

Second Sunday in LENT

March 16, 2025

Holy Eucharist

Rite II, 10:30am



St. Thomas Episcopal Church
231 Sunset Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
408-736-4155 www.stthomas-svale.org

Second Sunday in LENT

March 16, 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 who have vulnerable health issues, our 10:30am services always offers 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 #149

Eternal Lord of Love

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

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your Church
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,

1 walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
2 so dai - ly liv - ing to your way of love,
3 you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

1 led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
2 we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
3 and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

1 moved by your love and toward your pres-ence bent:
 2 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
 3 glo - rious in spring-time dress of leaf and flower,

1 far off yet here—the goal of all de - sire.
 2 so we are dead and live with you in God.
 3 so in the Fa - ther's glo - ry shall we wake.

Words: Thomas H. Cain (b. 1931)

Music: *Old 124th*, melody *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551;
 harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

10 10. 10 10 10

Acclamation

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures forever.

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

Hymnal #S-96 F. Schubert

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

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

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

continued next page

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

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

Christ, Lord,

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, 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,

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

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

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

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

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

Collect for the Second Sunday in Lent

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 27

You are welcome to sing along with the refrain.

Zoom participants, please stay muted.

Refrain



The Lord__ is my light and__ my sal - va - tion.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? *
the Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?

When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell. *Refrain*

Refrain



The Lord__ is my light and__ my sal - va - tion.

Though an army should encamp against me, *
yet my heart shall not be afraid;

And though war should rise up against me, *
yet will I put my trust in him. *Refrain*

Refrain



The Lord__ is my light and__ my sal - va - tion.

One thing have I asked of the Lord; one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;

To behold the fair beauty of the Lord *
and to seek him in his temple. *Refrain*

Refrain



The Lord__ is my light and__ my sal - va - tion.

For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; *
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.

Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me. *Refrain*

Refrain



The Lord__ is my light and__ my sal - va - tion.

Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *

I will sing and make music to the Lord.

Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; *

have mercy on me and answer me. *Refrain as above)*

You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *

Your face, Lord, will I seek.

Hide not your face from me, *

nor turn away your servant in displeasure. *Refrain*

Refrain



The Lord__ is my light and__ my sal - va - tion.

The musical notation is a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes with slurs, corresponding to the lyrics below.

You have been my helper; cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

Though my father and my mother forsake me, *
the Lord will sustain me. *Refrain*

Refrain



The Lord__ is my light and__ my sal - va - tion.

The musical notation is a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes with slurs, corresponding to the lyrics below.

Show me your way, O Lord; *
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.

Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who speak malice. *Refrain*

Refrain



The Lord__ is my light and__ my sal - va - tion.

The musical notation is a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes with slurs, corresponding to the lyrics below.

What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the Lord *
in the land of the living!

O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; *
wait patiently for the Lord. *Refrain* (as above)

The Epistle: **Philippians 3:17-4:1**

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

Hymnal #455

O Love of God, How Strong and True

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



1 O Love of God, how strong and true, e - ter - nal
2 O wide - em - brac - ing, won - drous Love, we read thee
3 We read thee best in him who came to bear for
4 We read thy power to bless and save e'en in the



and yet ev - er new; un - com - pre - hend - ed and un -
in the sky a - bove; we read thee in the earth be -
us the cross of shame; sent by the Fa - ther from on
dark-ness of the grave; still more in re - sur - rec - tion

continued next page



**bought, be - yond all know-ledge and all thought.
low, in seas that swell and streams that flow.
high, our life to live, our death to die.
light we read the full - ness of thy might.**

Words: Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)

Music: *Dunedin*, Vernon Griffiths (b. 1894)

LM

The Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

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

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

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

*For Lent, following the sermon
there will be an extended period of silence for meditation.*

**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: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Leader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.

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 Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The people and the ministers greet one another.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Announcements

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Offertory sentence

Offertory

Denis Mullins, arr. Edwin Ferguson

Psalm 27

Members of the St. Thomas Choir

Patricia Pietrzyk, director

Benjamin Belew, piano

Celebrant: All things come of you, O Lord.

People: And of your own have we given you.

Sursum Corda

Eucharistic Prayer A

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 God 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.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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

continued next page

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

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

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.

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.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

**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

See next page

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

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

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

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

give us your peace, give us your peace.

