



ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ISLE OF HOPE, GA

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Isle of Hope
The Fourth Sunday after The Epiphany
January 28, 2024

*We are a welcoming community of faith and love that serves one another
and seeks to draw others to God through our ministries.*

8:00 AM, HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE ONE

Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 323

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

The Collect of the Day

BCP 164

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of thy people, and in our time grant us thy peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Bulletin 3

Psalms 111

Bulletin 3

The Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Bulletin 4

The Homily

The Nicene Creed

Bulletin 4

The Prayers of the People

Bulletin 5

The Confession of Sin & Absolution

BCP 331

The Peace

BCP 332

Announcements, Birthdays and Anniversary Blessings

The Presentation of the Gifts

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP 340

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 336

The Fraction

BCP 337

Prayer of Humble Access

BCP 337

The Post-Communion Prayer

BCP 339

The Blessing & Dismissal

Bulletin 8

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO

PRELUDE *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* arr. Mark Hayes
ENTRANCE HYMN *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!* Hymnal #437

All children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to follow the small cross out of the church into the chapel for children's chapel. Adults or older siblings are welcome to accompany them. They will return to the church at the Peace.

OPENING ACCLAMATION BCP 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE GLORIA S-280

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY BCP 215

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS *The people sit*

The First Lesson

A Reading from Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said: The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die." The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

1 Hallelujah!

**I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.**

2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! *

they are studied by all who delight in them.

3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, *

and his righteousness endures for ever.

4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; *

the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

5 He gives food to those who fear him; *

he is ever mindful of his covenant.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works *

in giving them the lands of the nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *

all his commandments are sure.

8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *

because they are done in truth and equity.

9 He sent redemption to his people;

he commanded his covenant for ever; *

holy and awesome is his Name.

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *

those who act accordingly have a good understanding;

his praise endures for ever.

The Second Lesson

A Reading from the first letter to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols?

So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall. The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN

Be thou my vision

Hymnal #488

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

Mark 1:21-28

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

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Melanie Lemburg

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

Officiant Let us reaffirm our faith in the words of 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 FOR THE SEASON AFTER EPIPHANY

Litanist Shine in your church, O God; embolden us in a dark world, to speak truthfully
and to act with the courage of love. This day and always,
People **Christ, be our Light.**

Litanist Shine on your world, O God; heal the warring of nations and the wounding of the
earth to give us peace at last. This day and always,
People **Christ, be our Light.**

Litanist Shine for your people, O God; make us one human family who clothe each other
with mercy and feed each other with justice. This day and always,
People **Christ, be our Light.**

Litanist Shine in our hearts, O God; help us to reach to the heavens and deep in our souls
to seek you, to find you, and to know you. This day and always,
People **Christ, be our Light.**

Litanist Shine in the saints and the departed, O God; teach us to follow their lead to
outrageous faith and eternal love. This day and always,
People **Christ, be our Light.**

Litanist Shine for the afflicted, O God; remind them of your deep compassion and how
you tenderly bear all our sorrows [*Silence.*] This day and always,
People **Christ, be our Light.**

Litanist Shine, O God, as the Light that creates, the Light that calls, the Light that comes
again with every dawn. Shine as the Light that scatters every shadow, and the
Light in which we promise to walk, with your help. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 360

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

**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.**

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 PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Great is the Lord* *Jay Althouse*

THE DOXOLOGY (v 3) *Hymnal #380*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

THE PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS (11:15 am)

Celebrant All things come of you, O Lord.
People **And of your own have we given you. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP 367

The people remain standing.

