

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026 10:00 a.m.

Welcome! If you are new or visiting, please introduce yourself; we are glad you are here! We invite you to fill out a visitor's card found in your pew to learn more about the Episcopal Community of St. Thomas. Please silence your electronic devices.

The Liturgy of the Palms

Celebrant Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

People Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew [21:1-11]

¹When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The Celebrant then says the following blessing

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Celebrant Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

People **Hosanna in the highest.**

Deacon Let us go forth in peace.

People **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

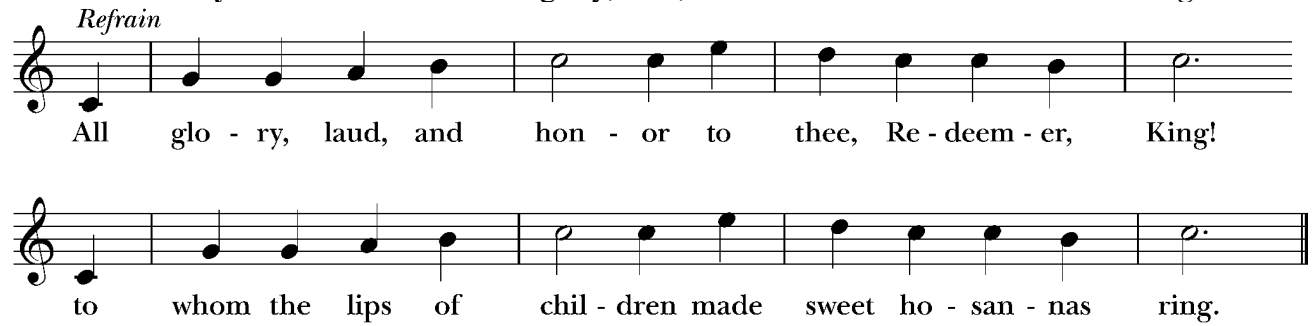
All sing as they enter the church, processing up the center aisle. People may cast their palms on the floor, just as the crowds who cheered Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

