

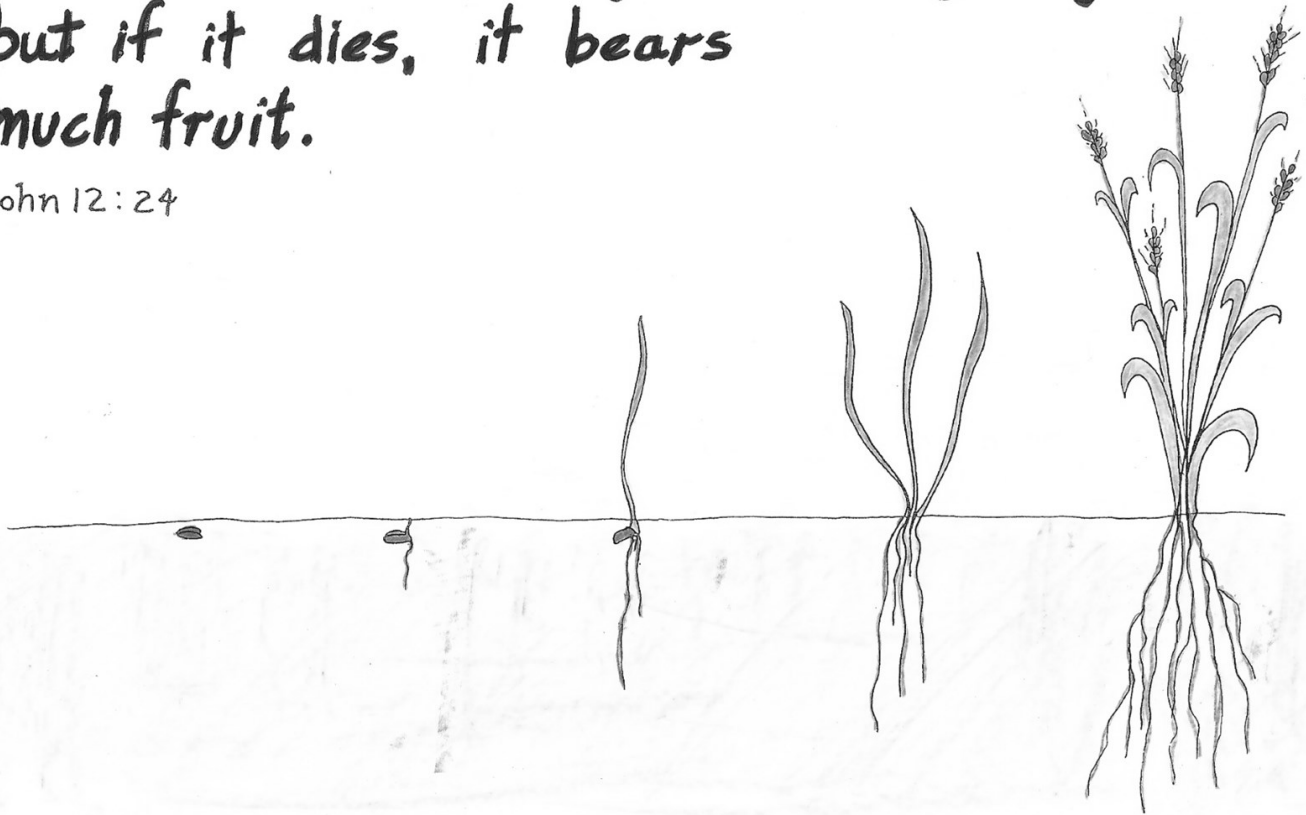
Fifth Sunday in LENT

March 17, 2024

Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

John 12:24



St. Thomas Episcopal Church
231 Sunset Ave.

Sunnyvale, CA 94086

408-736-4155 www.stthomas-svale.org

Fifth Sunday in LENT

March 17, 2024

Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am

Welcome to worship this morning.

We are so happy you are here today, in-person and online.

For those of you coming to church in-person, please follow these guidelines to keep everyone safe.

Masking is now recommended at church services. For those who have vulnerable health issues, our 10:30am services always offer an option to worship from the safety of home. Please stay home if you feel sick.

For those attending remotely, you may connect in either of two ways:

1. by computer or smartphone (video and audio):

You may access our ZOOM meeting on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82690025101>

2. by telephone (audio only):

Dial +1 669 900 9128 Meeting ID: 826 9002 5101

When prompted for a participant number, touch the pound key (#).

*Please follow the usual procedures for muting and unmuting (*6) and raising a hand (*9). For the sake of audio clarity, your mic will be muted on entry.*

*Please note: Regarding joining us on Zoom, we welcome newcomers and appreciate your **on-time** attendance. If you arrive more than 15 minutes after the service begins, our Zoom protocols may not permit your joining the service.*

Equally important, please be sure that your zoom account ID includes your first and last name. We look forward to seeing you

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Hymnal #709

O God of Bethel

Please join in singing the hymn. Zoom participants stay muted.

