



St. Thomas Episcopal Church

The Order of Worship for The Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024 † 10:30 AM

Window: The Temptation of Christ

Organ

Welcome

Procession *standing*

A Penitential Order: Rite II

BCP 351

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

Celebrant **God's mercy endures for ever.**

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 *silence, then unison*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Kyrie eleison, S-86 *sung by all*

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e
e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e -
le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Collect of the Day

BCP 218

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 Lessons

A Reading from Genesis

Genesis 17:7-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

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



22 Praise the LORD, you that / fear him; *

stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, / give glory.

23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;

neither does he hide his / face from them; *

but when they cry to him / he hears them.

24 My praise is of him in the great as/sembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those / who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall / praise him: *

“May your heart live / for ever !”

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the / LORD, *

and all the families of the nations shall bow / before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the / LORD; *

he rules over / the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in / worship; *

all who go down to the dust fall / before him.

29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall / serve him; *

they shall be known as the LORD's / for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people / yet unborn *

the saving deeds / that he has done.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God,

but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

Hymn 675 Take up your cross, the Savior said

Bourbon



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); harm. John Leon Hooker (b. 1944).

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Mark 8:31-38

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake

of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Nicene Creed *unison*

BCP 326

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.

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Rob, our Bishop, and Victor, our companion bishop; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace, especially in Ukraine and places of war. Pray for the laying down of weapons. Pray that armed conflict will not spread to other nations. Pray for goodwill among world leaders and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for our nation, states, and communities, for our President, Joe, Vice-President, Kamala, for Brian and Kay, our Governors, for Skip and Eddie, our Mayors, and for members of Congress, state legislatures, the Supreme Court, and all courts. Pray for wisdom and courage. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for people who are poor, sick, hungry, oppressed, or in prison. Pray for refugees and victims of human trafficking. Pray for military members who are deployed and all who suffer the consequences of war. Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially St. Thomas parishioners Neal, Macklynn, Maeve, Laurie, Susan, Murray, Gene, Ellen, Steve, Cindy, Bernie, Josh, Rick, and Raymond; our homebound members Ramón, Murray, Carol, Bill, Jan, and William, and Bill; and friends of the parish Mary, Callum, Annie, Joy, Jim, Katie, Will, the Powell and Strozier families, the family and friends of Lexy McRae, and Dawn. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that they may find and be found by God. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed, especially Kenny, Mills, Joe, Norma, Rolene, Mike, Marianne, Mitchi, Sam, Bill, Bob, and Judy. Pray for those who have died. *Silence*

I ask your thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life; for those celebrating birthdays, especially Martha, Susan, Marlea, Richard, Andrew, and Nathan, and for those celebrating anniversaries, especially Jeff & Leslie, Robert & Malone, and Debbie & Diana. *Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. *Silence*

Celebrant

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offering

St. Thomas welcomes your gifts.

You may mail a check to 2100 Hilton Avenue, Columbus, GA 31906,
donate online at our website (<https://www.stthomascolumbus.org/give/>),
or use your mobile device by texting **STTCOLUMBUS** to **73256**

Anthem Hear my Prayer; *Part Two*

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Debbie Anderson, *soprano*

O for the wings of a dove! Far away, far away would I rove!
In the wilderness build me a nest and remain there forever at rest.

Psalm 55

The Great Thanksgiving *Rite I, Eucharistic Prayer II*

BCP 340

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus, S-124 *sung by all*

New Plainsong; David Hurd

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer *unison*

BCP 336

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 337

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

Fraction Anthem, S-161 *sung by all*

New Plainsong; David Hurd

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

All Christians from any denomination are invited to share in communion. You do not have to be an Episcopalian or a member of St. Thomas in order to receive. Come forward when the usher invites you. Stand or kneel at the altar rail. Hold out two hands to receive bread dipped in wine and then take the wafer as it is given to you. Hold out one hand to receive bread only. As the second chalice passes, you may dip the bread in the chalice or drink from it as you wish. If you prefer not to receive communion but desire a blessing, cross your arms across your chest and a priest will offer a prayer of blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available at the altar by request. If you prefer to receive communion at your pew, please let an usher know.

Music during Communion

Organ *O man, beware thy grievous fall*

J. S. Bach

Hymn 707 'Take my life and let it be

Hollingside

1 Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;

take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long - er mine.

take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne.
Take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879), alt. Music: *Hollingside*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876).

Hymn 455 O love of God, how strong and true

Dunedin

Words and music may be found in the blue Hymnal 1982

Orison *sung by the choir*

Arthur Henry Biggs (1906-1954)

Day by day, dear Lord, of Thee three things I pray;
To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly, day by day.

Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing

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. Amen.

Hymn 691 My faith looks up to thee

Olivet

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs a - round me spread,

Sa - vior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, O may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day; wipe sor - row's

guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine.
 love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire.
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.