Processional Hymn 154

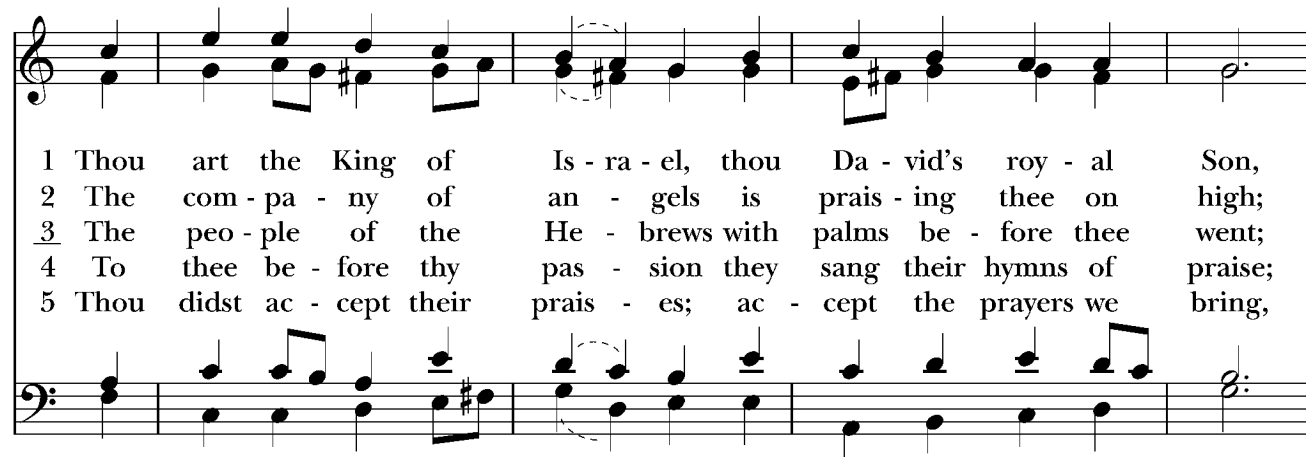
All glory, laud, and honor

Valet will ich dir geben

Refrain

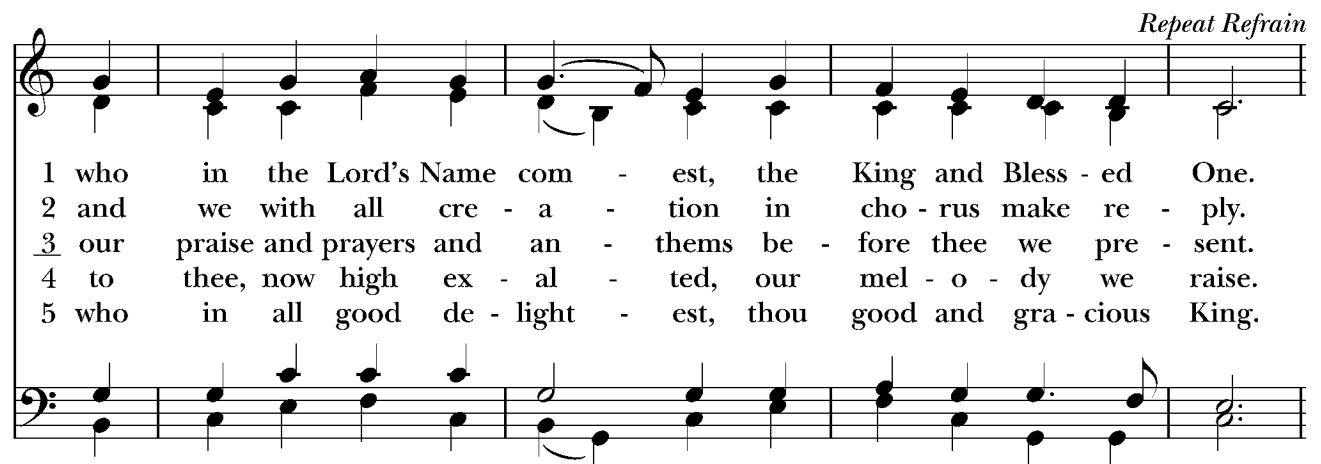


All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;
3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;
5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Repeat Refrain



1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.
2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
4 to thee, now high ex - al - ted, our mel - o - dy we raise.
5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

The stanzas may be sung by choir alone or alternately by contrasted groups; all sing the refrain.

The Word of God

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

Psalm 31:9-16 *(said responsively)*

Remain seated.

⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; *
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; *
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

¹¹I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; *
when they see me in the street they avoid me.

¹²**I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; *
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. *
I have said, “You are my God.**

¹⁵My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶**Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me.”**

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

Sequence Hymn 156

Ride on! ride on in majesty

The King's Majesty

1. Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
thy humble beast pursues his road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

2. Ride on! ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

3. Ride on! ride on in majesty!
The angel armies of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.

The Passion Gospel: Matthew 26:14—27:66

The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted. The congregation may be seated. The narrator begins

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew...

...NARRATOR: Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. ¹⁶At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

PILATE: "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

NARRATOR: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. ¹⁹While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

PILATE'S WIFE: "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

NARRATOR: Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹The governor again said to them,

PILATE: "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"

CONGREGATION: "**Barabbas.**"

PILATE: "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

CONGREGATION: "**Let him be crucified!**"

PILATE: "Why, what evil has he done?"

NARRATOR: But they shouted all the more,

CONGREGATION: "**Let him be crucified!**"

NARRATOR: So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

PILATE: "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

NARRATOR: Then the people as a whole answered,

CONGREGATION: "**His blood be on us and on our children!**"

The Sermon

The Prayers of the People

Deacon

As we walk with Christ in the journey of Holy Week, preparing to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of his death and resurrection, let us earnestly pray to God for those following the way of the cross and for all people everywhere.