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.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

S-125

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 people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the blessed Virgin Mary, St. Thomas, Anna Alexander, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

FRACTION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**
Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

COMMUNION HYMN

The Gift of Love

arr. Hal Hopson
Carolyn Cohen & Tripp Hardee

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (*for virtual participants who do not have access to communion*)

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I embody your desire and be renewed for your service through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

COMMISSIONING OF LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR

Celebrant In the Name of God and of this congregation we send you forth bearing these holy gifts; that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood:
People **We who are many are One Body, for we all share One Bread and One Cup. Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.
All **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 BLESSING

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

EXIT HYMN

O for a thousand tongues to sing

Hymnal #493

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

O for a thousand tongues to sing

Paul Manz

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving of 32 years of marriage donated by Tom and Susan Hailey.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, January 28	Annual Parish Meeting immediately following 9:30 a.m. service. 12:00 EYC at Your Pie 5:30 p.m. AA Meeting – CE Building Last day to turn in gift Cards to Rev. Colette for Unseen Guest.
Monday, January 29	5:30 p.m. Christian formation offering Deadline to submit the Survey of our common life
Tuesday, January 30	5:30 p.m. New Events Committee Meeting 6:15 p.m. EFM
Wednesday, January 31	11:30 a.m. Healing Service in the Chapel 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, February 3	8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast and Planning Meeting – Kitchen 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Vestry Retreat

Safe Church/Key update

If you have not received your key yet, Greg will have them available today in the office after the Annual Parish Meeting.

New Adult Formation Offering: Learning About and Responding to Christian Nationalism

Have you ever wondered what Christian Nationalism is, or how we as Episcopalians and people of faith should engage with our country's political process? Join us on Monday nights January 22, 29, and February 5 at 5:30 p.m. to learn more about Christian Nationalism and to have honest, respectful dialogue about how we live together across differences. Material will be presented via video clips and PowerPoint presentation and is endorsed by The Episcopal Church.

2023/2024 Giving

Thank you to everyone who turned in a pledge card as a part of the Generations of Generosity Annual Giving Campaign for 2024. As of January 25, 2024, we have received 85 pledges totaling \$484,000.00.

Altar Flowers

The chart for the 2024 altar flowers is on the bulletin board in the parish hall. If you want a special date for a dedication, please sign up soon. The dates fill up fast.

Survey of our common life

We want to hear from you! Please, fill out our brief survey about service times, how you engage with our communications, and what you would like to see us focus on in 2024. The deadline will be January 29, 2024. The link is available in the weekly emails and a text was sent yesterday.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

The St. Thomas' Men's group is hosting a fellowship breakfast for any men of the church to gather and also to discuss the upcoming oyster roast and other activities on Saturday, February 3 at 8 am. Please, rsvp by emailing Olivia Kate by Thursday, February 1st. Contact Howard Bacon with questions.

St. Thomas' Thrift Store 2023 Grants REMINDER

The Celebration Party will be at 2:00 on Monday, February 5 at the store, 1126 E. Montgomery XRDS. All 2023 grant funded organization representatives and store volunteers are invited.

Oyster Roast

The Men's Club will be hosting an Oyster Roast on Saturday, February 10th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The price is \$40.00 per person. The menu is: Oysters, Red Rice, Chicken and Coleslaw. Please RSVP to Olivia Kate at oliviakate@stthomasioh.org by Tuesday, February 6th.

New Events Committee to meet

St. Thomas' is putting together a new committee to help plan and put on new events in the life of the parish. We'll have an organizational meeting on Tuesday, January 30 at 5:30 pm in the library. All are welcome. If you'd like to participate but can't be there for the meeting, let Rev Melanie or Olivia Kate know.

Calendar Committee to meet

The calendar planning committee will meet on Tuesday, February 6 at 5:30 p.m. in the library. All existing groups of St. Thomas' who would like to make sure their events are scheduled on the church calendar are invited to send one representative per group to the meeting. Contact Rev Melanie with questions.

February Service Project

February 11th we'll be providing a Super Bowl party for the families staying in Ronald McDonald House. Ronald McDonald house provides rooms for children and their families as they receive medical treatment at our nearby hospitals. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall of items to be donated or items you can financially contribute to. All items are due at the church by Sat. Feb 10th. Please see Rev. Colette or Betty Henderson for more information.

Interested in Plarning?

