



Window: The Transfiguration of Jesus

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church
The Order of Worship for the
Last Sunday After The Epiphany
March 2, 2025 † 8:30 AM**

THE ENTRANCE

Welcome

Please stand as comfortable at the ringing of the bell.

**THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Celebrant Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.

People **And blessed be God's reign now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity *unison*

BCP 355

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

Song of Praise: The Third Song of Isaiah

BCP 87

Arise, shine, for your light has come, *
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the land; *
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise, *
and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations will stream to your light, *
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open; *
by day or night they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord, *
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Violence will no more be heard in your land, *
ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation, *
and all your portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day; *
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.
The Lord will be your everlasting light, *
and your God will be your glory.

The Collect of the Day

BCP 217

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

Please be seated for the reading of the scriptures.

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

Exodus 34:29-35

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregations returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Siani. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on this face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- 1 The Lord is King; let the people tremble *
He is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.
- 2 The Lord is great in Zion; *
he is high above all peoples.
- 3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; *
he is the Holy One.
- 4 “O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; *
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.”
- 5 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and fall down before his footstool; *
he is the Holy One.
- 6 Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, *
they called upon the Lord, and he answered them.
- 7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; *
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.
- 8 “O Lord our God, you answered them indeed; *
you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.”
- 9 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and worship him upon his holy hill; *
for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God’s word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

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

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighted down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" -not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one of any of the things they had seen.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Nicene Creed *unison*

BCP 358

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.**

Prayers of the People *kneeling or seated*

Let us worship the Savior with joy as we offer our prayers, saying hear our prayer.

At the birth of Jesus, Magi traveled from distant lands. We pray for the welfare of the world, for peace in places of conflict, and for the renewal of the Earth.

God of glory, **hear our prayer.**

At his baptism, Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit. We pray for the Church, anointed with that same Spirit, that we may practice repentance, proclaim the gospel, and walk in love.

God of glory, **hear our prayer.**

After his baptism, Jesus gathered a community of disciples. We pray for the health, safety, and wellbeing of this community as we navigate the challenges before us.

God of glory, **hear our prayer.**

In his preaching, Jesus declared that the Kingdom of God has come near. We pray for our Nation and for our leaders, that we may end division, enact justice, and respect the dignity of every human being.

God of glory, **hear our prayer.**

In his ministry, Jesus healed the sick and comforted the distressed. We pray for all who are sick, anxious, or troubled, especially St. Thomas parishioners the Ward family, Lisa, Nicole, Alice, the Carpenter family, the Covington & Whitaker families, Carlene, Marie, Arthur, Bernie, Elissa, Charlotte, and Cindy; our homebound members Ramón & Maria, Carol, William and John; friends of the parish Jimmy, Gary, Gaston, Joe, and Linda, and for all who care for them.

God of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus comforted those who grieved and raised the dead to life. We pray for all who grieve and for those who have died, especially Murray, Judy, Rick, John, and Bill.

God of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The disciples rejoiced to see Jesus transfigured before them. We rejoice in the many blessings of this life, especially your presence with us.

God of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, and help us shine with the light of Christ through the power of the Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Dedication of the Chapel Font *made by Mike Rallo, in memory and honor of Trudy Rallo*

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Celebrant All of us who are baptized into Christ

People **Have clothed ourselves with Christ.**

Celebrant Almighty God, we thank you that you have put it into the hearts of your people to make offerings for your service, and have been pleased to accept their gifts. Be with us now as we set apart this font to your praise and glory, in memory and honor of Trudy Rallo, that those baptized here may know the liberty and splendor of the children of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We give thanks, O Lord, for all gifts of the spirit at work in your church, especially the gifts of your servants Mike and Charlene, who serve faithfully with this congregation. Grant them your blessing and assist them with your grace that their life together may be a witness to the love into which we are baptized, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offering

St. Thomas is grateful for your gifts.

You may mail a check to 2100 Hilton Avenue, Columbus, GA 31906, donate online at our website (<https://www.stthomascolumnbus.org/give/>), or use your mobile device by texting **STTCOLUMBUS** to **73256**.

