christ was lifted** #603

**Dismissal:** Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
People: *Thanks be to God.*

**\*\*\* CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK of March 12th \*\*\***

**Monday, March 12th:** 7pm- NA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

**Tuesday, March 13th:** 6:30pm- EfM (Fellowship Hall)

**Wednesday, March 14th:**

**Thursday, March 15th:** 5pm- Newcomers Class (Room 6), 7:30pm- Music Practice (Sanctuary)

**Friday, March 16th:** 7pm- AA Meeting (Room 7), Vestry Retreat

**Saturday, March 17th:** Vestry Retreat

**Sunday, March 18th, Confirmation & Bishop Visitation** 9:30am- Worship, 10am- Confirmation, 11am- Vestry & Bishop Meeting (Classroom 6)

**\*\*\* ANNOUNCEMENTS \*\*\***

**Altar Guild:** The arrangements on the altar are given in memory of Connie Chenowith Kappler and Julia Todd Kappler by James Kappler and Family. For the month of March, Wine, Branch Candles and Eucharistic Candles are available. Dedications can be made in memory of someone, or also in honor of, thanksgiving for, or congratulations for other loved ones or events. The cost of each dedication is \$30. Please contact Diane Flayhart, [410-426-4618](tel:410-426-4618) or [dflayhart.stthomas@gmail.com](mailto:dflayhart.stthomas@gmail.com), or the church office, [410-821-5489](tel:410-821-5489), if you are interested in reserving a dedication. Thank you.

**Confirmation & Bishop Visitation:** Next Sunday, March 18, those who choose to will be confirmed by Bishop Chilton Knudsen. Then on April 8, these young men and women will lead the service.

Please prayer for the following confirmands :

Jonathan and Grace Brooks

Hannah Daniels

Ryan Jemallero

Nicole and Jason Kaff

Kevin and Jarrett Zarubaiko

**Holy Week Service Schedule:**

**Palm Sunday, March 25: 9:30 AM**

Our 9:30am worship service will be the Procession of the Palms and the Cry of the Whole: the faithful carrying of palms, representing the palm branches the crowd scattered in front of Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem.

**Maundy Thursday, March 29: 7:30 PM**

Join us at 7:30pm for our Maundy Thursday service which commemorates the Maundy and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles.

**Good Friday, March 30: 7:00 AM & 3:00 PM**

Friday before Easter Sunday, on which the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ is commemorated.

**Easter Vigil, March 31: 7:30 PM**

**Easter Sunday, April 1: 9:30AM**

Our 9:30am service will be followed by our traditional Easter Egg Hunt beginning at 10:30am, and is open to children 12 years of age and younger.

**Let's Get Pretty:** We are refurbishing or replacing the wreaths on the front church doors. If you would like to contribute to this project, you can purchase a wreath for a 20 dollar offering or for the same price you can purchase two boxes to protect them. Please contact the office if you would like to help, or put your gift into the offering plate.

**The next fresh fruit sale will be Saturday, April 14th.**

**Newcomers Class** will be offered on Thursday March 15th, at 5pm.

**Join us at the Forum during Lent:**

***Radical Renovation: living the cross filled life***

Our forum for Lent will take place during coffee hour at one of the tables. We will be reading the book, *Radical Renovation*, together with a chapter or two each week, and discuss on Sundays. *Radical Renovation* uses the metaphor of renovating a house as a way to talk about how our lives can be transformed as disciples of Christ. The Forum lasts about 35 minutes.

Lent IV: (March 11) Love: The Radical Center/Reconciliation: something that doesn't love a wall

Lent V: (March 18) Bishop's Visitation – no forum.

Palm Sunday: (March 25) Sacrifice: Its nothing if it costs you nothing

**For those who prefer a daily devotional for Lent:**

***Writing to God: 40 days of praying with my pen, by Rachael C. Hackenburg.*** Available on Amazon. If you are interested in this devotional, and cannot order from Amazon, call Jill in the office and she will order it for you. This is an interesting book about the practice of writing our prayers that I think you will find enjoyable and helpful.

**2018 Toiletry Drive**

During the remaining months of winter (up until Easter) St. Thomas' we will continue to collect toiletries for students at Parkville High School (a member of the Loch Raven Network). The items below are in particularly high demand and the good folks at PHS cannot keep up with the need. Please consider donating as much and as often you can. The items you get at hotels are perfectly sized and other items can be purchased in travel sizes.



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be

- Lip Balm such as Chapstick, CarMax
- Small deodorants for men and women
- Body Lotion
- Shampoo/Body Wash
- Mouthwash
- Travel toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Dental floss
- Hand sanitizer
- Tampons (these are given out privately)

Look for the basket in the Narthex and let's see if we can fill it again several times between now and Easter. For more information, or with any questions, please contact Beth Crosby at 410-804-5629 or at [bcrosby.saintthomas@gmail.com](mailto:bcrosby.saintthomas@gmail.com).

**'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' --Matthew 25:40**

**Women's Retreat, with the women of Ascension, Westminster (April 6-8):**

The retreat is open to all women of Ascension (age 18+), St. Thomas' AND friends, neighbors & family. Scholarships are available. (Contact Deacon Barbara or Lynn Kirby) Rev. Loree will be the Priest in residence AND Music Director for this retreat! Come and enjoy Claggett and get to know other women in the Diocese! **Reservations must be made by March 25th.** Please contact the Claggett Church Office to make your reservation:410-848-3251.

**Consider the Practice of Spiritual Direction this Lent with Debra Donnelly-Barton:**

"Sacred conversation, spiritual companionship or spiritual friendship are all ways of describing the experience of spiritual direction. Essentially two persons sit together in the presence of the Spirit and listen to one another with open and willing hearts. Open to the power of the Spirit and willing to learn a deeper reality of Christ's love. These conversations begin and end with prayer in the confidence that the Spirit is present as we share the stories of our hopes, dreams and sorrows. In the context of moving ever closer to God, the reality of our lived experience becomes a beautiful entrance into the dream that God has for each of us."

Contact Debra at [director@csdonline.org](mailto:director@csdonline.org) or 410-812-1243.

Learn more online at: <https://www.csdonline.org/>

**Check out all of St. Thomas' Partners in the Community that utilize our amazing facility:** Loch Raven Network, City Light Chapel, McAllens Toffee, Greater Baltimore Church, Sudanese Ministries, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Johns Hopkins Parkinson's, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Meals on Wheels, Baltimore County Police Juvenile and Family Counseling, Maestro Musicians Academy, Debra Barton: Spiritual Director, Third Wall Productions, and our private events.

**Prayers for Healing are requested for those who are ill or in any need:** Alyssa Formwalt, John Wyatt, Michael B., Joshua Birch, Keith, Dan Licht, Leigh, Pete, Dowell S., Mary, Jan Jr., Bill D., Rick D., Nan F, Thomas Moran, Chris O., David J., Jeri Adams, Matti Kassir, Graham, Ronnie L., Louise D., Dottie D., Diane Flayhart, Mary Kambic, Mo Otradovec, and Robert Yoos.

**And for those who are homebound:** Theresa Welsch, Mary Shorter, Nan Fitzgerald, Charles and Susan Harryman, Carrie Hemberger, Susan Herring, Ellen Monahan, Connie Waxter, and Dan Licht.

**Rev. Loree Penner, Rector**  
**443-377-9048**

**Diane Flayhart, Sr. Warden**  
**410-426-4618**

**Sharon Greenbeck, Jr. Warden**  
**410-963-2996**