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

The Communion

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

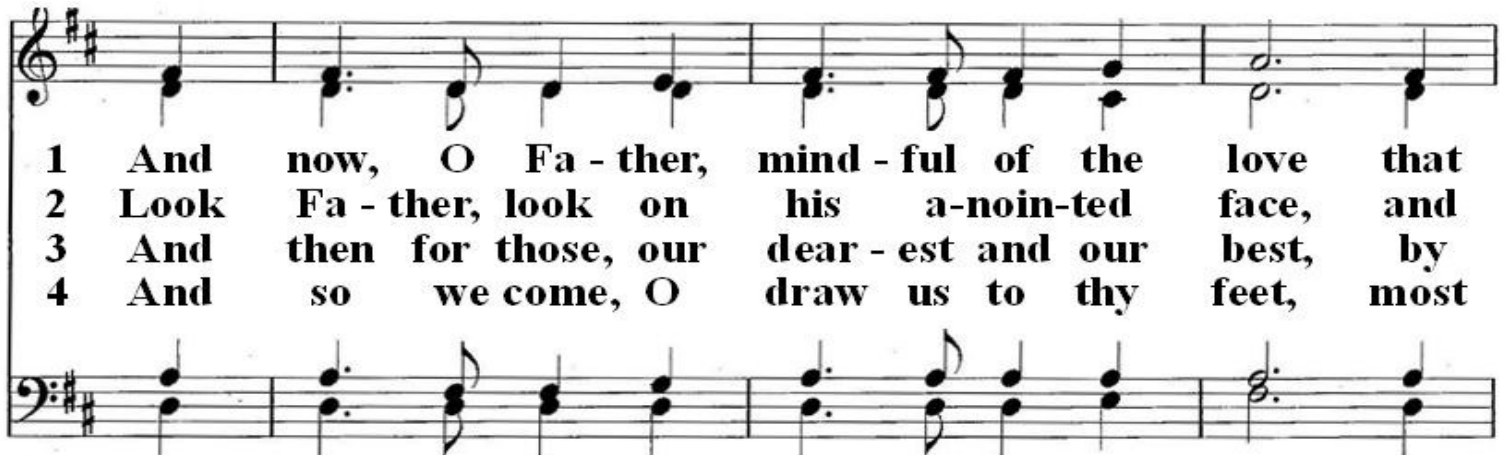
- *You may stand or kneel at the altar rail, as you are able.*
- *The wine will be served in the chalice and in the small cups. The chalice will precede the cups. If you do not reach for the chalice, it will pass and the cups will follow. (Please place the empty cup on one of the trays near the aisles.)*
- *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 Hymn