Unison



- 1 O God of Beth - el, by whose hand thy peo-ple still are fed;
- 2 Our vows, our prayers, we now pre-sent be-fore thy throne of grace;
- 3 Through each per-plex-ing path of life our wan-dering foot-steps guide;
- 4 O spread thy shel-tering wings a-round till all our wan-derings cease
- 5 Such bless-ings from thy gra-cious hand our hum-ble prayers im-plore;



- 1 who through this earth-ly pil-grim-age hast all thine Is-rael led:
- 2 O God of Is-rael, be the God of this suc-ceed-ing race.
- 3 give us each day our dai - ly bread, and rai-ment fit pro-vide.
- 4 and at our Fa-ther's loved a-bode our souls ar-rive in peace!
- 5 and thou shalt be our cov-enant God and por-tion ev-er - more.

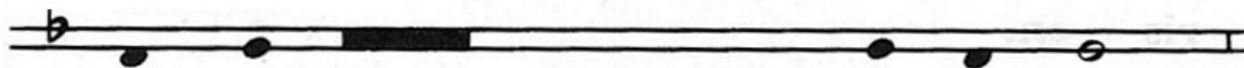
Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751), alt.

Music: Dundee, melody from *The CL Psalms of David*, 1615;
fauxbourdon *The Psalms of David in Prose and Meeter*, 1635

CM

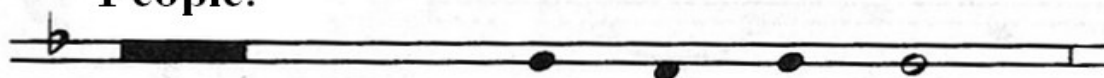
Opening Acclamation

Celebrant:



Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People:



His mercy en - dures for ev - er.

The Decalogue

Celebrant: 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.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant: You shall not make for yourself any idol.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

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

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant: Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant: Honor your father and your mother.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant: You shall not commit murder.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant: You shall not commit adultery.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant: You shall not steal.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant: You shall not be a false witness.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant: You shall not covet anything that belongs to your
neighbor.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant: Jesus said,

"The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel:

The Lord your 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 commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

The Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

The Absolution

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.**

Kyrie

You are invited to sing along. Zoom participants, please stay muted.

continued next page

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

continued next page

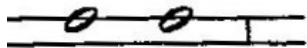
Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Collect for the Fifth Sunday in Lent

Celebrant: People: Celebrant:

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.

Celebrant: Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: 

A - men.

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

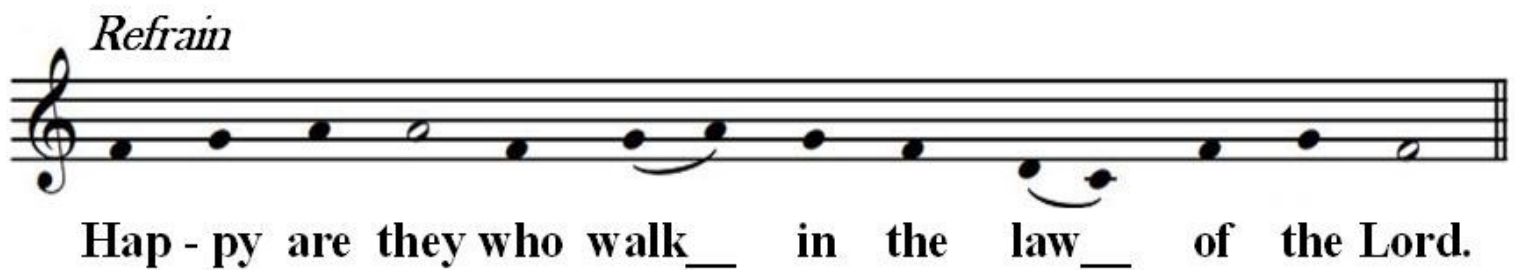
Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:9-16

You are welcome to sing along with the refrain.

Zoom participants, please stay muted.



How shall a young man cleanse his way?

By keeping to your words.


With my whole heart I seek you;

let me not stray from your commandments. *Refrain (as above)*

I treasure your promise in my heart,
that I may not sin against you.

Blessed are you, O Lord;
instruct me in your statutes. *Refrain*

Refrain




Hap - py are they who walk__ in the law__ of the Lord.

The musical notation for the first refrain is written on a single staff with a treble clef. It consists of a sequence of notes: a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on B4, a half note on C5, a quarter note on B4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on F#4, a quarter note on E4, a quarter note on D4, and a final quarter note on C4. There are two slurs: one under the half note C5 and the quarter note B4, and another under the quarter notes F#4 and E4.

With my lips will I recite
all the judgments of your mouth.

