



ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH DUPONT CIRCLE



Fourth Sunday of Lent – March 22, 2020

Opening Hymn 645

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”



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



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



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

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be God of our salvation.

People: Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

Confession of Sins

✠ *Celebrant says Let us confess our sins to God. Silence may be kept.*

All say:

GOD OF ALL MERCY, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. **Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Absolution

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

Kyrie Eleison

“Lord, have mercy”

The musical score for 'Kyrie Eleison' is written in 2/2 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of two systems of music. The first system features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.' The piano accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines. The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics 'Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' and includes a repeat sign at the end.

The Collect

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Creator and healer, root of all goodness, working your Sabbath will in the chaos of our life: teach us the insight that gives true judgement and praises you wherever you are found, making miracles from spit and mud; through Jesus Christ, the Son of earth. **Amen.**

First Reading

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

(read together)

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

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

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

Second Reading

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**

Sequence Hymn

“Bless the Lord My Soul”

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name.

The first line of the hymn is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name." The music features a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady accompaniment.

Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me in - to life.

The second line of the hymn continues the melody and accompaniment from the first line. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me in - to life." The music concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

The Holy Gospel

John 9: 1-41

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

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

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

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.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord. **People: Praise to you Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Lisa Ahuja

✠ *Please observe a moment of silence following the sermon*

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Prayers of the People

(written by John Trumbo)

Let us empty our hearts and minds, and make room for the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives, saying, **God of rebirth and renewal, hear our prayer.**

During this holy season of Lent, Lord, help us dare to release those stones we carry in the tombs of our souls that weigh down our journey and separate us from the power of Your redemptive Spirit.

God of rebirth and renewal, hear our prayer.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. We thank You, Lord, for the love and fellowship of our families, friends, this congregation, and community.

God of rebirth and renewal, hear our prayer.

Lord, we offer up our personal failings and the injustices of the world around us. Reveal to us that by serving and meeting those around us in their need we are in turn set free.

God of rebirth and renewal, hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for our priest-in-charge, our vestry and lay leaders, and our bishops, asking that they may be moved to lead your people to the places and purposes that You would have us encounter.

God of rebirth and renewal, hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for the leaders of this city, this country, and this world. Quiet our differences and discord, and show each of us how to see You in everyone we meet.

God of rebirth and renewal, hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for healing for all and for any who suffer from every kind of affliction; for those imprisoned by walls, addiction, homelessness, trauma, and fear, especially...

[The congregation is invited to name those aloud...]

God of rebirth and renewal, hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for the repose of the souls of those who have left this life on Earth, and for their loved ones who grieve their passing, especially...

[The congregation is invited to name those aloud...]

God of rebirth and renewal, hear our prayer.

During this holy season of Lent, Lord, remind us that Your hand is at work in all that is well, and proper, and obedient, and pure. Help us grasp the task that you have given each of us to carry out in Your name, and empower us to be and do more than we could possibly imagine on our own.

God of rebirth and renewal, hear our prayer.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Christ be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

✠*The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace*

Offertory Anthem

“Psalm 23”

(choir)

Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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 forever. Amen.



Spiritual Communion Prayer

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion. The presider invites the following prayer to be said by all:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

Blessing

Closing Hymn 488

“Be Thou My Vision, O Lord of My Heart”



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,



all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!



thou my best thought, — by day or by night,
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart, — what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Gospel for March 29 - John 11: 1-45



ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE
Announcements for Sunday March 22, 2020

A Note from Our Priest in Charge

What can we do to help?

What to do if we need help?

As God's beloved children, we remember that we are interconnected. Your joy is my joy, your pain is my pain. In this uncertain time when many of us are homebound due to self-quarantine, working remotely, retirement, or illness it is important for us to remember we are connected. Many have already asked how we could reach out to help others.

What can we do to help?