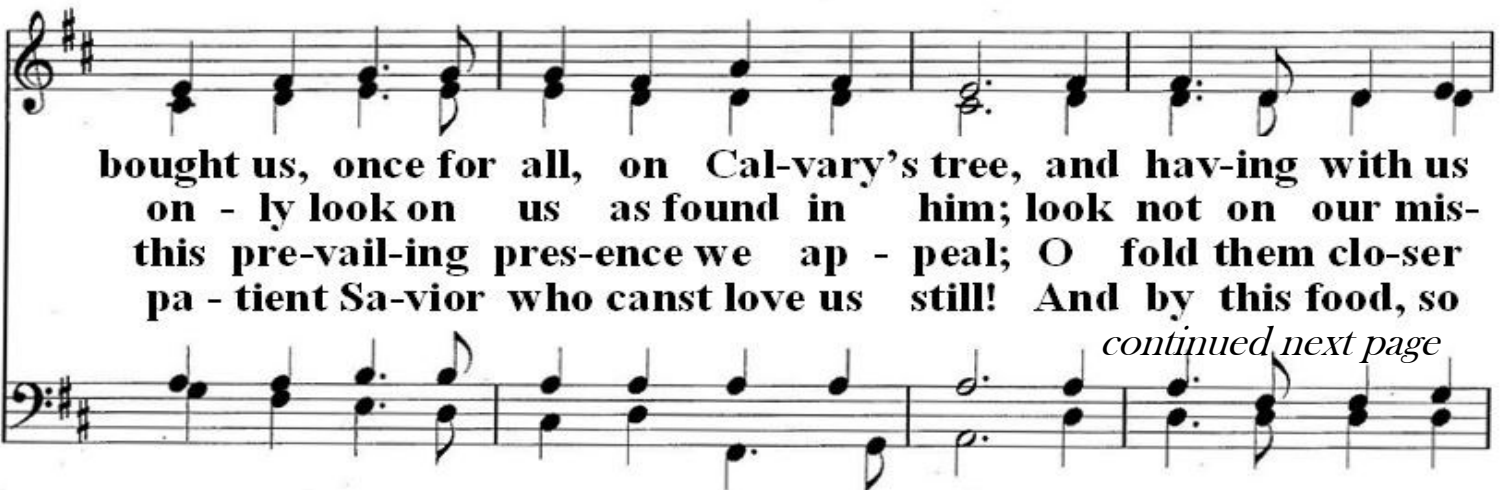
Hymnal #337

And Now, O Father, Mindful of the Love

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



1 And now, O Fa - ther, mind - ful of the love that
2 Look Fa - ther, look on his a - noin - ted face, and
3 And then for those, our dear - est and our best, by
4 And so we come, O draw us to thy feet, most



bought us, once for all, on Cal - vary's tree, and hav - ing with us
on - ly look on us as found in him; look not on our mis -
this pre - vail - ing pres - ence we ap - peal; O fold them clo - ser
pa - tient Sa - vior who canst love us still! And by this food, so
continued next page

him that pleads a - bove, we here pre-sent, we here spread
 us - ings of thy grace, our prayer so lan - guid, and our
 to thy mer-cy's breast! O do thine ut - most for their
 awe-some and so sweet, de - liv - er us from ev - ery

forth to thee, that on - ly of - fering per-fect in thine
 faith so dim: for lo! be - tween our sins and their re -
 soul's true weal! From taint-ing mis-chief keep them pure and
 touch of ill: in thine own ser-vice make us glad and

eyes, the one true, pure, im - mor - tal sac - ri - fice.
 ward, we set the pas - sion of thy Son our Lord.
 clear, and crown thy gifts with strength to per - se - vere.
 free, and grant us nev - er - more to part from thee.

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.

Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn

Hymnal #675

Take Up Your Cross

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



1 Take up your cross, the Sa - vior said, if
 2 Take up your cross, let not its weight fill
 3 Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and
 4 Take up your cross, then, in his strength, and
 5 Take up your cross, and fol - low Christ, nor



1 you would my dis - ci - ple be; take up your cross with
 2 your weak spi - rit with a-larm; his strength shall bear your
 3 let your fool - ish heart be still; the Lord for you ac -
 4 calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave: it guides you to a
 5 think till death to lay it down for on - ly those who



1 will - ing heart, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.
2 spi - rit up, and brace your heart and nerve your arm.
3 cept - ed death up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.
4 bun - dant life and leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.
5 bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

Words: Charles William Everest (1814-1877), alt.
Music: *Bourbon*, melody att. Freeman Lewis (1780-1859)

LM

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Serving today

Celebrant: The Rev. Barbara Stewart

Preacher: Angela Rausch, Licensed Lay Preacher

Eucharistic Minister: Joe Gutierrez

Lector: Fulvia Govetto, John Pietrzyk

Psalmists: Susan McVey, John McVey

Greeters: MaryJane Johnson, Donna Cobb,
Pat Turnbull, Stephanie Daugherty

Members of the St. Thomas Choir

Patricia Pietrzyk, director

Benjamin Belew, accompanist

Tech lead: Sophia DeMedeiros

Zoom Host: Fulvia Govetto

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

This excerpt narrates two promises God made to Abraham: the multitude of his descendants and ownership of the land. Of the first (1-6): in ancient Israelite culture, life after death was ensured through the life of one's descendants. Of the second (7-18): in such animal sacrifices, the two contracting parties passed between the two halves of the carcasses, symbolizing their willingness to suffer the fate of the animals if they broke the covenant. Here God, manifest in the fire of the flaming torch, is one of the two parties. The Old Testament focus on God's covenant is found in stories involving Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David.

Philippians 3:17—4:1

Paul wrote in the mid 50s to the church in Philippi, in modern Greece, the first Christian church established in Europe. Philippi was a favored city in the Roman Empire, albeit that few residents were privileged to be Roman citizens: Paul promises them citizenship in heaven. It is not clear whom Paul is calling "enemies of the cross." Paul anticipates Christ's imminent second coming. Praising the community as his crown, Paul expresses his joy at the Philippians' faithfulness.