Intercessor

For all who are to be baptized, confirmed, and received; for the holy catholic church throughout the world, sharing the death and resurrection of Christ.

Christ, have mercy.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Thomas, our bishop, for our parish clergy and lay leaders; for all who minister in Christ and for all the holy people of God.

Christ, have mercy.

For Donald our President, Janet our Governor, Audra our Town Manager; for all nations, peoples, tribes, clans, communities, and families.

Christ, have mercy.

For justice, mercy, and peace in all the world.

Christ, have mercy.

For all who are tempted, oppressed, afflicted, or in need.

Christ, have mercy.

For the dying and the dead, and for those who mourn.

Christ, have mercy.

For all refugees and those who seek to provide for them; for our families, friends, and companions, and for all those we love.

Christ, have mercy.

Remembering all those who have gone before us in faith, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord, our God.

Presider

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, whose Son humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death. Receive the prayers we offer this day for all those in need in everyplace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayers for travel, anniversaries, recovery, birthdays, etc.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion



The people stand as the offerings are brought forward. Online Offerings: Scan the QR Code or click the Donate Button on our website (www.stthomascamden.org)

Offertory Hymn 458

1 My song is love unknown—
my Savior's love to me;
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

2 He came from His blest throne
salvation to bestow;
but men made strange, and none
the longed for Christ would know.
But oh, my Friend, my Friend indeed,
who at my need His life did spend!

Love Unknown

3 Sometimes they strew His way,
and His sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
and for His death they thirst and cry.

7 Here might I stay and sing—
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

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.**

The Celebrant continues

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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

**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, forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

S 161

Lamb of God

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.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion

This is God's table, all are welcome. Gluten-free wafers are available; ask the priest when you come to the altar rail. You can request that Communion be brought to your pew by letting an usher know.

Pie Jesu from Requiem as organ voluntary

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Cello solo

“Were you there”

Alison Angell, cellist

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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 Deacon says

Bow down before the Lord.

The people kneel and the Celebrant says

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given in to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Postcommunion Hymn 435 v.v. 1-4

At the Name of Jesus

King's Weston



1 At the Name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall bow,
 2 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a Name
 3 bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man light,
 4 Name him, Chris - tians, name him, with love strong as death,
 * 5 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
 * 6 Chris-tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,



1 ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
 2 from the lips of sin - ners, un - to whom he came,
 3 through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,
 4 name with awe and won - der and with bat - ed breath;
 5 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true;
 6 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry o'er the earth to reign;



1 'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord
 2 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
 3 to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast;
 4 he is God the Sa - vior, he is Christ the Lord,
 5 crown him as your Cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
 6 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



1 who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 2 brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed;
 3 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.
 4 ev - er to be wor - shiped, trust - ed, and a - dored.
 5 let his will en - fold you in its light and power.
 6 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

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Liturgical Ministers

Celebrant: The Rev. Paul Briggs
Deacon and Preacher: The Rev. Kristen Burkholder
Organist: Tony Antolini
Eucharistic Minister: Sarah Groman, Shelly Gallender
Readers: Craig Watson
Prayers of the People: Sarah Groman
Ushers: Phil Groman

