

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

Camden, Maine

The Holy Eucharist, Rite I

*Children are always welcome in the church.
Please be sure your cell phone is inaudible.*

The ministers enter in silence

Penitential Order

The Book of Common Prayer, page 319

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People His mercy endureth for ever.

Confession of Sin & Absolution

page 320

Kyrie

page 324

The Collect

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

A Reading from the Book of Joshua [5:9-12]

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 32

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!

2 Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

A Reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians [5:16-21]

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke [15:1-3, 11b-32]

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Paul Briggs

Nicene Creed

page 326

Prayers of the People V

page 389

Blessings for birthdays, anniversaries, and other life events

The Peace

page 332

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn 29 LEVAS

Near the cross

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,
There's a precious fountain;
Free to all, a healing stream
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain

**In the cross, in the cross
Be my glory ever;
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.**

2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me;
There the Bright and Morning Star
Sheds its beams around me.

Refrain

3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day
With its shadows o'er me.

Refrain

5 Near the cross, I'll watch and wait,
Hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand
Just beyond the river.

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer I* page 333

The Lord's Prayer page 336

The Breaking of the Bread page 337

The Communion

This is God's table; all are welcome

Postcommunion Prayer page 339

Solemn Prayer Over the People

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. *Amen.*

Hymn 559 Lead us Heavenly father, lead us *Dulce Carmen*

Dismissal R/ *Thanks be to God*

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Welcome visitors and newcomers; we are glad you are here! If you would like more information about the community of St. Thomas, please speak to a greeter or a member of the clergy. To receive information by email, please fill out a blue card found in the pew and give to an usher or place in the offering plate.

Liturgical Ministers

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Paul Briggs

Organist: Clarissa Brown, Minister of Music

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Pam Bardon

Lay Reader: Terry Mello

Prayers of the People: Pam Bardon

Usher: Carlos Mello

People in our Prayers

Healing: Jeanie, Timothy Jackson, Jerry Hoff and Catherine, Gay Schueler, Kristina Shea, Virginia Johns, Ted and Kit Wagner, Tony, Dana, Mya Delisle, Andrew Moran, Donovan, Carolyn Moore, Debra and Amy, Ned and Kathleen Bachus, Lynne, Anna and her child Brody, Ruth Tolman, Helene, John, Phyllis, Michael, Bob, Sylvia, Marlene, Percy, Joan Grey, Cathy, James, Ken, Joseph, Kelli McGuire, Jo Panayotoff, Joyce S, Jan Schaefer, Christine & Paul M, Jason, Kristen, Jeanie, Cathie, Brian, Bob S., Gary P., Sandy, Ezra, Chris Strazzulla Fr. Tom Pike, Evie Bridges, Luke Morelli, Tim Peters, Janice Boetsch, Lucy Ebbert, Shirley, Budge Walen, Chris, Vicki Boetsch, Catherine G, Annabel, Pam Kaler, Margery, Nick, Stephanie, Kyle R.

March Birthdays: Michael Moore (5), Andrew Moran (6), Joseph Kulick (14), Jamie Popejoy (17), Terry Mello (19), Marilyn Smith (20), Benjy Lowry (27)

Diocese Cycle of Prayer: St. Mark's, Waterville; St. Barnabas', Rumford; and for all church musicians and choirs

This Week at St. Thomas'

Sunday, March 30:

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

11:15 Coffee Hour (*Parish Hall*)

11:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (*Music Room*)

4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (*Lady Chapel*)

Wednesday, April 2:

9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer and Healing Service

11:00 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, April 6:

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour (*Parish Hall*)

11:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (*Music Room*)

4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (*Lady Chapel*)

A.A. meetings are held daily at 6:30 p.m.

Church Staff and Parish Officers

Kayla Clay, Parish Administrator

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Office: 207-236-3680

The Rev. Paul Briggs, Interim Rector

interimrector@stthomascamdenme.org

(860) 384-9193

The Rev. Dr. Rosalee Glass, *Deacon Emeritus*

Clarissa Brown, *Organist & Choir Director*

Tony Coyne, *Sexton*

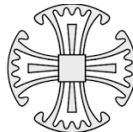
Elizabeth Moran, *Senior Warden*

Br. Donovan Bowley, BSG, *Junior Warden*

Terry Mello, *Treasurer*

Anne Rogers-Popejoy, *Vestry Clerk*

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St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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