Words: Ray Palmer (1808-1887). Music: *Olivet*, Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

The Dismissal

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

In our prayers

St. Thomas parishioners: Neal Fenter, Macklynn Driggers, Maeve Morrill, Laurie Mahon, Susan Hansbarger, Murray Craig, Gene Wells, Ellen Free, Steve Scott, Cindy Godwin, Bernie Sutter, Josh Becker, Rick McKnight, Raymond Campbell

Homebound members: Ramón Capo, Murray Craig, Carol Kennon, Bill Pauli, Jan Pittman, William South

Friends of the parish: Mary (*Roxane Gwyn*), Callum Keene (*Pam Feagle*), Annie Brevard & family (*Barbara Billings*), Joy Graham (*Pam Feagle*), Jim Holder (*Jenny Holder*), Katie Wagner Brown (*Elissa Wagner*), Will Stokes (*Barbara Billings*), the Powell and Strozier families, the family and friends of Lexy McRae, Dawn Jacobs (*Justin Delgado*)

Those with continuing concerns: Frank & Pam Feagle, Carlene Pawlowicz, Ralph Wimberly, Henry Morrill, Jessica McComb, Esther Thomas, Joe Mills, April Jacobs, Jana Speer, Amy Nurnberg, Debbie & Max Anderson, Art France, Angela Tulloh (*Louise Tulloh*)

Soldiers and families at Ft. Moore and St. Thomas members and friends who are deployed: Krk Malit

Those celebrating birthdays: Martha Robert 2/26, Susan Henderson 2/27, Marlea Jeffries 2/27, Richard Edwards 2/29, Andrew Meeks 3/2, Nathan Smock 3/2

Those celebrating anniversaries: Jeff & Leslie Holloway 2/28, Robert & Malone Moore 2/28, Debbie & Diana Young 2/28

Those who have died: Kenny Lewis 3/7/23, Mills Goddard 3/16/23, Joe Stewart 4/5/23, Norma Jergens 7/27/23, Rolene Stewart 8/6/23, Mike Nichols 8/31/23, Marianne Baxter 9/9/23, Mitchi Wade 11/3/23, Sam Harmon 11/25/23, Bill Thomas 11/25/23, Bob Wadkins 1/11/24, Judy Harding 1/22/24

Announcements

For more details about these events visit our website at www.stthomascolumbus.org or see our latest *Seasons* newsletter

Sundays

Coffee Time: 8:45-10:15. Homemade and packaged snacks are available.

Formation:

Sunday Stories: 9:30-10:15 in the Outreach Center. Children ages Pre-K – 3rd grade

Tween Time: 9:30-10:15 in the Youth Room. Children ages 4th grade-middle school

Adult Formation: 9:30-10:15 in the Library. February 25: Bishop Wright's Lent teaching series - "Letting Go of Control"

Worship:

Children's Chapel: Children follow the petite cross to the Chapel before the Gospel reading and return for Holy Eucharist at the Peace.

Children's lectionary bulletins can be found in the busy bags provided in the Narthex or on the table in the Narthex, for your convenience.

Live Streamed Service: If you need to follow the service in a quieter space or need room to move around, the 10:30 service is live streamed in the Parish Hall. You may come to nave for communion.

Contemplative Healing Service: Tonight at 5pm in the Chapel. Silence, gentle chanting, scripture, candlelight, meditation, healing prayers with anointing, and the Holy Eucharist. Bring your most vulnerable self, and be met with the gift of silence and healing.

Wednesdays

Wednesdays Eucharist: 5:30 to 6 in the Chapel. This brief Eucharist focuses on a saint being celebrated that day or week, using an updated version of the Eucharistic prayer with more expansive language for God and people.

Wednesday programming schedule:

- 5:30 Eucharist in the Chapel
- 5:30-6:15 Dinner served in the parish hall
- 6:20 Prayers around tables
- 6:30-7:30 Formation time for children, youth, and adults
- 6:45-8:30 St. Thomas Choir rehearsal in the Choir Room

(Nursery available from 5:30-7:30; longer if needed by choir members.)

Wednesday Dinner: An entrée with two sides and a simple dessert. (Vegetarian and gluten free options available by request). Suggested cost: \$7.50 per adult, \$5 per child under 12, and \$25 per family, however, we invite you to pay what you can - more or less as you are able. Reservations needed each week by midnight on Monday. Menus are posted on the website, and you can register and pay online for up to a month at a time. Reservation cards also available in the pews.

Menu: February 28: Mexican casserole, Yellow rice, Black beans

News for this week

Striving for Justice: 4th Sunday of the month from 4-5:30 pm at different churches. Striving for Justice continues another year of social justice conversations. Join us as we talk about the

process of Racial Healing. February 25 - Harris County Community Remembrance Project; March 24 - Muscogee County Remembrance Project.

Trinity Lent Series: Mondays in Lent, noon-1 in the parish hall at Trinity Episcopal Church, 1130 First Avenue, Columbus. Come to Trinity for a simple soup lunch and thoughtful reflection during Lent. Lunch is \$5, payable at the door. February 26: The Rev. Andrew Gordon (St. Mark's Episcopal, LaGrange, GA).

Men's Group: February 29 at 5:30pm at Nonic at Highside Market. Men of St. Thomas are invited to gather for a time of fellowship. We will tentatively meet at Nonic at the Highside Market (updates will be shared if the restaurant is not open by then). Contact Paul Hostetter for more information.