I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees
than in all manner of riches. *Refrain*

Refrain




Hap - py are they who walk__ in the law__ of the Lord.

The musical notation for the second refrain is identical to the first, written on a single staff with a treble clef. It consists of a sequence of notes: a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on B4, a half note on C5, a quarter note on B4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on F#4, a quarter note on E4, a quarter note on D4, and a final quarter note on C4. There are two slurs: one under the half note C5 and the quarter note B4, and another under the quarter notes F#4 and E4.

I will meditate on your commandments
and give attention to your ways.

My delight is in your statutes;
I will not forget your word. *Refrain*

Refrain



Hap - py are they who walk__ in the law__ of the Lord.

The musical notation for the third refrain is identical to the first and second, written on a single staff with a treble clef. It consists of a sequence of notes: a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on B4, a half note on C5, a quarter note on B4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on F#4, a quarter note on E4, a quarter note on D4, and a final quarter note on C4. There are two slurs: one under the half note C5 and the quarter note B4, and another under the quarter notes F#4 and E4.

The Epistle: Hebrews 5:5-10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

Hymnal #439

What Wondrous Love Is This

Please join in singing the hymn. Zoom participants stay muted.

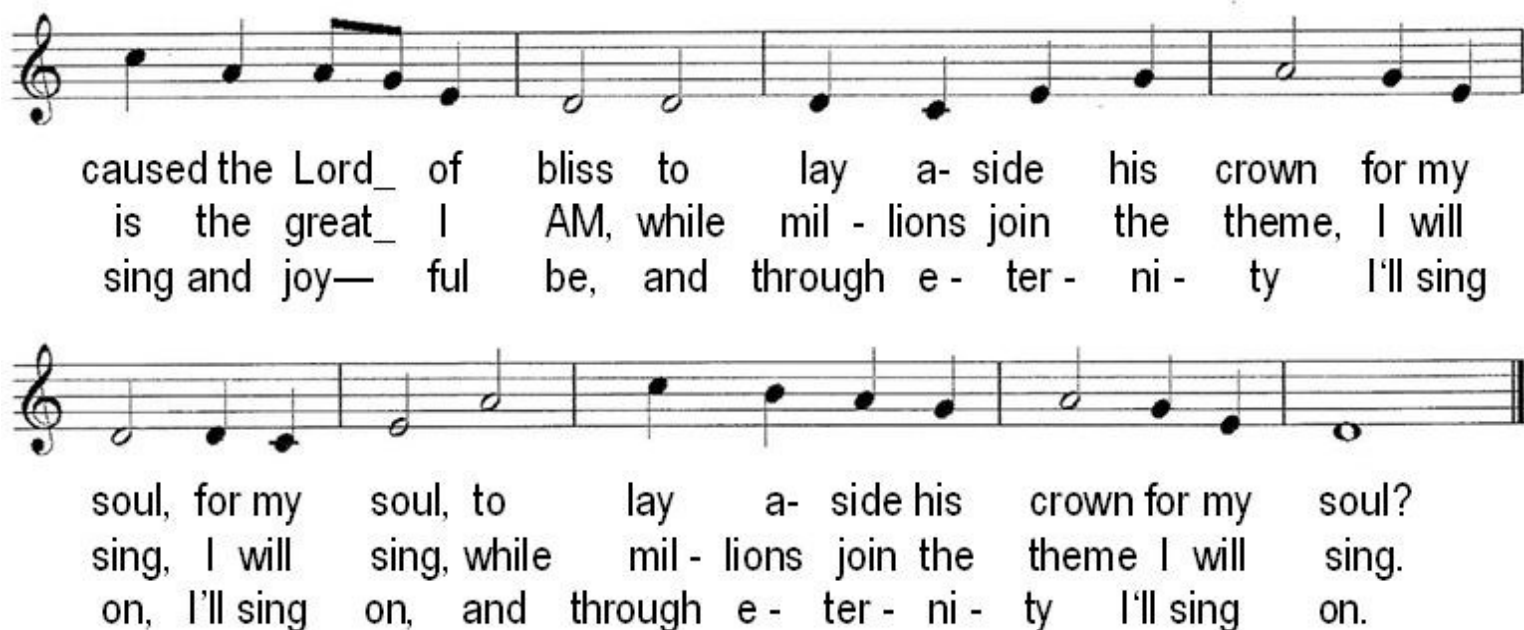


1. What won- drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul? What
2. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and



won-drous love is this, O my soul? What won- drous love is this that
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb, who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll

continued next page



The Gospel John 12:20-33

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing

there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

There will be a time of silence for meditation.



The Nicene Creed

said in unison

**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 III

Leader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

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

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

People: **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Leader: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People: **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Leader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People: **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Leader: Give to the departed eternal rest.

People: **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Leader: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.
Leader: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The people may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

The Peace

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

People: And also with you.

Let us greet one another with a wave and a namaste of peace.