Luke 13:31-35

This passage is an example of how the gospel narratives are but preludes to the passion accounts. Writing in a somewhat benign tone about those outside the faith, Luke in the late 80s here gives the Pharisees a welcome role, warning Jesus of coming death. Pharisees were a lay movement who advocated strict separation from others and a rigorous adherence to both the written and the oral Torah. A fox eats chickens: only Luke's passion account includes an episode with Herod (23:6-12). Luke has Jesus citing Psalm 118:26, a pilgrimage psalm with messianic overtones, which is later repeated by the crowds in the palm procession (19:38). Also there (19:39),

Pharisees warn Jesus about possible danger. Yet the “third day” is approaching.



Today in the Parish

The Altar Flowers are replaced by greens at this season of Lent.

After worship today please join us in Cowans Hall across the courtyard for coffee hour.

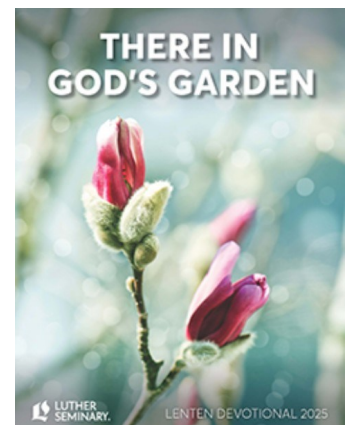
At 12:00 noon, the next class of Episcopalianism 101 will take place in the Library. Please join us! [additional details p. 28]

Nametags are appreciated by newcomers and others, too. You are welcome to write your name on one of the blanks available at the table at the back of the church OR bring your own from the glove compartment in your car or wherever you may stash them.

Daily devotionals booklets from Luther Seminary are also available. Please pick one up from the table at the back of the church.

Calendars for Lent from Creative Communications Short daily Scripture reflections on soul-building themes. These will be available on the table in the narthex.

Please let us know if you would like one mailed to you - Library@stthomas-svale.us



Upcoming Events

Important Dates for Your Calendar

Liturgical Year C (the Year of the gospel of Luke):

- **Sundays in Lent**, 12 pm: EPISCOPALIANISM 101
- **April 13 to April 19**: HOLY WEEK
- **April 20**: EASTER SUNDAY

FOR LENT:

daily meditations from Episcopal Relief & Development

Titled *A Commonplace Lent*, these meditations reflect on daily experiences: prayer, worship, grace, love, community, service, and our connection to nature. They draw on monastic wisdom to emphasize the gifts of community.

To have these daily meditations arrive in your inbox continuing each day through Lent, subscribe by scanning the QR code.



Adult Formation in Lent: Episcopalianism 101 continues

2 Lent	Worship: Book of Common Prayer and other resources for worship.
3 Lent	Baptism (and related sacramental rites of confirmation and reception). Discussion on what is a sacrament.
4 Lent	The three-legged stool of authority: scripture, tradition, reason.
5 Lent	The Bible: hermeneutics and meta-narratives.

Episcopalianism 101 will run for 5 weeks in Lent (March 9-April 6), with an instructed Eucharist on 3rd and 4th Lent, in lieu of a sermon. This class will happen after the 10:30am service at 12pm in the library. Participants bring their own lunch. (If the group ends up being big, we can move to the hall.) Baptism, confirmation, reaffirmation, and reception candidates ought to come. All others who desire to know more are invited.

Prayers for a Peaceful World - Thursdays in Lent

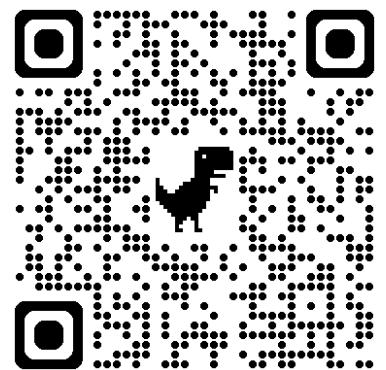
Our country is going through dramatic changes at a truly unprecedented pace. Regardless of how you feel about the policies behind these changes, change is unsettling and challenging. The impacts of these changes, both intended and unintended, are just beginning to be seen. The Social Justice Committee of El Camino Real is concerned about the impacts of these changes on people around the world and the role of the United States in the world. Please join us on Zoom for Prayers for a Peaceful World on **Thursdays in Lent at 12:00 pm Pacific** starting next week on March 13 and ending April 21 (the day before Earth Day). We will discuss our concerns and pray for just and peaceful outcomes and for all of God's creation.