A few things come to mind immediately: Pray. Use the information you have to make the best decisions for your health and the health of our larger community. Let **Rev. Lisa** know that you are willing to help as needs arrive. She is collecting a list of people happy to help, and people who need help. She will connect people, rather than sharing specific addresses and needs in the newsletter or on social media. Please take time to update your contact information in Realm as this will save time in reaching out to you. Instructions below.

What if we need help?

Sometimes it is hard to reach out and ask for help. Please know that you are cared for and loved by the parish. Please know that many people from the parish have already contacted Rev. Lisa to say they would be happy to get groceries, make phone calls, or pick up prescriptions. Please do call Rev. Lisa if you would like to chat, or have a specific need that we may be able to meet. Please also take time to update your contact information in Realm so we can easily respond to you.

God bless you,
Lisa+
202-361-2018

A Message from the Wardens

Dear ones,

What a wild, wild week it has been! Like all of us, we have been adjusting to this new normal which has caused anxiety, stress, and negotiating space for work in our homes and boundaries about timing with our colleagues. As we continue to find ways to connect as a community, we also recognize the financial concerns that are at play. If you normally bring your pledge check to drop in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, please begin mailing your check to the church (1517 18th St. NW) or paying using Realm or bill

pay through your bank. If your financial situation has shifted due to inability to work, closures, or furloughs, please reach out to Rev. Lisa or one of us so we can take all the information into account as we make needed adjustments to the church budget. We are all in this together and we will come to the other side a stronger community for having had to adjust how we conceive of worship and community as the church out in the world yet isolated from each other. Our prayers go with you in this time of social distancing.

Love,
Jessie and Steve

Online Worship, Study, & Fellowship

As you know our building is closed until at least **May 16**. This does not mean our worship, study, or fellowship is closed! Please see below for all of our worship and events, with details for how to connect online or reschedule. We've tried to keep the scheduling consistent.

At the end of this schedule, please see some tips for using Zoom. We've chosen to connect via Zoom because it is more interactive than Facebook Live. We will share our worship from Zoom on Facebook live (but not the conversation that follows). If you are uncomfortable with the new technology, I encourage you to give it a try, and stay after our session to have questions answered. Zoom allows you to connect with video or over the phone.

Please do contact me with questions, pastoral concerns, or ideas.

God bless you,
Lisa+
202-361-2018

Here is our schedule:

Come to any or all sessions, all are welcome!

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday (from 3/12-3/28):

6:30 pm Evening Prayer followed by a time to catch up and ask questions. **Zoom**

Wednesdays: Evening Prayer with sermon followed by Lenten Study. **Zoom**

Sunday, 3/29: 10:30 am Live Streamed worship with music and bulletin

Zoom login/call in info:

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/887621935?pwd=NCTkSThoTGhuV1B4M1VMZ3hqQkpSdz09>

Meeting ID: 887 621 935 Password: 275440

Dial in: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) Meeting ID: 887 621 935

Using Zoom: The meeting link (for joining from a computer, so you can see everyone) or call in number and code will remain the same each night at 6:30 pm.

- Turn on your video on your computer's video capability.
- Go to www.zoom.us/test to test your ability to speak and be recorded during the meeting. Sit near your computer. If you are too far from the camera, we will not be able to see your beautiful face.
- If you cannot see your face in the screen, neither can we. Just adjust your camera up or down so your whole face is visible.
- Please mute your phone or computer when you are not speaking. This helps with outside noise.
- There is a feature to raise your hand, which we will encourage during time of conversation. This helps us not talk over one another

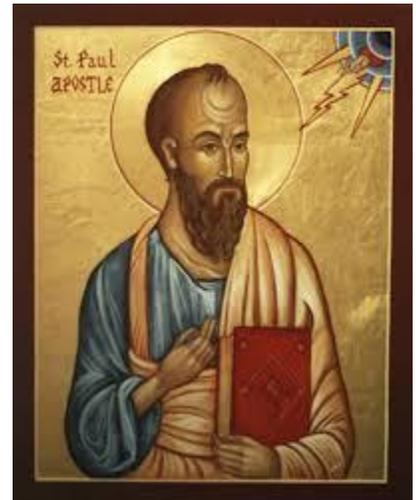
Zoom Small Groups Starting!!!

