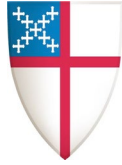


*Welcome to*  
ST. THOMAS  
*Episcopal*  
CHURCH



*16 E. Van Buren St.  
Battle Creek  
(269)965-2244  
[www.StThomasBC.org](http://www.StThomasBC.org)*

Third Sunday of Lent  
*Holy Eucharist*

*March 23, 2025*

*ORDER OF SERVICE*

***The Collect of the Day***

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 Lessons***

*The First Lesson: Exodus 3:1-15*

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.”

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

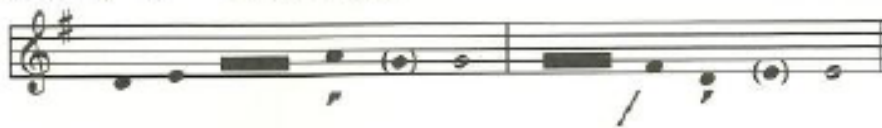
*Antiphon*



O God, you are my God; ea · ger · ly I seek you. †

Psalm 65

Psalm 63 *Deus, Deus meus* *Tone II.1*



- 1 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.
- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, \*  
that I might behold your power and / your glory.
- 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; \*  
my lips / shall give you praise.
- 4 So will I bless you as long as I live \*  
and lift up my hands / in your Name.

- 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fátness, \*  
and my mouth praises you / with jóyful lips,
- 6 When I remember you upón my bed, \*  
and meditate on you in the / night wátches.
- 7 For you have been my hélper, \*  
and under the shadow of your wings / I wíll rejoice.
- 8 My soul clíngs to you; \*  
your right / hand hólds me fast.

*The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13*

A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel Lesson: Luke 13:1-9*

*All stand, as they are able.*

The ✠ Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**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 Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ**

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*Today's Music*

Opening Hymn		Hymnal 152
Gospel Hymn		Hymnal 648
Anthem:	<i>Save Me, O God</i>	W. Boyce
Communion Hymn		LEVAS 147
Closing Hymn		Hymnal 149

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*Announcements*

**Please, welcome Wanza Grantier as our guest organist.**

**TODAY:**

- **Confirmation classes meet Sundays from 12:00 to 1:00 in the lounge.** This week's topic is **The Church**, covering chapter 18 of *Walk in Love*. Next week's topic will be **Vocation**, covering chapter 20.

**THIS WEEK:**

- **St. Thomas Night Out will be held on Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup>** at the Lucky Rooster. See Noreen Sidnam for details.
- **St. Mary's Circle will meet at noon on Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>,** in the lounge.
- **Laundry Love needs you!** See Deacon Trish to sign up to volunteer.

## LOOKING AHEAD:

- **Our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck will be Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.** Please, remember to bring a dish to pass. A sliced ham will be provided. For questions, see Mark Olmstead.
- ***The Mystery Book Club: Clue #1:*** A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board across from the office.
- **Reminder: We are still taking pledges.** You can bring your pledge card to the office, put it in the collection plate, drop it in the mail, or pledge through Realm. If you need a new pledge card, you can pick one up in the office or you can call the office at 269-965-2244 and have it mailed to you. **We need your pledge!**

**Next Sunday's Lessons:** Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32; Psalm 32

**For a listing of the coming week's activities see the sheet posted in the hallway or check out our website at: [www.StThomasBC.org](http://www.StThomasBC.org).**

### Serving this Week

Celebrant	The Rev. Michael Spencer
Preacher	The Rev. Trish Harris
Deacon	The Rev. Trish Harris
Lectors	Kellen Petronski, Megan Phelan
Intercessor	Grady Petronski
Crucifer	Jodi Nickerson
Chalice	Megan Phelan, Kyle Lendel
Altar Chapter	Elsie Gibson, Mira Wuerges
Ushers	Tom & Lori Kiess, Judy Gray
Greeter	Monica Gray
Vestry Liaison	Lori Kiess
A/V Tech	Khi Carpenter