The diocese has created a fund to provide legal assistance to those in need in our diocese. To donate online, please click here "[Love Our Neighbors](#)." Also, checks may be sent to the diocese payable to the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real with Love Our Neighbor Fund on the memo line. Bishop Lucinda will get these funds to where they are needed most in our diocese.

To join the zoom, click

[JOIN THE ZOOM](#)

or scan the QR code.

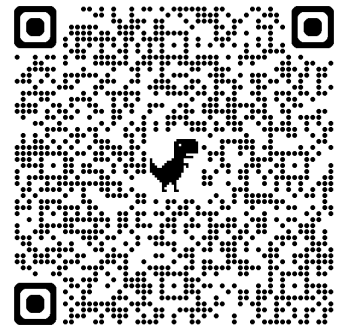


Love Our Neighbors - Tuesdays

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (**ICE**) has the mission to protect America from cross-border crime and illegal immigration. Under the new administration, ICE has orders to deport many more people. Our neighbors in the diocese who came here to escape violence and find work now live in fear that their families will be separated by deportations. They need our help. They have legal rights. They need legal help creating the papers to exercise their rights. If they are arrested and detained, they also need money to post bond. For details on this rapidly changing situation, join the weekly Episcopal Migration Ministries webinars **every Tuesday at 10:00 am Pacific**.

To register, click

[**REGISTER HERE**](#) , or scan the QR code.



Save the Date: Sunday, March 16th at 2 pm ,St. Mark's Episcopal Church will host Pangea Legal Services' Rapid Response Training for ICE actions. This event is specific training for ICE actions that occur in Santa Clara County.

Schedule for Holy Week and Easter

Holy Week		
April 13	8am and 10:30am	Palm Sunday (no Passion); Pick up Holy Week Kits
April 14-16		Mark Holy Monday - Holy Wednesday with Holy Week Kit
April 15	5pm	Holy Tuesday: Centering Prayer
April 16	12:15pm	Noonday Prayer with elements of Tenebrae

April 17	6pm	Maundy Thursday: Agape Meal, Foot-Washing, Holy Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar and Altar of Repose (in-person only)
April 18	12:15pm-1:30pm	Good Friday: Proper Liturgy (hybrid)
April 18	6pm	Good Friday: Stations of the Cross—online only
April 19	6pm	Holy Saturday Contemplative Vigil: Awaiting the Third Day
Easter		
April 20	10:30am (no 8am)	Easter Sunday Holy Eucharist and Baptism; Egg Hunt and Easter Breakfast

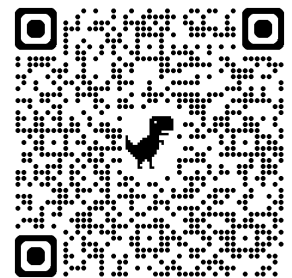
Bishop Budde Lecture April 9 The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, will deliver the inaugural [Robert N. Bellah Lecture on Religion and Public Life](#), hosted by the Graduate Theological Union. In-person registration is available on a first-come first-served basis and is limited to 500 guests. A live-streaming option will be available to those who wish to attend online.

To register, [Click here](#) or scan the QR code.

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley
2407 Dana Avenue

Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.



Save the Date: All of St. Thomas is invited to Salying and Andrew’s Marriage Blessing on **June 21st at 3PM** at St. Thomas. The Rt. Rev.



Lucinda Ashby will preside.

Please RSVP by April 15 at our website:

withjoy.com/salying-and-andrew

or scan the QR code.



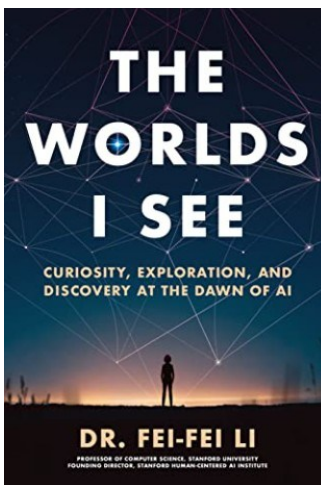
General Announcements

Library notes - March books & magazines:

The Christian Century, Thoughtful, Independent, Progressive. (Magazine)

Since 1900, *The Christian Century* has published reporting, commentary, poetry, and essays on the role of faith in a pluralistic society. - Wikipedia

Debie Thomas has written an article in the March issue: *Progressive Christians should read the Bible*, found on page 31.



