



### **“WELCOME TO THE MOTHER CHURCH”**

*“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.  
Give thanks unto Him and bless His name”*

Psalm 100:4

Grace and Peace to you from God on this **Third Sunday in Lent**. **Our theme for the Lenten Season is “Emerging from the Wilderness with Jesus”.**

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry and People of God, welcome to the historic **African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas**, founded in 1792 as the first black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. The first rector of this historic parish, The Rev. Fr. Absalom Jones was also the first black Episcopal priest in the nation.

Our parish boldly proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an active, mission-minded and growing church family. Whoever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcomed at St. Thomas’ Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus’ message of love, hope, prayer, acceptance and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed and revived. May Jesus reveal himself to you during the Season of Epiphany.

Faithfully,

***Martini Shaw*** +

(The Very Rev. Canon) Martini Shaw,

17<sup>th</sup> Rector and

Dean of the Schuylkill Deanery

**Sunday Spearhead**  
**The Third Sunday in Lent**  
**“Emerging from the wilderness with Jesus”**

**March 20, 2022**

**Celebrant:** The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw

**Homilist:** The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins

**Music Ministry:** The St. Thomas Chancel Choir

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**ORDER OF SERVICE**

**The Prelude**

The St. Thomas Music Ministry

**The Opening Hymn - “O God Our Help in Ages Past”**

1982 Hymnal #680

1) O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home:

2) Under the shadow of your throne  
your saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defense is sure.

3) Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.

4) A thousand ages in thy sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.

5) Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
bears all our years away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.

6) O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while life shall last,  
and our eternal home!

**A Word of Welcome**

The Celebrant

**Celebrant:** Bless the Lord who forgives my sins.

**People:** His mercy endures forever.

**The Decalogue**

BCP 350

**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.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

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

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Honor your father and mother.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit murder.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit adultery.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not steal.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not be a false witness.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

### **The Confession**

BCP 360

**Celebrant:** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us kneel and confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Silence)

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and 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**

The Celebrant

**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.

### **The Kyrie eleison**

**Celebrant:** Lord, have mercy.

**People: Christ, have mercy.**

**Celebrant:** Lord, have mercy.

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you**

**Celebrant:** Let us pray

### **The Collect:**

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Proclamation of The Word

### The First Reading: Exodus 3:1-15

Caryn Rivers

#### A Reading from the Book of Exodus

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,  
and this my title for all generations."

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord

**People:** Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 63:1-8

Clare Mae Daniels

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; \*  
**my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,**  
**as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.**

Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, \*  
**that I might behold your power and your glory.**

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; \*  
**my lips shall give you praise.**

So will I bless you as long as I live \*  
**and lift up my hands in your Name.**

My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, \*  
**and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,**

When I remember you upon my bed, \*  
**and meditate on you in the night watches.**

For you have been my helper, \*  
**and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.**

My soul clings to you; \*  
**your right hand holds me fast.**

**The Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**  
**A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Corinthians**

Kelly Jones

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord  
**People:** Thanks be to God

**The Gradual Hymn - "Stand By Me"**

LEVAS # 200 (Vss. 1-3)

1) When the storms of life are raging,  
stand by me; (stand by me)  
when the storms of life are raging,  
stand by me. (stand by me)  
When the world is tossing me  
like a ship upon the sea,  
thou who rulest wind and water,  
stand by me. (stand by me)

2) In the midst of tribulation,  
stand by me; (stand by me)  
in the midst of tribulation,  
stand by me. (stand by me)  
When the hosts of hell assail,  
and my strength begins to fail,  
thou who never lost a battle,  
stand by me. (stand by me)

3) In the midst of faults and failures,  
stand by me; (stand by me)  
in the midst of faults and failures,  
stand by me. (stand by me)  
When I've done the best I can,  
and my friends misunderstand,  
thou who knowest all about me,  
stand by me. (stand by me)

## **The Holy Gospel: Luke 13:1-9**

**The Priest:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

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

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

**The Priest:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **The Homily Hymn - "Stand By Me"**

4) In the midst of persecution,  
stand by me; (stand by me)  
in the midst of persecution,  
stand by me. (stand by me)  
When my foes in war array  
undertake to stop my way,  
thou who rescued Paul and Silas,  
stand by me. (stand by me)

LEVAS # 200 (Vss. 4-5)

5) When I'm growing old and feeble,  
stand by me; (stand by me)  
when I'm growing old and feeble,  
stand by me. (stand by me)  
When my life becomes a burden,  
and I'm nearing chilly Jordan,  
O thou Lily of the Valley,  
stand by me. (stand by me)

## **The Homily**

Fr. Jay Collins

## **The Call to Christian Discipleship**

### **The Nicene Creed**

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

Cathy Stafford

Leader: With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord,

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy, and people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

For the people of the Ukraine and for peace around the world, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** For the good earth which God has given us and for the wisdom and will to conserve it Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air (or outer space), let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those incarcerated: Guide them Lord in all they do with your Grace and Love and grant them your continual help. In all their problems, your guidance, in all their dangers, your protection and in all their sorrows, your peace. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord by thy grace. **Hear our prayer.**

In the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Thomas, Blessed Absalom and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God;  
**To thee, O Lord our God.**

## The Concluding Collect

The Celebrant

## The Peace

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

**People:** And also with you.

## The Holy Eucharist

**The Offertory Sentence and Offering**

**The Offertory Musical Selection**

St. Thomas Chancel Choir

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**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 him thanks and praise.**

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

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Celebrant and People**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**The 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:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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

**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**

**Celebrant:** Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People:** Therefore let us keep the feast.

### **The Agnus Dei**

**Celebrant:** Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world

**People:** Have mercy upon us.

**Celebrant:** Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world

**People:** Have mercy upon us.

**Celebrant:** Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world

**People:** Grant us thy peace.

**The Celebrant:** The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### **Post- Communion Prayer**

**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 Announcements**

Deadra Cannon

### **Recognition of Guests and Visitors**

### **The Blessing of Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel**

### **The Blessing**

**The Closing Hymn-“God of Grace and God of Glory”**

1982 Hymnal #594

1) God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your pow’r;  
crown your ancient Church’s story,  
bring its bud to glorious flow’r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.

2) Lo, the hosts of evil round us  
scorn the Christ, assail his ways.  
From the fears that long have bound us  
free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.

3) Cure your children’s warring madness;  
bend our pride to your control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
lest we miss your kingdom’s goal,  
lest we miss your kingdom’s goal.

4) Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the gift of your salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
serving you whom we adore,  
serving you whom we adore.

**The Dismissal**

**The Postlude**

St. Thomas Music Ministry