

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ST. PETERSBURG, FL

The Fourth Sunday in Lent: Laetare Sunday

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Rite II

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Coming together in the early days of our Lenten observance, we ready ourselves to worship God.

Organ Prelude

The Celebrant says,

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People

His mercy endures for ever.

The Decalogue:

Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Deacon Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against him. Let us then renounce our willfulness and ask his mercy by confessing our sins in penitence and faith. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept.

All **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.**

Celebrant 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.**

Trisagion *Said 3 times*

**Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lord tells us in scripture and preaching the stories of His saving acts in human history, of which we have become a part through baptism. We respond in hope, proclaiming our belief, praying for the world and ourselves and greeting one another in His name.

A Reading from the Book of Samuel

1 Samuel 16: 1-13

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

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

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

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

Psalm 23

**The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.**

**He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.**

**He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.**

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me; our rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

**Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Ephesians 5:8-14

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

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

John 9: 1-41

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

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

called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

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

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

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

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

*Deacon
People*

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Nicene Creed

**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

We pray to the Lord for courage to give up other things and to give ourselves to him this Lent.

Give your Church the courage to give up her preoccupation with herself and to give more time to your mission in the world. We pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Dabney, our Bishop, Ryan and Ann our Priests; Martha our Deacon, Sonia our Canterbury Chaplain, and Diana our Seminarian.

Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

May the blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus bring forgiveness to your people and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation. We pray especially for those in our Anglican Cycle of Prayer, the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui and for those of our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, St. Michael and All Angels, Sanibel; St. Monica's, Naples; St. Nathaniel's,

North Port; St. Paul's, Naples; St. Peter's Cathedral, St. Petersburg; St. Peter's, Plant City, and our companion Diocese of the Dominican Republic.

Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and to seek peace. We pray for Donald our President, Ron our Governor, Rick our Mayor, and all those in civic authority. May the shoulders of the risen Jesus, once scourged by soldiers, bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world.

Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy in our families, neighborhoods and communities. May the presence of the risen Jesus, his body once broken and now made whole, bring peace and direction as we live with one another. We pray especially for those celebrating their birthdays this week, Michael Zombory, Meredith Marshall, Russ Ball, Joni James, Alice Thompson.

Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us the courage to give up our selfishness as we live for others, and to give time, care and comfort to the sick. We pray for Mark, Winifred, Maggie, Jon, Vaughn, Sam, Rodney, Marshall, Win, Doris, Gayle, Vivian, Esther, Rose, Al, Robert, Patrick, Jessica, Jim, Faye, Lindsey, Shirley, Taylor, John, Becky, and Joe. May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch, and the light of his presence fill their rooms.

Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us the courage to give up our fear of death and to rejoice with those who have died in faith.

Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Celebrant

May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross, walk alongside the dying and bereaved in their agony, and walk with us and all your Church through death to the gate of glory.

Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer, here and in eternity. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And also with you.



THE LITURGY OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Our Lord comes to us in His sacrifice banquet,
and He strengthens us to persevere in our Lenten discipline.*

†The Great Thanksgiving†

Eucharistic Prayer C

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also 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 him thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus and Benedictus

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
**We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept. Then all join in and say,

Fraction Anthem

"Lamb of God" (Agnus Dei)

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

If you choose to pray the Act of Reception for Spiritual Communion, this is when you will do so.

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, (and remembering particularly my own parish and those worshiping there) I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

And particularly for the blessings given me....(name your own blessings) I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

The Post Communion Prayer

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.

The Solemn Blessing over the People

Celebrant Bow down before the Lord.

Please incline your head.

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

The Sanctuary light is given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the birthday of Joni James by Mary Jane Park

Community Announcements

LENTEN SUPPER, SONG & PRAYER

Wednesday activities are cancelled until further notice.

WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST

The 5:15 p.m. Wednesday Eucharist will be live streamed on Facebook.

ST. THOMAS' SERVICES AND EVENTS

All services at St. Thomas' will be live streamed on Facebook.

All meetings and events are cancelled at this time.

FACEBOOK LIVE SERVICES DURING CORONAVIRUS ISOLATION

Morning Prayer - M-F, 9 am

Evening Prayer - M, T, Th, F, 5:30 pm

Holy Eucharist, Rite I - W, 5:15 pm

Compline - W, 8 pm

Holy Eucharist, Rite II - Sunday, 9 am

Both Holy Eucharist services will be uploaded to the homepage of our website at the conclusion of the live stream.

WEEKLY DRAFT

If you are not receiving the "Weekly Draft," please call the church office (727-896-9641).



ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1200 Snell Isle Blvd.
St. Petersburg, FL, 33704

The Rev. Ryan R. Whitley, *Rector*

Thanks to those who are helping today ...

Altar Guild: Julie DiOrio, Susan McMullen

Acolytes:

Chalice Bearers:

Coffee Hour:

Counters:

Flower Guild Arrangers:

Greeters:

Intercessor:

Lectors:

Oblations:

Prayers of the People:

Ushers:

The Rev. Ann Dieterle, *Assistant Rector*

The Rev. Martha Goodwill, *Deacon*

The Rev. Sonia Sullivan Clifton,
Canterbury Chaplain

Rick Smith, *Director of Music*

Joe Master, *Organist and Director of Finance*

Pam Holley, *Parish Administrator*

Jon Ward, *Sexton*

Vestry Members

Class of 2018-2020

George Burkhardt, Jack Day, Anne Elstun

Class of 2019-2021

Dick Nelson, *Sr. Warden*,

Valery Hendry, Dee McMahan, *Jr. Warden*

Class of 2020-2022

David Dreisbach, Jay Hill, *Treasurer*

Russ Martin

Church Telephone: 727-896-9641

Rector's Cell Phone: 727-685-9224

Email: pamh@stthomasstpete.org

Website: www.stthomasstpete.org

Facebook: comeseestthomas

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

Spoken Holy Eucharist, Rite II - 8:00 A.M.

Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite II - 10:00 A.M.

MORNING PRAYER

Monday - Friday, Rite II - Chapel, 9:00 A.M.

OUR MISSION

Making a difference for others, because God is making a difference for us.