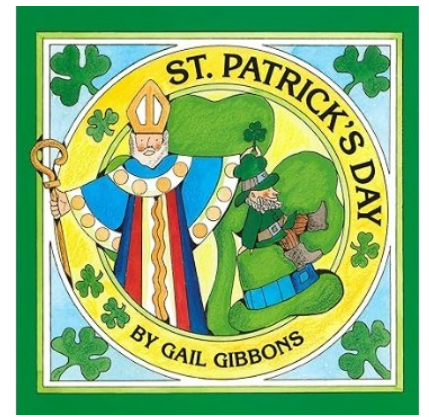
The Worlds I See: curiosity, exploration, and discovery at the dawn of AI by Dr. Fei-Fei Li.

”The moving memoir of a girl coming of age as an immigrant in America who finds her calling as a scientist at the forefront of the AI/Machine Learning revolution.” - Publisher.

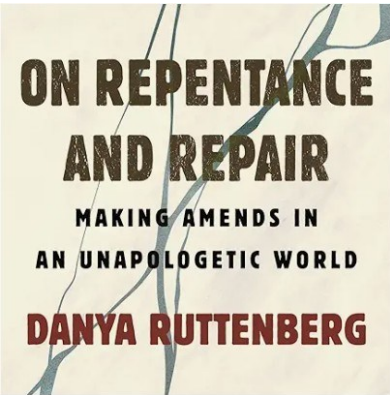
St. Thomas Book Club, Feb. 2025. The club members thought the immigrant part of Dr. Li’s history was very interesting. Most felt the technical part of the writing was beyond our understanding. The group discussed the AI search feature on Zoom and found “Dr. Li has authored over 400 scientific articles, held a position at Google Cloud, and received numerous awards, including being named one of Time Magazine's top influencers.”

St. Patrick’s Day by Gail Gibbons, 2024
(Picture Book)

Who was St. Patrick? Why do we wear green on March 17th? Vetted by an expert, this new edition brings readers the most accurate and recent historical understanding of St. Patrick and the holiday celebrating him. Learn the story of Patrick's life, legends about the saint, and the history of the holiday.



On Repentance and Repair: making amends in



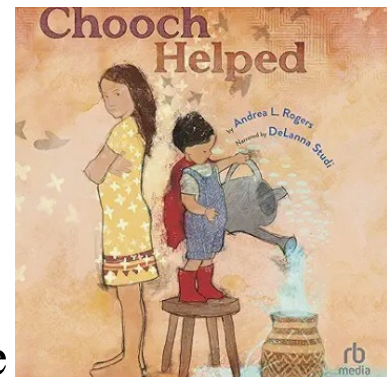
an unapologetic world by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg. Pastor Salying mentioned this book in her sermon on Feb. 23. "[the book] applies an ancient framework of repentance and repair to our personal lives today, to the contemporary public square, to institutions, and to national policy in ways that could transform our society and our culture"

- Publisher.

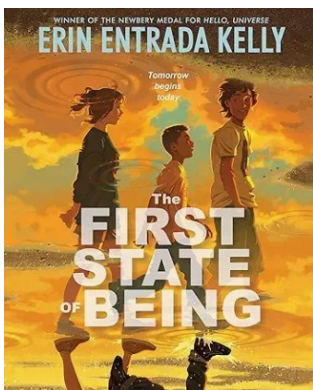
Caldecott Medal Winner 2025

Chooch Helped by Andrea L. Rogers; illustrated by Rebecca Lee Kunz.

Chooch Helped is a universal story of an older sibling learning to make space for a new child, told with grace by Andrea L. Rogers and stunning art from Rebecca Lee Kunz showing one Cherokee family practicing their cultural traditions."



- Publisher.



Newbery Medal Winner 2025

The First State of Being by Erin Entrada Kelly.

