St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

3601 Alabama Ave SE Washington, DC 20020 + Rev. Todd Thomas, Rector Sunday March 26, 2023, Last Sunday of Lent

Our mission: following Jesus by living in love, walking by faith, and serving our community.



A note to all our guests...

We're so glad you're here! This bulletin has all the information you'll need. As you look toward the altar at the front of our worship space you'll notice a door to the right. That door leads to a hallway where you can turn left to find the restrooms and our Parish Hall. In an emergency you may exit that way or by the main doors at the back of our worship space.

Your children are very welcome in worship, and we don't mind the sounds that children often make. We have activity bags at the back of our worship space to help make your child be more comfortable during worship. Those bags are gifts for your children to keep and take home.

Worship: We'll begin with a prelude, a musical call to worship. Then, as a guest you're invited to participate as much as you are comfortable. In the bulletin you'll see bolded parts when all the people are invited to participate with responses, so please *sing, pray and join with us as much as you like.* Our offering plate is not passed but is in the foyer near the front door; you're not obligated to make a contribution. We'll offer you a time to introduce yourself during the announcements and we hope you will, but it's ok if you don't want to stand or say anything. *We're glad you're with us!*

What is Lent?

We're currently in a church season called Lent or the Lenten Season. It's a time when we are focused on self-reflection, prayer and even some fasting, getting ourselves ready to celebrate Easter. The color most associated with Lent is purple, and you'll see it everywhere from our bulletin to the altar, in what the priest wears and upon our crosses. We hope our time together in worship and in fellowship, hearing scripture and praying together, will help deepen and enrich your faith! The last page of this bulletin is an activity page for kids (and adults!)

Our Worship Service

Prelude: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms Showalter arr. Haywood Please stand as you are able for our opening songs and prayers. What a Friend We Have in Jesus **Opening Hymn:** Words: Scriven LEVAS II vs. 1-3 Music: Converse Verse 1 What a friend we have in Jesus. All our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer! Verse 2 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged, Take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?

> Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness, Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Verse 3 Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge, Take it to the Lord in Prayer. Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in Prayer. In his arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.

CELEBRANT:Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins**PEOPLE:God's mercy endures for ever.**

CELEBRANT: 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:

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Words: Watts and Keathe

LEVAS II #217 (vs. 1-3) Music: African American Spiritual arr. Brinson, Jr.

- Verse 1 He's got the whole world in His hand. He's got the whole world in His hand. He's got the whole world in His hand. He's got the whole world in His hand.
- Verse 2 He's got you and me sister in His hand. He's got you and me sister in His hand. He's got you and me sister in His hand. He's got you and me sister in His hand.
- Verse 3 He's got you and me brother in His hand. He's got you and me brother in His hand He's got you and me brother in His hand He's got you and me brother in His hand

The Prayer of the Day

CELEBRANT:The Lord be with you.**PEOPLE:**And also with you.

CELEBRANT: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

Our Scripture Readings for the Day

You may be seated for the readings.

A reading from Ezekiel, Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

READER:	The Word of the Lord.	
PEOPLE:	Thanks be to God.	

A reading of Psalm 130

¹Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

² Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

³ If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

⁵ I wait for the Lord; my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

⁶ my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

 ⁷ O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

⁸ It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

READER:Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit**PEOPLE:**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

A reading from Romans, Romans 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law — indeed, it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

READER:Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.**PEOPLE:**Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for this Gospel song and reading.

Gospel Hymn:	Lord, I Want to be a Christian	
		Words: Traditional
LEVAS II #138 vs. 1-2 before and 3 & 5 after Music: African American Spiritual arr. Deas		
Verse 1	Lord, I want to be a Christian In my heart, In my heart; Lord, I want to be a Christian In my heart, In my heart, In my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian In my heart.	
Verse 2	Lord, I want to be more loving In my heart, In my heart; Lord, I want to be more loving In my heart, In my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving In my heart.	
Gospel Reading:	John 11:1-45	Rev. Todd Thomas
CELEBRANT:	The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.	

PEOPLE: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."

Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the

dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

CELEBRANT:The Gospel of the Lord.PEOPLE:Praise to you, Lord Christ.

- Verse 3 Lord, I want to be more holy In my heart, In my heart; Lord, I want to be more holy In my heart, In my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy In my heart.
- Verse 5 Lord, I want to be like Jesus In my heart, In my heart; Lord, I want to be like Jesus In my heart, In my heart, Lord, I want to be like Jesus In my heart.

The Sermon

The Rev. Todd Thomas

The Nicene Creed

Please stand as you are able for the Creed.

ALL: 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary

and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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

Please stand or kneel as you are able for the Prayers.

- LEADER Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Almighty God, help your people to seek truth, to live together in love, and to speak and act for peace in the world. Lord, in your mercy:
- PEOPLE Hear our prayer.
- LEADER: Help us to value one another, to honor one another, and to serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy:
- PEOPLE Hear our prayer.
- LEADER: Help us preserve and honor the earth, using natural resources wisely for our good and the good of all who will follow us. Lord, in your mercy:
- PEOPLE Hear our prayer.
- LEADER: Bless our families and friends, and all those with whom we share our days. Bless those we name before you, now... you may silently or aloud lift the names of those you know who most need a blessing. Lord, in your mercy:
- PEOPLE Hear our prayer.