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer B, standing as comfortable*

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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

**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.

Remain standing as comfortable, or kneel.

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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior 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 Jesus 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,

We remember Christ's death

We proclaim Christ's resurrection

We await Christ's coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior 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 in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, 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 all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer *unison*

BCP 364

**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

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ,

People **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

All Christians are joyfully invited to share in communion. You do not have to be a member of St. Thomas or an Episcopalian in order to receive. Come forward down the center aisle when invited by the ushers. Go to the farthest end of the altar rail and stand or kneel. Hold out one hand to receive the bread and then dip the bread in the cup or drink from the cup. If you prefer not to share a common cup, hold out two hands to receive the bread and wine together. If you prefer not to receive either the bread or the cup, cross your arms across your chest. If you need a gluten-free wafer, let the server know. If you prefer to receive communion at your pew, let the usher know.

Sit or kneel as comfortable, keeping aware that some may be kneeling behind you.

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of 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 Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Holy eternal Majesty, Holy incarnate Word, Holy abiding Spirit, Bless you for evermore. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

In our prayers

St. Thomas parishioners: the family of Don Ward, Lisa Shaw, Nicole Ceccato; Alice Barlow, the Carpenter family, the Covington & Whitaker families; Carlene Pawlowicz, Marie Massey, Arthur Frost, Bernie Sutter, Elissa Wagner, Charlotte Mills, Cindy Godwin

Homebound members: Ramón & Maria Capó, Carol Kennon, William South, John Studstill

Friends of the parish: Jimmy Hatfield (*Amy Hatfield*), Gary Conaughty (*Ena Hunt*), Gaston Sellers (*Jennifer Fletcher*), Joe Moore (*Ena Hunt*), Linda Wilson (*Florence Wakoko*)

Those with continuing concerns: Gene Wells, Frank & Pam Feagle, Ralph Wimberly, Jessica McComb, April Jacobs, Jana Speer, Debbie & Max Anderson, Korie MacDougall, Nicole Ceccato, Neal Fenter, Ellen Free, Steve Scott, Bernie Sutter, Raymond Campbell, Art France, Angela Tulloh (*Louise Tulloh*)

Soldiers & families at Ft. Moore and St. Thomas members & friends who are deployed:
Dan Wilcox, Krk Malit

Those celebrating birthdays: Andrew Meeks 3/2, Nathan Smock 3/2, Randy Moore 3/3, Libby McFalls 3/3, Robert Holloway 3/3, Bethany Smith 3/3, Marty Barr 3/4, Jun Wehrhahn 3/4, Randy McCluskey 3/5, Frank Feagle 3/5, Jo Cates 3/5, Charlotte Fortson 3/5, Christy Ruehl 3/6, Stephen Slater 3/6, William Slater 3/6, Mike McFalls 3/7, Katie-Spencer Sealy 3/7, Monica Fortson 3/8

Those celebrating anniversaries: Chris & Marlea Jeffries 3/4

Those who have died: Murray Craig 4/4/24, Judy Gunter 4/6/24, Rick McKnight 7/30/24, John Partin 11/22/24; Bill Pauli 1/28/25

Announcements

For more information about the ministries of St. Thomas, pick up our latest *Seasons* newsletter or visit our website at www.StThomasColumbus.org.

Sundays

Coffee Time: 8:45-10:15. Homemade and packaged snacks are available in the parish hall.
Formation for all ages: 9:30-10:15 am

Sunday Morning Formation for All Ages

Children PreK - 4th grade meet in the Children's Center, Beginning March 2 we resume our exploration of the *Seeking Justice Together* curriculum.

Tween and Teens meet in the Youth Room to continue with *Way of Love* study

Adults: meet in the library, Bishop Budde sermons March 2 to May 4

Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of the Diocese of Washington, was in the news recently for a sermon she delivered at the Inauguration Prayer Service. That sermon was not unusual. She has always spoken bravely and kindly about the call of Jesus in our lives.

Journey Group: 4 pm in the Library and on Zoom.

News for this Week

Annual Shrove Tuesday Youth Fundraiser

Tuesday, March 4, 5:30 pm

St. Thomas youth will host the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner as a fundraiser for the youth ministry program. This year's event is a medieval feast highlighting the history of Shrove Tuesday. Donations will be collected to support the upcoming Youth Mission Trip to Charlotte, NC.