Zoom small groups are starting, hopefully next week. I will be leading a series on the Challenge of Paul. At each session, we'll watch a 15-minute video on Zoom on a lecture series by John Dominic Crossan. Then have group discussion afterwards. Wear your PJs and bring your favorite snack! Another group will watch a 7-video series on Presiding Bishop Curry's Way of Love called Traveling Way of Love which explores how Episcopalians across the US are practicing the Way of Love!

We need a group leader for this series (has curriculum guide). Let me know if you would volunteer to lead this Zoom group. See trailer video link below.

I also urge any of you out there to contact me if you have any other small groups you would like to lead while we create community together online.

Email me, Jason Forman, at jasonforman4@gmail.com, if you would like to join either group or be a leader.



[Traveling the Way of Love Video](#)



Celebrating Cindy Adkins' Retirement

Our celebration with Cindy Adkins has been postponed to a tentative date of Sunday, June 7. We will give thanks for the ministry of Cindy Adkins, our Music Director, and celebrate her retirement. Please plan to join us for worshipping that Sunday and stay for her party!

Baptism

At baptism we are sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked as one of Christ's own forever. If you seek baptism, or would like for a child to be baptized, please be in touch with Rev. Lisa. Our tentative date for baptism at St. Thomas' Parish is Pentecost Sunday on May 31.

Welcome Dinner

The **Welcome Dinner** originally scheduled for Friday, March 27 has been postponed until a later date.

Celebrating Our March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Jason Crighton (March 10)
Nate Vaagen (March 15)
Andrew Rutlege (March 17)
Murray Scheel (March 19)
Lynn Moluf (March 20)
Reggie Greer (March 21)
Brian Crane (March 27)

Anniversaries

Jason Forman and Brett Snyder (March 5)
Stephen Schembs and Mark Gangler (March 20)

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed here, please let us know at info@stthomasdc.org.

Prayer List

Gene Robinson, Cindy Gangler, Annemarie Bohler, Matthew Briggs, Len Hawley, Michael Fitzpatrick (stepfather of Jessie Brewster), Peggy Ann Cohen, Kristin Jones, Dave Kucharski, Steve Parsons, Paula Amadeo, Bill McDonald, Brian Crane, the Dodson family, Chris Hartenau, Donna Norman, Mary Ellen Reed, Trisha Shaffer, Brianna Clifford, David Clayton Montgomery, Teresa Zagami, baby Sabag; LeAnne Middleton; Catherine Manhardt; for the repose of the souls of Andy Bonilla, Wilfredo Torres, David Yoder, and Ed Harri.

You may submit a name for the list by sending an e-mail to: prayers@office.stthomasdc.org.



ST. THOMAS' PARISH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH • DUPONT CIRCLE

"As St. Thomas' Parish we are followers of Jesus, striving to see Christ in each person, and to be Christ in our community, our city, and our world."

Vestry

Jessie Eddy, Senior Warden
Stephen Schembs, Junior Warden
Jennie Allison, Treasurer
Jean Holman, Clerk
Jennie Allison, Brian Crane, Jason Crighton, Reggie Greer,
Bettina Hager, Jane Saari, Gregory Zitterkob

Staff

The Rev. Lisa Saunders Ahuja	Priest-in Charge	lahuja@stthomasdc.org cell: 202-361-2018
The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson	Bishop in Residence	@BishopGRobinson
Cindy Adkins	Music Director	cadkins@stthomasdc.org
Nolan DiFrancesco	Administrator	administrator@stthomasdc.org
Kimberly Davis	Nursery Care Worker	
Clifford Bowens	Nursery Care Worker	

Please Note: Our Office is closed through May 16.

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