Announcements

Offertory

Malcolm Archer

Song of the Covenant

Members of the St. Thomas Choir
Benjamin Belew, organ

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

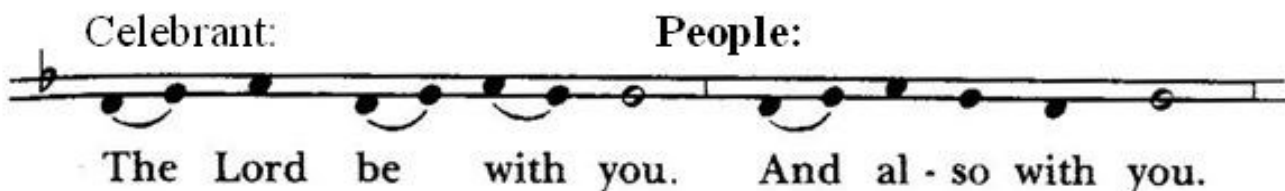
Celebrant: All things come of you, O Lord.

People: And of your own have we given you.



Sursum Corda

Eucharistic Prayer A



continued next page

Celebrant: People:

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant:

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People:

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

Here follows a seasonal preface.

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

Hymnal S-130, F. Schubert

You are invited to sing along. Zoom participants, please stay muted.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord, God of power and

might, _____ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, _____ hea-ven and earth are

full, _____ full _____ of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

continued next page

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes _____

_____ in the name of the Lord, _____ Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The second system also has a treble and bass staff. The third system has a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staves. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Celebrant:

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:

Celebrant and People:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant:

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,

**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 Fraction Anthem

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Agnus Dei

Hymnal S-164, F. Schubert

You are invited to sing along. Zoom participants, please stay muted.

Je-sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

continued next page

Je-sus, bear-er of our sins: have mer - cy on ___ us.

Je - sus, _ re - deem - er, re - deem - er of _ the world:

give _ us your peace, give _ us _ your peace.

Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Communion

Everyone is invited to come to the altar railing during Communion.

- *You may stand or kneel at the altar rail, as you are able.*
- *The wine will be served in the chalice and in the small cups. The chalice will precede the cups. If you do not reach for the chalice, it will pass and the cups will follow. (Please place the empty cup on one of the trays near the aisles.)*
- *Please, do not dip the bread in the wine.*
- *If you do not wish to receive communion, you may receive a blessing: please cross your arms over your chest as a sign that you wish to be blessed.*
- *Gluten free bread is available upon asking.*

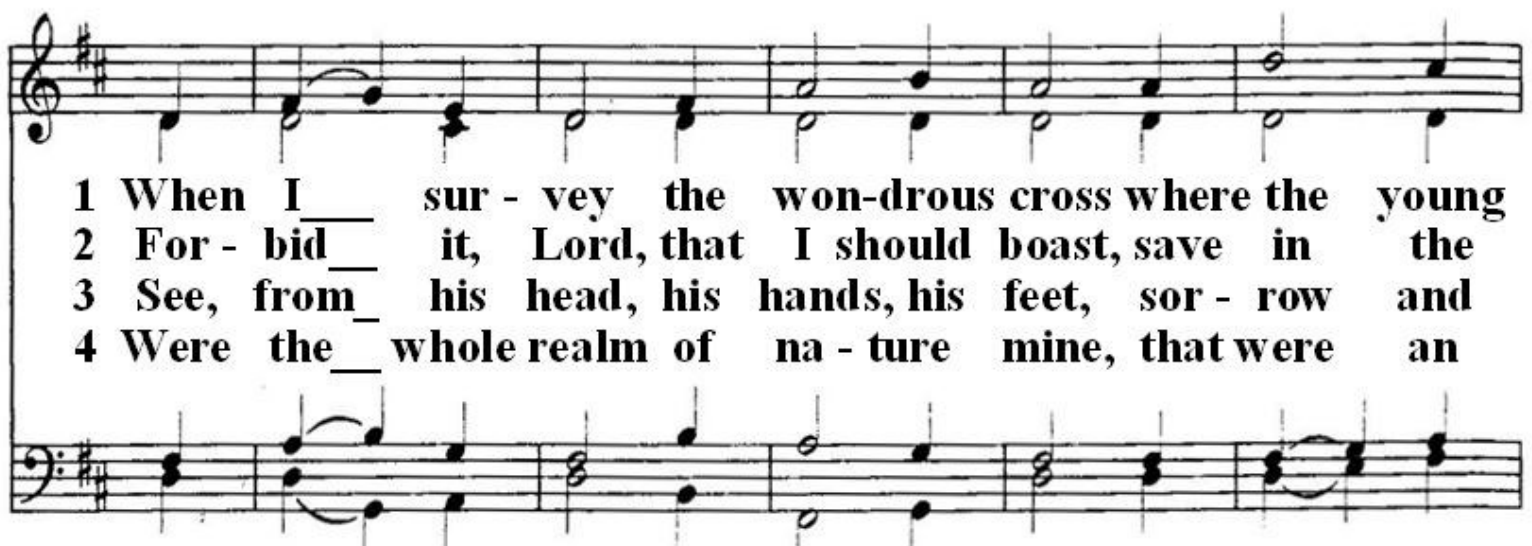
Communion Music

Hymnal #474

see next page

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Please join in singing the hymn. Zoom participants stay muted.