St. Thomas Book Group: First Fridays at 11 am. The St. Thomas Book Group meets the first Friday of each month September through May in the church library at 11:00 am. The Indigo Girl by Natasha Boyd is for March. April's selection is The Runaway Quilt by Jennifer Chiaverini. An informal group, everyone is welcome. Come and bring your friends. Call Martha Mullinax or Alice Barlow for further information.

St. Thomas Workday - Basement & Attic Clean Out: Saturday, March 2, 9 am until noon. It's time to start cleaning out the basement and attic to prepare for our renovation in April. Join us on the first Saturday in March to begin moving items into other places on campus. This workday will involve climbing steps, packing items, and moving boxes. Watch the email newsletter for more information.

New volunteer opportunity at Brewer Elementary: Volunteers are needed at Brewer Elementary to help students catch up in reading skills. The school will provide the space and teaching materials for volunteers. Dates and times still to be determined. Contact Nancy Powell for more information.

Nametags: We're encouraging everyone to wear your nametag to church! A sheet can be found in the narthex to request a nametag. Leave it in your car or purse, or in the wooden nametag holder in the narthex if you want to leave it at church. We do not make nametags for children without a request, for safety reasons.

Making Room for All: St. Thomas Vision Campaign. We are in the midst of our Making Room for All Vision Campaign to improve accessibility on our campus. We plan to provide closer handicapped parking, eliminate steps to the altar rail, move the choir downstairs, add ramps to the sacristy and flower room and eliminate steps from these spaces to the altar. Thanks to all who have already made a pledge to help us Make Room for All! Make a pledge online at our website or complete a paper form and turn it in to the church office.

We are Hiring!

Administrative Assistant, part-time (15 hours a week) The Assistant will answer phones, manage the entrance to the office, prepare Sunday bulletins, assist with data entry, support other administrative staff and maintain a welcoming and efficient office atmosphere. We imagine this person being in the office 3 days a week with some flexibility. Deadline to apply: February 25.

Director of Children and Family Ministries, part-time (25 hours a week) The Director will lead ministries with children (Nursery to grade 5) and families with a focus on building a community of love and support, offering an age-appropriate introduction to the scriptures and Episcopal tradition, and fostering lifelong growth in the Christian faith. Deadline to apply: March 10.

Upcoming & Ongoing

Saints & Sinners: March 7, 11:30. Join Saints & Sinners for a brief Eucharist, fellowship, and potluck lunch on Thursday March 7 and April 7 at 11:30 am. Following Eucharist at 11:30, the group will share a potluck lunch in the Parish Hall. Bring a dish to share! Everyone is welcome!

The Philadelphia Eleven Film: March 10 at 5pm in the parish hall. In 1974, a group of 11 women and their supporters were ordained as Episcopal priests in an act of civil disobedience designed to challenge the Episcopal Church to accept the gifts of all people. Their story is told in a compelling new documentary *The Philadelphia Eleven*. St. Thomas Episcopal Church will host a screening of this film on March 10 at 5 pm. The screening is free and a light supper will be provided, with donations accepted to offset costs. This film explores the lives of these remarkable women who succeeded in transforming an age-old institution despite threats to personal safety and the risk of rejection by the church they loved. For more information or to register see StThomasColumbus.org/parish-life-events/.

Women's Group: Friday, March 15, 2024, 11:30 AM at Cafe Amici. Gather with women at St. Thomas for a meal and fellowship. This group meets once a month and typically alternates between meeting for lunch or dinner at a restaurant. All who identify as women are welcome to gather. The next women's group lunch will be on March 15 at 11:30 am at Cafe Amici. Use the form below to let us know you're coming.

Reconciliation of a Penitent: Some Christian traditions emphasize the practice of individual confession during Lent. In The Episcopal Church, we call it the Rite of Reconciliation of a Penitent. Two forms of the rite are on pages 447 and 449 of the Book of Common Prayer. Form I begins with confession and ends with scripture and absolution (a declaration of God's forgiveness). Form II begins with scripture and ends with confession and absolution. The Rite of Reconciliation is not required or expected of anyone but is available for all who desire it. Many seek it out as part of their practice of repentance during the season of Lent. Contact any of our clergy to schedule a time for the Rite of Reconciliation. Lay people are also invited to share the rite with one another. Our clergy will offer this rite on Maundy Thursday evening from the end of the service until 10 pm.

Women's Lectionary Bible Study: Thursdays from 10-11am in the St. Thomas Library and on Zoom. Study the lectionary readings for the following Sunday in this one-hour class taught by the Rev. Cindy Cox Garrard. All women are welcome; you don't have to be a member of St. Thomas or even of any church at all. A study sheet is sent to each participant a few days before class. Contact the church office to register.

QR Code for signups! Use the QR code to find a list of current signups at St. Thomas including Wednesday night dinners! New to QR codes? Open the camera on your smartphone (or a QR reader), point at the black and white code box, when prompted push the link that shows up on your screen.