LEADER: We lift to you all those on our church prayer list, who need you at this time especially Lillie, Shanice, Constance, Father Errol, Bishop Paula, Otis, Jairon, Jeremiah, Christine E., Calvin, Wilbert, Lisa, Doris J., Edgar, Ernest, Kimberly, Deborah, Ruby, Dorothy, James, Christine S., Herman S., Elfreda, Noah T., Delores, David, Rosa, Alice, Charles, Bernard, Cynthia, Donna, William and Elaine. Lord, in your mercy:

PEOPLE Hear our prayer.

- LEADER: We commend to your mercy all who have died, [especially...], that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy:
- PEOPLE Hear our prayer.

CELEBRANT: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession Please stand or kneel as you are able for the Confession.

CELEBRANT: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

CELEBRANT: 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.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Sharing the Peace, Announcements & Celebrations

CELEBRANT: The peace of Christ be always with you.

PEOPLE: And also with you.

You are invited to stand and give a greeting to those around you! Then please be seated for our brief time of announcements and blessing everyone who is celebrating a birthday or anniversary and traveling this week.

Offering Our Gifts Back to God

CELEBRANT: We should not neglect to do good and to share what we have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Thank you all for making this parish family a priority in your giving.

Offertory Hymn: Sweet Hour of Prayer

Words: Walford LEVAS II, #178 (Vs. 1-2) Music: Bradbury

- Verse 1 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, That calls me from a world of care, And bids me at my Father's throne Make all my wants and wishes known. In seasons of distress and grief My soul has often found relief. And oft escaped the tempter's snare By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.
- Verse 2 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, Thy wings shall my petition bear To Him whose truth and faithfulness Engage the waiting soul to bless; And since He bids me seek His face, Believe His word and trust His grace. I'll cast on Him my ev'ry care, And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.

CELEBRANT:All things come from you, O Lord.**PEOPLE:**And of your own have we given you.

Gathering in Gratitude at God's Table of Grace

Please stand as you are able.

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 God thanks and praise.

CELEBRANT: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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 the One who comes in the name of the Lord.Hosanna in the highest.

CELEBRANT: Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

PEOPLE: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **PEOPLE: AMEN.**

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

CELEBRANT and **PEOPLE**:

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.

Breaking the Bread

- CELEBRANT: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
- PEOPLE: Therefore, let us keep the feast.
- CELEBRANT: These are the gifts of God for the people of God; all are called and all are welcomed at God's Table of Grace. Receive as you are able, for God loves you.

Those who are with us at the church building may be seated and will be invited row by row to come forward and receive a wafer. Please ask for a gluten free wafer if needed. The wafer by itself is a full participation in the sacrament, but there are also individual cups of consecrated wine to each side if you would like to have the wine as well. Please come forward down the middle aisle and return to your seat by the outside aisles. Those at home who have pre-consecrated bread and wine, and those who have other bread and drink at home, are invited to join us at this time. All are welcome to receive the bread and cup. If you would rather have a blessing, or if you'd like a blessing as well, please cross your hands over your chest when you come forward.

- CELEBRANT: Though some of us may not have consecrated bread and wine, we still share the mystery and joy of the Table. Let us all pray together with those online the prayer of spiritual communion.
- PEOPLE: My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Though I may not now be able to receive you in

bread and wine from the altar, I invite you to live within my heart. I know you are with me; never let us be separated. Amen.

CELEBRANT: And now let us pray.

Please stand as you are able for this prayer, the blessing and the closing hymn.

CELEBRANT and PEOPLE:

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.

Sending Prayer Used to send forth Lay Eucharistic Visitors with consecrated gifts.

CELEBRANT: We send you forth with these holy gifts to bless those who could not be with us today, but still share our joy and hope in Christ.

PEOPLE: Go also with our prayers to be a blessing to those we love.

CELEBRANT: We are one Body as we share one Bread and one Cup. **PEOPLE: Amen.**

The Blessing

Life is short and we have too little time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always. Amen.

Closing Hymn:

Revive Us Again

Words: MacKay LEVAS II #157 vs. 1-4 Music: Husband

Verse 1 We praise thee, O God, For the son of thy love, For Jesus who died And is now gone above. **Refrain:** Hallelujah! Thine the glory, Hallelujah! Amen, Hallelujah! Thine the glory, Revive us again.

- Verse 2 We praise thee, O God, For thy spirit of light, Who has shown us our Savior, And scattered our night. [Refrain]
- Verse 3 All glory and praise To the lamb that was slain, Who has borne all our sins And has cleansed ev'ry stain. [Refrain]

Verse 4 Revive us again, Fill each heart with thy love, May each soul be rekindled With fire from above. [Refrain]

The Dismissal

CELEBRANT: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. **PEOPLE:** Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Trust and Obey

LEVAS II #205 Music: Towner



WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS for the members who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this week.

We ask your prayers for the parishioners, relatives and friends.

Thank you to all who have helped prepare, lead, and participated in our worship!

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ose who believe in me, even though they and believes in me will never die. Do you sus in John 11:25-26

In troubled times and the best times, faith reminds us that we're