Plarning is knitting or crocheting re-purposed plastic shopping bags into sleeping mats. These mats are used by unsheltered homeless individuals to provide a waterproof barrier for sleeping on the ground. Beginning Monday February 12th, we'll be plarning in the Parish Hall at St. Thomas'. We'll have someone from Messiah Lutheran here to teach us the process. You don't need to sign up to participate and don't need any special talent! If interested please let Rev. Colette know so she has an idea of how many people to expect. We've also started collecting shopping bags. Please save your grocery/Walmart bags and as you get a "stash" put them in the box outside the office door.

Upcoming Events:

February 5: St. Thomas' Thrift Store Celebration

February 7: Wednesday night supper at 6 pm: Turkey Tetrizzini, Salad, and Dessert

February 10: Oyster Roast

February 12: Plarning 10:00 a.m.

February 13: Lunch Bunch 11:30 a.m.

February 13: Shrove Tuesday supper and celebration at 6 pm

February 14: Ash Wednesday services at 7 am, 11:30 am, and 6 pm

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Ushers (9:30 am) Roger Gloege and Barry Wilson

Vestry on Duty: (9:30 am) Eleanor Foster

Lectors: (8:00 am) David White (9:30 am) Kevin Fleming

Lay Eucharistic Minister: (8:00) Dave White

(9:30) Susan Tutan Gonzales and Charlie Barrow

Lay Eucharistic Visitor: Charlie Barrow

Acolytes: Gabriella Gonzales and Vivian Bernard

Altar Guild: Cathy Joyce and Ingrid Skousgard

Children's Chapel: Kim Tutan

(11:15 am) Bill Franklin

(11:15 am) Mary Blaney

(11:15 am) Bill Franklin

Worship Tech: Tino Aguilar

Cantor: Carolyn Cohen

Hospitality: None Today

Nursery: Eva Aguilar

WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS

If you are new or with us for the first time, thank you for joining us at worship. We hope you will join us again. Restrooms are available in our parish hall and Christian Education buildings. Nursery care is available in our Christian Education building for children ages 0-4. Please, see an usher to assist you in locating the nursery if that is the preferred option for your family. Children are always welcome to stay in the church at St. Thomas' as they are full members of the body of Christ. If you do choose to utilize our nursery, we hope you will bring your children back into church to receive communion or a blessing. We also have a Children's Chapel for the first part of the service (the Liturgy of the Word). Children in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to follow the little cross in the opening procession where they will exit to go to our chapel. Adults are welcome to accompany them if that would be helpful. The children will return to the church from Children's Chapel at the Peace.

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians, regardless of denomination or age, are invited to be fed at God's table. When it is your turn, hold your hands out open in front of you to receive the bread. When the cup of wine comes to you, help guide it to your mouth to take a sip, dip the top of the wafer into the cup, or signify that you want to abstain from drinking by crossing your arms over your chest. If you would like to learn more about the customs of our tradition, please, contact The Rev. Melanie Lemburg.

Please, fill out a visitor card from the pew rack and give to one of the clergy or the ushers or scan the QR code and fill out our virtual connection card so we may greet you more formally in the days to come.



As you travel throughout the year, remember that it is easy and safe to give through our website: <https://www.stthomasioh.org/give> or on Venmo @StThomasEpiscopalChurch.

The Rt. Rev. Frank Sullivan Logue, Bishop of Georgia
The Rev. Melanie Lemburg, Rector
The Rev. Colette Hammesfahr, Associate Rector
Amy Jo Washabaugh, Parish Administrator
Tripp Hardee, Minister of Music
Greg Washabaugh, Sexton
Dianne Jones, Nursery Supervisor
Matt Rice, EYC Youth Coordinator
Olivia Kate Castleberry, Communications Intern

The Vestry

Eleanor Foster, Senior Warden
Paige Case, Stewart Marshall, Co-Junior Wardens
Mitch Green, Treasurer
Boo McCullough, Clerk

Charlie Barrow	Joseph Bernard	Mary Blaney
Paige Case	David Castleberry	Chris Conner
Eleanor Foster	Mary Haley	Susan Hailey
Stewart Marshall	Jim Moore	Annie Quaile

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