People in our Prayers

Healing: Gabrielle Wicklow, Wayne B., Mary Mitchell, Morgan Forster, Fred McLaughlin, Kate Pinson, Karen Nolan, Tim C., Bill, Jan, Marieda Hunt, Patrick Coleman, Jan L., Miriam, The Nisbet Family, Wendy, Jeff, Sandra Covington, Peter Walker, Br. Richard Biernacki BSG, Jeff, David Bridges, Kathy Bridges, Donald, Diana Mohr, Gwen, Charles Lewis, Jeanie, Timothy Jackson, Catherine, Kristina Shea, Tony, Mya Delisle, Andrew Moran, Donovan, Debra and Amy, Ned and Kathleen Bachus, Anna and her child Brody, Ruth Tolman, Helene, John, Phyllis, Michael, Bob, Sylvia, Marlene, Percy, Joan Grey, Cathy, James, Ken, Joseph, Jo Panayotoff, Joyce S, Jan Schaefer, Christine & Paul M, Jason, Kristen, Jeanie, Cathie, Brian, Bob S., Gary P., Gay Schueler, Pat Medley, Timothy Darling, Leah, Sandy, Ezra, Chris Strazzulla, Fr. Tom Pike, Evie Bridges, Luke Morelli, Tim Peters, Janice Boetsch, Shirley, Budge Walen, Chris, Vicki Boetsch, Catherine G, Annabel, Pam Kaler, Margery, Stephanie, Helen Russell

For the repose of the soul of: Cindy Rogers

March Birthdays: Mike Moore (5), Kristen Burkholder (5), Andrew Moran (6), Paul Briggs (9), Joe Kulick (14), Jamie Popejoy (17), Terry Mello (19), Benjy Lowry (27)

Diocese Cycle of Prayer: Grace Church, Bath, St. Saviour, Bar Harbor, For all church musicians and choirs

Church Staff and Parish Officers

Kayla Clay, Parish Administrator
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Office: 207-236-3680

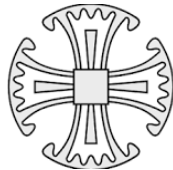
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The Rev. Dr. Rosalee Glass, *Deacon Emeritus*
Tony Coyne, *Sexton*
Elizabeth Moran, *Senior Warden*
Benjy Lowry, *Junior Warden*
Terry Mello, *Treasurer*
Anne Rogers-Popejoy, *Vestry Clerk*

Holy Week and Easter 2026
With the Episcopal Community of St. Thomas

Sunday of the Passion March 29	8:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Liturgy with Hymns 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Liturgy (<i>Begins in Parish Hall</i>) 4:00 p.m. Contemplative Prayer (<i>Lady Chapel</i>)
Monday in Holy Week March 30	9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (<i>Lady Chapel</i>) 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer (<i>Lady Chapel</i>)
Tuesday in Holy Week March 31	9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (<i>Lady Chapel</i>) 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer (<i>Lady Chapel</i>)
Wednesday in Holy Week April 1	9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (<i>Lady Chapel</i>) 9:30 a.m. Eucharist with Prayers for Healing (<i>Lady Chapel</i>) 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer (<i>Lady Chapel</i>)
Maundy Thursday April 2	9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (<i>Lady Chapel</i>) 5:30 p.m. Agape Meal (<i>Parish Hall-Bring Mediterranean Food</i>) 6:30 p.m. Liturgy (<i>Foot washing, Eucharist, Stripping of Altar</i>) 8:00 p.m. Nightwatch (<i>Lady Chapel</i>)
Good Friday April 3	9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (<i>Lady Chapel</i>) 12:00 p.m. Ecumenical Service at Chestnut Street Baptist 4:00 p.m. The Way of the Cross (<i>at St. Thomas</i>)
Holy Saturday April 4	9:00 a.m. Holy Saturday Liturgy (<i>A brief service of the Word</i>)
Easter Eve	7:30 p.m. THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER (<i>Begins Parish Hall</i>) <i>St. Thomas will be hosting this service for all mid-coast Episcopal, Lutheran, and United Methodist congregations: Kindling the new fire, stories of salvation history, baptisms and confirmation, procession to the church for Easter acclamation and first Eucharist of Easter. Bishop Thomas Brown, celebrant, Dr. Deirdre Good, preacher. Sean Fleming, musician. Reception following. Bring a handbell!</i>
Easter Day April 5	8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Hymns (Rite I) 10:00 a.m. Festival Holy Eucharist (Rite II- <i>bring a handbell</i>)



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
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