

**THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

**March 23, 2025 10:00 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist Rite I  
[www.stthomasgreenville.org](http://www.stthomasgreenville.org)**



**ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

210 Church Street, Greenville, Alabama 36037

334.382.8914

**Clergy and Staff**

The Rt. Rev. Russell Kendrick, *Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast*

The Rev. Linda Suzanne Borgen, *Rector*

Dr. Elizabeth French, *Organist*

Dent Neilson, *Verger*

Sharon Carson, *Parish Administrator*

Julie Smith, *Nursery Nanny*

**VESTRY**

Tammi Edwards ('25), Cleve Poole ('26), *Senior Wardens*,  
Carey Stallworth ('27), *Junior Warden*, Laura Watts ('27), *Clerk*,  
Cemira Powell, *Treasurer*, Mary Dearing ('26), Ann Garrett ('25),  
Amy Martin ('26), Mints McGowin ('27)

## The Liturgy of the Word

**Introit**

St Thomas Choir

**Opening Hymn**

*Rock of ages, cleft for me*

H 150

**Celebrant** Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

BCP 323

*People His mercy endureth for ever.*

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Kyrie**

S 91

*Celebrant and People*

Lord have mercy upon us. (3 times)

*Christ have mercy upon us.* (3 times)

Lord have mercy upon us. (3 times)

**Collect of the Day**

**Celebrant** The Lord be with you.

*People And with thy spirit.*

**Celebrant** Let us pray.

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of 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 liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever . *Amen.*

**The Lessons:**

**First Reading from Exodus 3:1-15**

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 suffering, 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, ‘The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’: This is my name forever, and this is my title for all generations.”  
*People Thanks be to God.*

**Psalm 63:1-8**

BCP 670

- <sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; \*  
my soul thirst for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
- <sup>2</sup> Therefore I have gazed upon you in your Holy place, \*  
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- <sup>3</sup> For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; \*  
my lips shall give you praise.
- <sup>4</sup> So will I bless you as long as I live \*  
and lift up my hands in your Name.
- <sup>5</sup> My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, \*  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- <sup>6</sup> When I remember you upon my bed, \*  
and meditate on you in the night watches.
- <sup>7</sup> For you have been my helper, \*  
and under the shadow of your wings, I will rejoice.
- <sup>8</sup> My soul clings to you; \*  
your right hand holds me fast.  
the Lord will sustain me.

**Second Reading from 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

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 had 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.

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

## Sequence Hymn

*Rock of Ages, Cleft For Me*

H 685

## Gospel Luke 13:1-9

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

*People Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

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.’”

**Celebrant** The Gospel of the Lord.

*People Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

## The Sermon

The Reverend Linda Suzanne C. Borgen

## The Nicene Creed

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.

## **The Prayers of the People**

BCP 328

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.  
Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.  
Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.  
We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.  
Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.  
And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor those on our Parish Prayer List (page 10) and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear [especially \_\_\_\_\_], beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of Thomas and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

## **Confession of Sin**

BCP 330

### **Celebrant**

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God.

### **Minister and People**

BCP 332

Almighty God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
maker of all things, judge of all men:  
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins  
and wickedness,  
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,  
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,  
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.

We do earnestly repent,  
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;  
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,  
the burden of them is intolerable.

Have mercy upon us,  
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may ever hereafter  
serve and please thee in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of thy Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **Celebrant**

BCP 332

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **The Comfortable Words**

BCP 332

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. Matthew 11:28

## **The Peace**

The Celebrant says to the people  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People And with thy spirit.*

## **The Holy Communion**

### **Offertory**

BCP 343

### **Celebrant**

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High.  
Psalm 50:14

### **Offertory**

Dr. Elizabeth French

### **Doxology**

H 380, v 3

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creature here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

**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.*

## **Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds**

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 singing,

### **Sanctus**

S 125

*Celebrant and People*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of 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, he brake 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 ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, 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, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, 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; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him. And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

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

*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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

BCP 337

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.  
A period of silence is kept.

**Celebrant** Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* Therefore let us keep the feast.

### **Agnus Dei**

S 158

*Celebrant and People*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us thy peace.

*Celebrant and People*

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

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.

The Bread is given to communicants with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen*]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen*]

### **Communion Hymns**

*I am the bread of life*

H 335

*Let thy blood in mercy poured*

H 313

### **Prayer for Lay Eucharistic Visitor**

**Celebrant** In the name of this congregation and our Lord Jesus Christ, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, so that those to whom you go share with us in this Holy Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

*People* For we who are many are one body, because we all share one bread and one cup.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

**Post Communion Prayer**

BCP 339

*People and Celebrant*

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**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

**Recessional Hymn**

*Lord dismiss us with Thy blessing*

H 344

**The Dismissal**

BCP 340

**Celebrant** Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**

Dr. Elizabeth French