1 When I sur - vey the won-drous cross where the young
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were an

continued next page

1 Prince of Glo - ry died. _ my rich - est gain I
 2 cross of Christ, my God: _ all the vain things that
 3 love flow min - gled down! _ Did e'er such love and
 4 of - fering far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

1 count _ but loss, and pour con - tempt on all _ my pride.
 2 charm _ me most I sac - ri - fice them to _ his blood.
 3 sor - row meet or thorns com - pose so rich _ a crown?
 4 so di - vine de - mands my soul, my life, _ my all.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Music: Rockingham, from *Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature*, ca. 1780; harm. Edward Miller (1731-1807) LM

Post Communion Prayer *led by the Celebrant, said in unison*

All: **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 Blessing

Book of Occasional Services

Celebrant: Bow down before the Lord.

Please bow or kneel.

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize
their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength,
so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of
your loving providence; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn

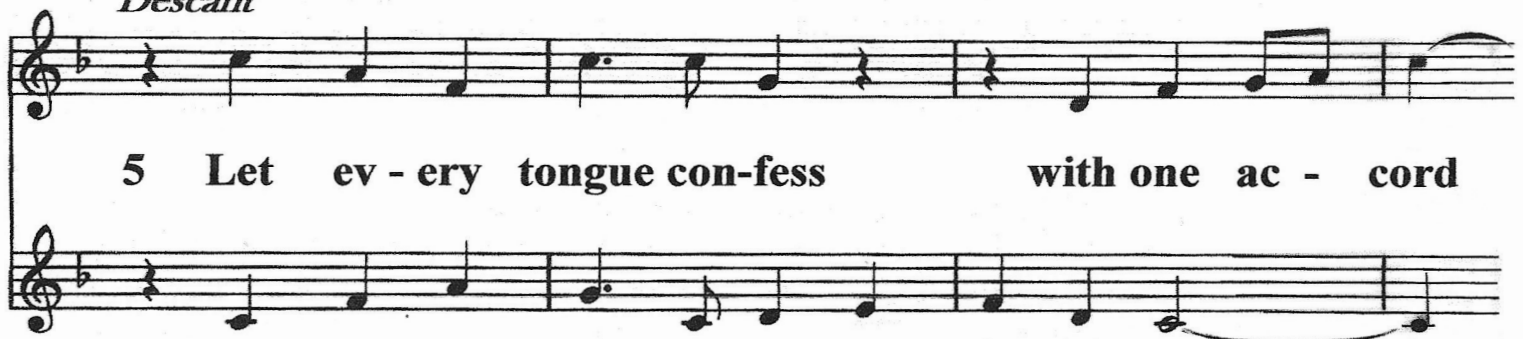
Hymnal #477

See next page.

All Praise to Thee

Please join in singing the hymn. Zoom participants stay muted.

Descant




- 1 All praise to thee, for thou, O King di - vine, _____
- 2 Thou cam'st to us in low - li - ness of thought _____
- 3 Let this mind be in us which was in thee, _____
- 4 Where-fore, by God's e - ter - nal pur-pose, thou _____
- 5 Let ev - ery tongue con-fess with one ac - cord _____

continued next page




Je - sus Christ is Lord;



1 didst yield the glo - ry that of right was thine,____
2 by thee the out - cast and the poor were sought;____
3 who wast a ser - vant that we might be free,____
4 art high ex - alt - ed o'er all crea-tures now,____
5 in heaven and earth that Je - sus Christ is Lord;____



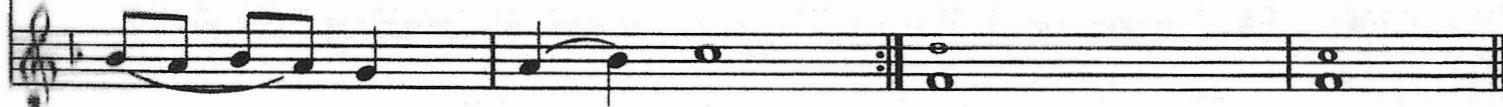
and God the Fa - ther_ be by all a - dored.



1 that in our dark-ened hearts thy grace might shine.____
2 and by thy death was God's sal - va - tion wrought.____
3 hum-bling thy - self to death on Cal - va - ry.____
4 and gives the name to which all knees shall bow.____
5 and God the Fa - ther be by all a - dored.____



Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.



Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



Serving today

The St. Thomas Altar Guild

Officiant: The Rev. Salying Wong

Preacher: Angela Rausch

Eucharistic Minister: Ann Kopischke

Lectors: John Pietrzyk, Patricia Pietrzyk

Cantor: Chris Schmidt

Greeters: MaryJane Johnson, Pat Turnbull,
Stephanie Daugherty

Members of the **St. Thomas Choir**

Director: Patricia Pietrzyk

Accompanist: Benjamin Belew

Zoom Host: The Rev. Salying Wong

Today in the Parish

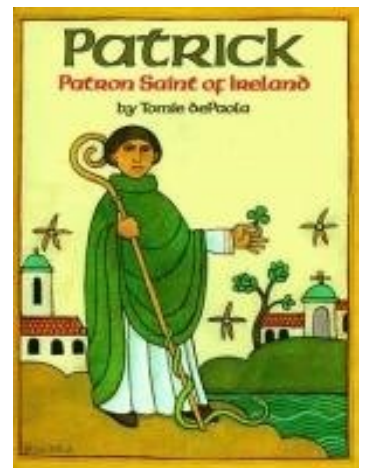
Coffee hour today will be in Cowans Hall. Please be mindful of Covid protocols.

Library News:

Book of the Week March 17, 2024

[*Patrick: patron saint of Ireland*](#) by Tomie DePaola

Describes the life of Saint Patrick—from his noble birth in Britain, to his captivity in Ireland, to the visions which led him to return and found the first Christian church in Ireland.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Holy Week and Easter Services		
Palm Sunday March 24	8am and 10:30am	Palm Sunday: Palm Procession, Passion Reading, Holy Eucharist
Maundy Thursday March 28	7pm	Maundy Thursday: feet-washing, Holy Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar
Good Friday March 29	12:15pm -1:15pm	Good Friday: Holy Eucharist from Reserved Sacraments
EASTER Sunday March 31	8am and 10:30am	Holy Eucharist

Adult Lenten Series: MAKING SENSE OF THE CROSS

Wednesday evenings. Led by Lou Poulain, the next session will be **March 20** and concluding March 27 (Wednesday of Holy Week). 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Class outline available upon request.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82982394735>

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,82982394735# US (San Jose)

The cross is at the very center of our understanding of Jesus, and what it means for us to be his followers. Paul wrote at the beginning of the First Letter to the Corinthians (I Cor 1:23-25):

“... but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

We have probably heard many sermons on the meaning of the Cross, and Jesus' death. Some of the explanations probably make sense to you, and some might confuse and even disturb. There are important questions: What does it mean to say that Jesus "died for our sins"? Did God really demand a blood sacrifice of his only begotten Son in order to forgive sins? Was Jesus' death a "ransom for many", and what does that really mean? You certainly have your own questions.

This series will review what the Bible has to say about the meaning of Jesus' death. We will look at the ways (intentionally plural!) the church historically has explained the significance of Jesus' death, and how our worship shapes our understanding. We will also consider some contemporary efforts to make sense and re-articulate the meaning of the Cross and of salvation.

Each session will begin with Compline prayer at 7:00 pm. You do not need to register, it is best to do so to ensure you get class material: lpoulain@me.com.

Parish Events - Save the Dates

• Festive Easter Brunch – Noon, March 31, Cowans Hall

The celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter morning continues with a festive Easter brunch in Cowans Hall after the 10:30 am Service. The brunch menu will include juicy slices of roasted ham and turkey, carved and served right at the buffet. If meat is not for you, we can also serve you vegetarian quiche. Salad, rolls and other garnishes will also be available to dress your plate, as well as a selection of beverages for your consumption.

But there is more! In Agape Circle fashion, we invite you to bring something to share in the celebration, to bring either a special hors d'oeuvre or dessert to add to the festivities. **Please note that you are not required to bring anything to come to the brunch.** However, if you are moved to bring something to share, in order to minimize

duplications please indicate what you will bring. A signup sheet for this will be in the narthex, as well as a signup sheet for volunteers to help with clean-up afterward.

- **Agape Circle** for Food, Fun and Friendship – **Friday, May 3**

Please note that Agape Circles are no longer a monthly engagement, but are scheduled in months with fewer parish events.

Funeral Planning Workshop will be **April 18 at 9:30am** on Zoom. Please follow this link to attend: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81124109730?pwd=WTFrTFhHb0FPZXc3U20zZmIzcW5xZz09>

The workshop will be recorded for anyone who would like to view it. Planning your funeral is a great help to those you leave behind. If you have any questions, please contact her at pastorsalying@stthomas-svale.us.

General Announcements

The Flower Book is located in the narthex, to the left as you enter the church. Your requests for dedications may also be recorded there.

Easter Flower Dedications If you would like to donate to the Easter flowers by way of a memorial or honor, please sign up. You may sign up on the sheet in the back of the church or email Anne Buelteman at office@stthomas-svale.us. We suggest a \$10 donation for each memorial or honor.