"When Ridge, a time-traveling teenager from the future, gets trapped in 1999, he befriends Michael, a lonely twelve-year-old boy, changing the course of their lives forever." - Publisher.

Archives Display: Presiding Bishops

Initially the position of Presiding Bishop rotated geographically. After 1795 the Presiding Bishop was the senior bishop in order of

consecration. Starting in 1926, the office became elective, the Presiding Bishop was chosen at General Convention by vote of all bishops , and approved by the House of Deputies. The office now has a nine year term.

The first Presiding Bishop was William White , from Pennsylvania, who served from July 28,1789 to October 3,1789.

The files in the case contain biographies and information about 10 Presiding Bishops in the early part of the 20th century. Daniel S. Tuttle served from September 7, 1903 to April 17, 1923.

The last file in the case contains information about John E. Hines who served from January 1,1965 to May 31,1974. He was the 22nd Presiding Bishop.

The more recent Presiding Bishops' files will be rotated into the case in the near future. - Submitted by the Archives Committee

From Episcopal Relief & Development:

High winds and drought conditions combined to accelerate the growth of wildfires that have devastated communities in California. Places of worship, businesses and homes have been heavily damaged. Mass evacuations and widespread power outages have affected hundreds of thousands of people who are being affected by the devastating and fast-growing California wildfires. Supporting the Wildfire Response Fund will help people affected by the impact of wildfires. Episcopal Relief & Development partners with faith and community organizations to advance lasting change in communities affected by injustice, poverty, disaster and climate change.

To make a donation, please scan the QR code.
or go to

<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/press-resources/press-releases/2025-wildfire-response/>



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. Please note: the Flower Book in the narthex has been updated with pages for 2025.

Pledges, Offerings & Donations

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”.

We encourage you to mail in your pledges and offerings to the church *or* use our online donation option, described below.

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

OR by scanning the QR code.

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



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

Peace, Jim Cobb

St. Thomas Library hours 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

Agape Circle is the parish potluck gathering for food, fellowship and fun. These engagements usually happen on a Friday evening with an activity. For 2025, we are scheduling Agape Circle in months that are light with activity. The next one will be **May 9** at 6:30pm. (In previous publications, the date was set for May 2. Please note the change.)

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.

Children’s Ministry Pam Storrer is leading our children’s Sunday School. Pastor Salying leads our youth ministry. Please contact them through the church office or website: www.stthomas-svale.org

Senior Ministry Pam Storrer and Carol Campbell lead our senior ministry, creating a weekly activity via email, as well as an occasional gift for our special church friends. If you wish to be included, please contact them through the church 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 church. A class for Japanese speakers meets Wednesdays at 12:45pm in the church.

Craft Group The Craft Group plans to continue meeting in the new year on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the library. The next meetings are March 27 and April 10. Please join us!

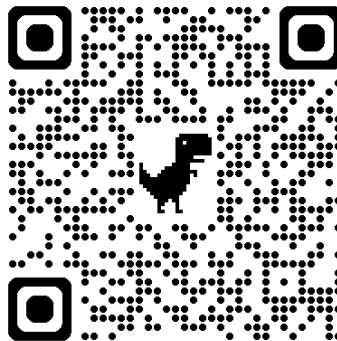
Book Club The Book Club meets once a month by Zoom, usually the last Monday evening of the month, at 7pm. We are an open book club: All are welcome, whether you have read the book or not. Our next meeting will take place on Monday, **March 31**, when we meet

to discuss *The Accidental President: Harry Truman and the Four Months that Changed the World* by A. J. Baime, a fast-paced, masterful reporting of Harry Truman's first 120 days as president, when he took on Germany, Japan, Stalin, and a secret weapon of unimaginable power—marking the most dramatic rise to greatness in American history.

Please join us—contact this month's host, Dorothy F through our website www.stthomas-svale.org/contact to request the Zoom link.