Ash Wednesday Services

March 5, 2025 Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist, 7:00 am in the chapel, Noon and 6:30 pm in the Nave

Ash Wednesday liturgies begin the season in solemn prayer and quiet. There is no instrumental music at any of the services, and no music at all at 7 am. A cantor chants at noon. The choir and congregation sing and chant with no accompaniment at the 6:30 pm service. Child care and children's chapel are offered at the 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday service only. Invite a friend to join you. Ash Wednesday is a meaningful day for Episcopalians and for all Christians alike.

St. Thomas Book Group

March 7, 11 am

An informal group, everyone is welcome. Come and bring your friends. Contact Linnea Grosse for further information. March book - *The Confidante* by Christopher Gorham

Organ STEAM Workshop

Saturday, March 8, 10am – 3pm, Trinity Episcopal Church, 1130 1st Avenue, Columbus, Ga 31901

A Family FUN Event – Open to all ages. Explore the science, technology, and engineering behind the world's largest musical instrument. Take part in assembling an actual miniature table-top pipe organ AND HEAR IT PLAY!!! See a demonstration of the pipe organs at Trinity Church, Columbus. No admission fee – Pizza lunch is provided

Indoor Work Day

Saturday, March 8, from 9 to noon

We have some rearranging to do! Help us rearrange children's spaces, clean up the library, and straighten the parlor - all to get ready for Easter!

Trinity Lent Series

On the five Mondays of Lent, Trinity Episcopal Church (1130 First Ave.) will once again host its annual series of Lenten Lunches. The Lunches are a great opportunity to gather during the season of Lent for prayer, a shared meal, and a brief religious lecture. The theme for this year's lectures is "Set your mind on things above: fasting as a path to God." Each Lenten Lunch will last from noon to 1 pm. Meals cost \$5 and no pre-registration is required. All are welcome!

Upcoming and Ongoing

Women's Lectionary Bible Study

Thursdays, 10 to 11 am

All women are invited to join Rev. Cindy Cox Garrard in the library or by Zoom from 10 to 11 am on Thursdays to study the lectionary readings for the coming week. A handout for the week's study is emailed to each participant. Contact the church office to be added to the mailing list.

Contemplative Healing Service, March 18, 5pm

We gather at 5 pm on March 18 and April 13. This service of quiet, communion, and healing prayer is led by Cantors Hunter Mullen and Jeffrey Oakman and by Taylor Burton-Edwards.

Episcokids Adventure to the CocaCola Space Science Center

March 22, noon - 2 pm

Cost: \$6 per child (cash is preferred). Please turn the money in to Ms. Shayla by March 19. The trip is open to the first 30 children who sign up. Scan the QR code to register.

QR Code for signups! Use the QR code to find a list of current signups at St. Thomas. New to QR codes? Open the camera on your smartphone (or a QR reader), point at the black and white code box, when prompted push the link that shows up on your screen.



Vestry Members

David Brandenburgh (Sr. Warden), Garrett Vance, Brian Walker, Norm Easterbrook (Jr. Warden), Jessica Ezzell, Sue O'Dell, Andrew Meeks, Mollie Smith, Katie Underwood

St. Thomas Staff

Administrative Assistant: Karen Corthell; *Director of Children and Family Ministries:* Shayla Holloway; *Director of Music:* Debbie Anderson; *Director of Parish Administration:* Patty Slembariski; *Director of Parish & Community Engagement:* Meg Olive-Allison; *Director of Youth & Young Adults:* Taylor Mack; *Organist:* Robin Ericksen; *Kitchen Manager & Sexton:* Seth Burgamy; *Livestream Technician:* Nick Williams; *Maintenance & Cleaning:* Frances Woolfolk; *Nursery:* Riley Mullen, Evie Smith, Dorothy Uwanawich, Jenneken Varnum; *Sexton Assistant:* Morgan Camp

St. Thomas Clergy

Rector: Rev. Grace Burton-Edwards; *Associate Rector for Mission:* Rev. Darius Suda