Forum at the National Cathedral

An important forum was held on February 21, 2024. It is available for viewing on YouTube

at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SFSkWxUxo>



Library notes: History of National Reading Month (March)

March was designated as National Reading Month to celebrate Dr. Suess. He was born on March 2, 1904. Dr. Suess was not a doctor at all, he was a writer and an illustrator of very popular children's books including "The Cat in the Hat" (1957) and "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" (1990, his last book).

Literature Rack – right side of the narthex

The latest *Upper Room* and *Forward Day by Day* copies have arrived. They are available in the literature rack found in the Narthex of the church. The *Upper Room* also includes large print copies.

Archives Display The Library Committee is now featuring the Altar Guild in the Archives Display Case. Two large albums contain pictures of past Altar Guild members and administrative matters such as schedules and guidelines.

There is a small green Altar Guild Manual copyright from 1947. The Altar Guild Handbook is a valuable resource. ~ Stephanie Daugherty

Thanksgiving and Memorial Donations to Altar Guild

Our altar guild appreciates your support in making our space holy and beautiful. You can make a donation for fresh flowers on a designated date or a general donation for supplies, like communion wine and bread and oil for the candles. You can make this donation online or by check, with “altar guild” on the memo line. If applicable, **please also include** (1) the date for the commemoration and (2) the person or occasion to be commemorated.

Pledges, Offerings & Donations

Stewardship update: Pledges Gratefully Accepted

If you are considering pledging to our annual budget for 2024, you can still do so. You may submit a pledge card by mail, by email at finance@stthomas-svale.org, and by hand-delivery to Jim Cobb.

Also, if you choose to donate securities, please contact the Treasurer, Jim Cobb, if you need the account number and transfer information. It is important to notify us when the transaction is submitted to ensure our prompt attention to your donation!

Your pledges and other donations may always be mailed to the church office and marked to the attention of the Treasurer.

When donating by check, please make the check payable to “St. Thomas Episcopal Church”.

Under our current public health restrictions, we encourage you to mail in your pledges and offerings to the church or use our online donation option.

Online Giving Please look for the “GIVE” option on the main menu bar on the St. Thomas website. It is located on the upper right side of the home page. Once you select “GIVE”, you will be taken to a new page where you may donate through PayPal, using a debit or credit card. OR, if you prefer, you may go directly to the PayPal site through the following link:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=9C43D8TLRQCLU&source=url

If you choose to give online, please be aware that St. Thomas does pay a fee for each transaction.

As always, we want to say “Thank You!”

Peace, Jim Cobb

St. Thomas Library The church library will be open on Sundays after the 8 a.m. service, and again after the 10:30 service. Carol or a member of the Library Committee will be available to answer questions on Fridays from 10-12; after 12:00 our administrator Anne will be available until 4:00 to open the door for you. Call 408-736-4155 for access, or knock loudly! We request that you remember to wear your mask.

Small Groups and Spiritual Formation Ministries

St Thomas Stepping Stones Jail Ministry

Get proximate to the pain and you will make the deepest connection. Join the St. Thomas Stepping Stone Jail ministry and get proximate to those who are in need of community and love. You can participate by becoming a pen-pal and/or visiting people in jail (requires special training).

Marilyn Winans and Naveen Prasad are the liaison to this ministry. Please request their contact information through the office.

The Prayer Chain Anyone who needs prayers or needs pastoral care assistance or would like to join in this ministry, please send an email to: prayerchain@stthomas-svale.us.

Children's Ministry Pam Storrer is leading our children's Sunday School. Pastor Salying leads our youth ministry and is organizing a

confirmation class for those who will be 14 years old by the time of confirmation. Please contact them through the church office.

Senior Ministry Pam Storrer and Carol Campbell lead our senior ministry, which means getting a weekly senior activity over email and an annual luncheon. If you wish to be included, please contact them through the office.

Zooming in Men's Spiritual Growth Group

Yes! Now you can be there in your pajamas (at least), and therefore sleep a bit longer. But on the other hand we can no longer advertise coffee + if you arrive a bit early. We are now meeting **weekly** with a standard format, alternating between wondering what the scriptures might be leading us to personally on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays (9-10 AM on your computer), and on the other Saturdays, a check-in and just for sanity's sake (starting at 9 AM). Our Zoom meetings are password protected so you'll need to connect with Chris Schmidt (randischris@gmail.com) if you are new to the group. We invite all men (even those not a part of St. Thomas) to join with us for fellowship and good discussion.

St. Thomas offers English Language Classes. A class for Chinese speakers meets most Fridays at 10:00am in the chapel. A class for Japanese speakers meets Wednesdays at 1:00pm in the chapel.

Craft Group The Craft Group is back, and will continue meeting on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the library.