*Please see website
www.stthomas-svale.org
for additional week-to-week up-dates.*



Weekly Worship at St. Thomas

Tuesdays, 5pm Centering Prayer

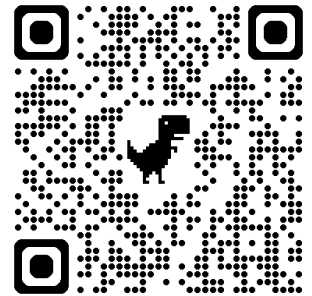
led by Pastor Salying

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89609758620>

Dial-in option: 1 669 900 9128

meeting ID# 89609758620

or scan the QR code



Wednesdays, 12:15pm Noonday Prayer

with Commemoration of Saints led by Pastor Salying:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86313271549>

Dial-in option: 1 669 900 9128

meeting ID# 86313271549

or scan the QR code

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)

or scan the QR code



Sundays:

8am Holy Eucharist Rite I in the church

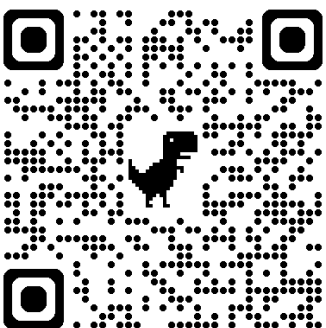
and **10:30am Holy Eucharist Rite II** in the church

with simultaneous livestream on Zoom: :

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

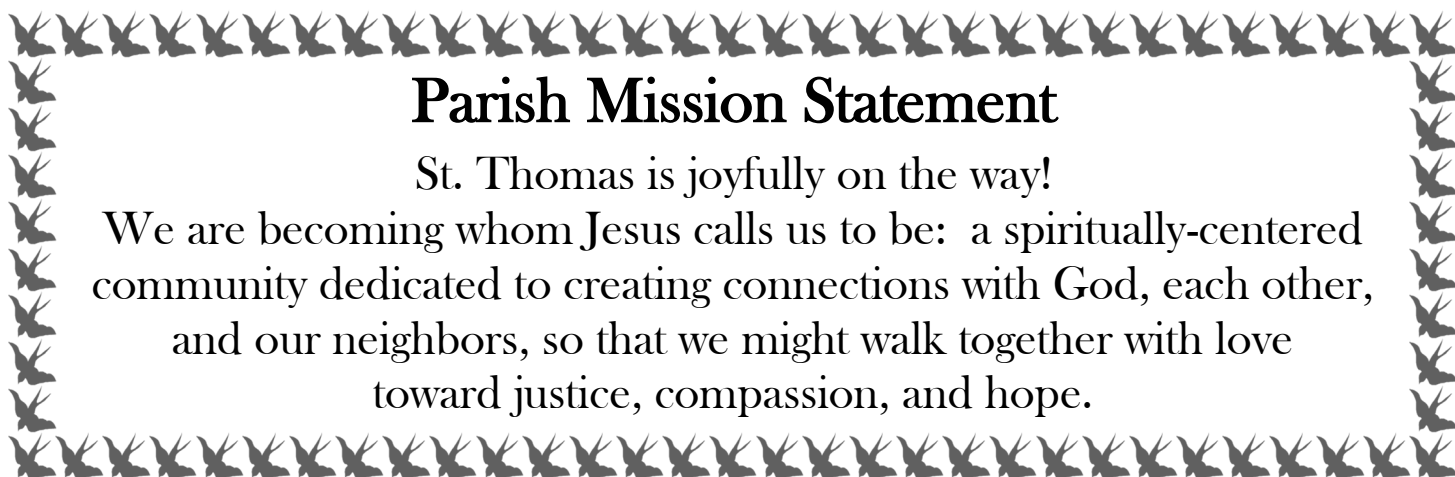
Dial-in option: 1 669 900 9128 ID: 826 9002 5101

or scan the QR code



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!



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.

- Rector:** The Rev. Salying Wong.....pastorsalying@stthomas-svale.us
- Adjunct Priest:** The Rev. Barbara Stewart.....barbarastewart001@gmail.com
- 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 mephistoape@gmail.com
- Our Daily Bread (ODB) Coordinator:** David Barnes.....408-736-4108, odb@stthomas-svale.org

THE VESTRY OF ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SUNNYVALE

Joe Gutierrez, Senior Warden	2025	2026	2027
Emilee Wilhelm-Leen, Junior Warden	Joe Gutierrez	Jeannie Battagin	Ann Kopischke
	Pam Storrer	Naveen Raja	Eric Larkin
Ann Kopischke, Clerk	Emilee Wilhelm-Leen	Tian Zhu	Charlie Mendoza

DELEGATES TO CONVENTION

Mabel Cheng Stephanie Daugherty Susan Durham Powers Aer van de Water

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