

*St. Thomas Memorial Church*  
*The Sunday of the Passion:*  
*Palm Sunday*  
*The Holy Eucharist – Rite 2*  
*March 29, 2026*



*BEFORE WORSHIP: Please remember that many use the time before the first hymn quietly to pray and to prepare themselves for worship. If you need to speak to someone when you come into church then please do so in soft voices so as not to disturb those around you who may be praying.*

**Prelude**                      “Choral & Variations”                      John Marsh

**Liturgy of the Palms**  
**Opening Anthem**

**Opening Collect**  
**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 21:1-11  
**Blessing over the Branches**

**Prayer**

**At the Procession**

**Processional Hymn #154 “All glory, laud and honor”**

**The Collect of the Day**

**The Reading of God’s Word**

The First Lesson      Isaiah 50:4-9a

Reader              The Word of the Lord

People              *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 31:9-16

The Second Lesson    Philippians 2:5-11

Reader              The Word of the Lord.

People              *Thanks be to God.*

**Hymn “Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”**

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross, there a precious fountain;  
Free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain:

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever,  
Till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

2 Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;  
There the Bright and Morning Star shed His beams around me. [Refrain]

3 Near the cross! O lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;  
Help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. [Refrain]

4 Near the cross! I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever;  
Till I reach the golden strand, just beyond the river. [Refrain]

Baptist Hymnal, 1991

**The Passion According to Matthew.**

The congregation may be seated for the first part of the Passion. Following the verse which reads, "As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross." please stand for the remainder of the reading.

**The Sermon**.....The Rev. Jeffrey D. Murph

**The Prayers of the People, Form I** (pg. 383 BCP)

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord have mercy".  
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, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For our Bishops, especially Ketlen Solak, 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, let us pray to the  
Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For this town, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, 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, 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, let  
us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those in our thoughts and for the sick, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

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 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, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

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

For those celebrating their birthdays this week, especially Peter Mysels, Dory Dietz, Veronica Hunter, and Jessica Fischer, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For the ministries we support through Outreach, Shepherd's Heart, the Eucharistic Ministry, and for all our missionaries at home and abroad, to Your honor and glory, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For the Pittsburgh Diocese, especially St. Brendan's Church, Franklin Park, and the Rev. Canon Nancy Seullau, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For all men and women in the armed forces, and we pray, as your Son taught us, for our enemies. Let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

In the communion of St. Thomas and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our Lord. *To Thee, O Lord our God.*

*(Concluding prayer offered by the Celebrant)*

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

**The Confession** (Pg. 320, BCP)

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

**The Absolution** (pg. 321, BCP)

**The Peace**

*Priest* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

**Announcements**

**The Holy Communion**

**Offertory Hymn**

“And the Crowd Cried Out” by Jay Althouse

**Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Offering of Bread, Wine and Alms

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Priest* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them to the Lord.

*Priest* 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...Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. 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:

**Hymn S114 Sanctus**.....Willan

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*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation;...out of death into life. On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread...”Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father:

*Priest and People*

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

*The Priest continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all;... 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 forever. Amen.

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

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

**The Prayer of Humble Access**

We do not presume to come to 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 Invitation**

*(All baptized persons are welcome to receive the sacrament at our altar rail.)*

**Hymn S158 O Lamb of God (Agnus Dei) - .....Willan**

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.

**Communion Hymn #158 “Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended?”**

**Hymn #479 “Glory be to Jesus”**

*After Communion, the Priest says*  
Let us pray. (Please kneel.)

*Priest and People*

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these

holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

**Recessional Hymn #168 “O sacred head, sore wounded”**

**The Dismissal**

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

**Postlude**                    “Hosanna, Blessed is He that Cometh”                    Martin Setchell

**Passion Gospel Readers:**

Narrator: Pam Derby  
Jesus: Matt Derby  
Judas, Wife, Passerby 2, Crowd: Kristin Brown  
Peter, Passerby 1, Crowd: Sara Gildersleeve  
Pilate, Servant 2, Crowd: Kate Westermann  
False Witness, Crowd: Louise Baker  
High Priest, Chief Priest, Crowd: Julie King  
Elder, Bystander 2, Crowd: Elaine Chilcote  
Servant 1, Soldier, Scribe, Crowd: Lawrence Miguez  
Bystander 1, Centurion, Pharisee, Crowd: Theresa McClain

**Holy Week Services**

**March 30 & 31, April 1 (M-W)** 6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist  
**Maundy Thursday Service:** 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 2 (Includes foot-washing)  
**Good Friday Service:** 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 3  
**Easter Vigil Service:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 4  
**Easter Day Services:** 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I (regular schedule)  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II (regular schedule)

**We welcome you to join us!**

We at St. Thomas, members of the Body of Christ, are called by God to Grow;  
Spiritually, in Parish Life, in Community Life, and as a Congregation.

**SAINT THOMAS MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**378 Delaware Avenue**

**Oakmont, PA 15139**

**412-828-9680**

**www.st-tom.org**

**Email: sttomoakmont@gmail.com**

The Rev. Jeffrey D. Murph, Rector

The Rev. Daniel J. Isadore, Associate Rector

The Rev. Guy W. Brown, Assistant Priest

Mrs. Louise Lugar, Organist/Choir Director

St. Thomas' Vestry

Julie King  
Sr. Warden

Paul Cammisa (NV)  
Jr. Warden

Jonathan Dailey  
Vestry Clerk

Betti Rottschaefer (NV)  
Treasurer

Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger, Kristin Brown, Mitzi Fidler,  
James Fischer, LuAnn Brink Hunter, Bill Lugar, Richard Williams  
NV = Non-voting member

UPCOMING / ONGOING EVENTS:

Monday—Thursday 9 am Morning Prayer in the Thomas House Chapel

Tuesdays at 11 am Bible Study in the Guild Room

Wednesdays at 10 am Healing Eucharist Service in the Thomas House Chapel

Wednesdays at 7 pm Choir Practice in choir room (basement)

Sundays at 9:30 Adult Sunday School in the Guild Room

\*\* We have met the goal of our Annual Lenten Walk, entitled Walk with Mary! In the past five weeks, St. Thomas has logged 1,892 miles towards the 1,517 miles Mary walked from the hill country to Ephesus. Today's tally sheets will be the last counted for this Lenten season.

\*\* There will be an Easter Egg Hunt following the 10:30 Easter Sunday service for children 12 and under. Please bring a basket or bag to collect the goodies. Parents are encouraged to help supervise and help the smallest participants during the hunt.

\*\* There will be a newcomers/ basic Christianity course starting the Sunday after Easter during regular Adult Sunday school time (9:30 am). This course is open to everyone, but it is particularly for those wishing to enter into the Church during the Bishop's visit in June.

\*\* The first Holy Hike of 2026, led by Fr. Guy Brown, will be held on April 11. Meet at St. Thomas at 8:30 before heading to Boyce Park. All are welcome to join in this time of prayer, exercise, and fellowship.

Participants for this service:

Acolytes: Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger, Chase Eber

First Lesson: Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger

Psalm: Chase Eber

Second Lesson: Julie King

Prayers: Lyric Davis

Verger: R. J. King

Ushers: Dave Eber, Patrick Upperman

Coffee Hour Hostess: Courtney Powell

Last week's attendance:      8:00 service: 24

   10:30 service: 54

Total Donations: \$1,633.00