The next meetings will be **Thursday, March 28***, and Thursdays, April 11 & 25.

*This date may be canceled or adjusted (Holy Week).

Book Club usually meets once a month from 7 to 8 p.m. in the St. Thomas Library. We are an open book club: All are welcome, whether you have read the book or not. Our next meeting will take place on **Monday March 25**, when we meet to discuss ***The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*** by Rachel Joyce, a novel of charm, humor, and profound insight, which tells the story of Harold Fry, determined to walk six hundred miles from Kingsbridge to a hospice in Berwick-upon-Tweed because, he believes, as long as he walks, his dying friend Queenie will live. Along the way he meets many characters who unlock his long-dormant spirit and sense of promise, even as his indifferent wife Maureen begins to miss him. Please join us—contact Dorothy through our website www.stthomas-svale.org/contact for the Zoom link



Weekly Worship at St. Thomas

Tuesdays, 5pm Centering Prayer & Lectio Divina,

led by Pastor Salying

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/724376004>

Dial-in option: 1 669 900 9128 meeting ID# 724376004

Wednesdays, 12:15pm Noonday Prayer with Commemoration of a Saint,

led by Pastor Salying: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86313271549>

Dial-in option: 1 669 900 9128 meeting ID# 86313271549

Thursdays, 6:30pm Intercessory Prayer Group on Zoom

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82381715053?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82381715053?pwd=UmN1QXZ4UjNWdWdZbmZFYk9Bd0VwQT09)

[pwd=UmN1QXZ4UjNWdWdZbmZFYk9Bd0VwQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82381715053?pwd=UmN1QXZ4UjNWdWdZbmZFYk9Bd0VwQT09)

Meeting ID: 823 8171 5053

Passcode: 189002

One tap mobile:

+16699009128,,82381715053#,,, *189002# US (San Jose)

+16694449171,,82381715053#,,, *189002# US

Sundays: 8am Holy Eucharist Rite I in the church
and

10:30am Holy Eucharist Rite II in the church
(Hybrid format: with simultaneous livestream on Zoom)

Zoom link for livestream: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82690025101>

Dial-in option: 1 669 900 9128 Meeting ID: 826 9002 5101

Both Sunday services led by Pastor Salying

Parish Mission Statement

St. Thomas is joyfully on the way!

We are becoming whom Jesus calls us to be: a spiritually-centered community dedicated to creating connections with God, each other, and our neighbors, so that we might walk together with love toward justice, compassion, and hope.



An updated **Announcement** page is available on line at
**[https://docs.google.com/document/
d/1M_iFUN25FBuxOVTr0UKw6mokVcdE9iNII9RFrPIKNAg](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1M_iFUN25FBuxOVTr0UKw6mokVcdE9iNII9RFrPIKNAg)**
and updates of various parish events and activities may also be
found on our website at **www.stthomas-svale.org**

All Are Welcome

St. Thomas' Parish is a reconciling, affirming, and inclusive Christian community striving through worship, love, and service to welcome all people just as God created them. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender identity and gender expression, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical, or mental ability. God delights in the diversity of creation, and so do we!

Rector: The Rev. Salying Wong.....pastorsalying@stthomas-svale.us
or 510-478-3554

Treasurer: Jim Cobb.....Finance@stthomas-svale.org

Parish Administrator: Anne Buelteman.....office@stthomas-svale.org

Children's Ministry Co-ordinator.: Pam Storrer.....family_ministry@stthomas-svale.org

Library and Resource Center Coordinator: Carol Campbellresourcecenter@stthomas-svale.org

Music Director: Patricia Pietrzyk,..... patriciapietrzyk@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Anne Buelteman.....office@stthomas-svale.org

Accompanist (organ/piano): Benjamin Belew

Our Daily Bread (ODB) Coordinator: David Barnes.....408-736-4108, odb@stthomas-svale.org

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

If you or a loved one is in urgent need of pastoral care (hospitalization,
death in the family, etc.), PLEASE CALL US.

(The hospital does not always automatically notify the parish)

The Rev. Salying Wong, Rector.....510-478-3554

Parish Office.....408-736-4155

If there is no answer, please leave a message.

You may invite prayers online through The Intercessory Prayer Chain
at prayerchain@stthomas-svale.org

THE VESTRY OF ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SUNNYVALE

Joe Gutierrez, **Senior Warden**
Emilee Wilhelm-Leen, **Junior Warden**

2024
Ann Kopischke
Gage McKinney
Rita Welsh

2025
Joe Gutierrez
Dena Ware
Emilee Wilhelm-Leen

2026
Jeannie Battagin
Naveen Prasad Durairaj
Tian Zhu

Gage McKinney, **Clerk**

DELEGATES TO CONVENTION

Mabel Cheng

Stephanie Daugherty

Susan Durham Powers

Angela Rausch

St. Thomas website: www.stthomas-svale.org