

LENT is about

BECOMING,

DOING, and

CHANGING,

WHATEVER IT IS
THAT IS BLOCKING
THE FULLNESS OF LIFE
IN US RIGHT NOW.



historic faith. present love. future hope.

We Welcome One and All

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

MARCH 16, 2025

10:00 am

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Founded 1660

www.strchurch.org

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1;
Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

"WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE..."

Gathering Music

(Please take time to prepare for worship and silence electronic devices)

Greeting | Ministry Updates

Introit

"Lonesome Valley"

Boyles/Miles

Forty days there in the desert
He was hungry, weak, alone
He had to face temptations, trials
Had to face them all alone
Oh, Jesus walked this lonesome valley
Had to walk it by Himself
Oh, no one else could walk it for Him
Had to walk it by Himself
You must go through lonesome valleys
But you'll never be alone
No, God, your strength, is always with you
You will never be alone, no
You are not alone

Call to Worship

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth!

Amen!

Today, God comes to us, to gather us in worship:

To wait in silence for the Word, to sit at the Table of grace.

Tomorrow, the Word of God comes, calling us to go forth to serve:

To bring hope to those who have none, to love all tossed aside by indifference.

The next day, and the next day, the Holy Spirit will come:

So we might discover the gift of peace, and offer it to our broken world.

Prayer

*Hymn #669 'O Young and Fearless Prophet' v 1, 2, 5

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Call to Confession | Unison Prayer of Confession

Offered a feast at grace's table, God of the covenant, we choose to gorge ourselves on the empty calories of greed. Invited to live in your house, we move into death's fear-infested boarding house. Though you promise to be with us, we toss you aside, chasing after those who will abandon us at the first chance. But you will not let the foxes of foolishness devour us, loving Lord, but will gather us under the shelter of your love. You do so in order to give us that peace which heals us, that wonder which surprises us, and that faith which enables us to let go of the present to walk into the covenant of grace made possible through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior...

Response

'Your Will Be Done'

Thompson/Robinson

Your will be done, O God my - Mak - er, as in heav - en, so on
Your will be done, we pray to - geth - er, lead us dai - ly in the
earth. My heart is drawn to self - ex - alt - ing, help me seek Your king - dom
fight, that all the world might see Your glo - ry and Your Name be lif - ted
first. As Je - sus walked, so shall I walk, held by Your same un - chang - ing
high. And in Your Name. we o - ver - come. for You shall see us safe - ly
love. Be still my soul, oh lift your voice and pray, Oh, Lord, not my will but Yours be
home. Now as Your church, we lift our voice and pray: Oh Lord, not my will but Yours be
done.
done.

Words of Assurance and Hope

God does not abandon us. Instead, God gathers us up like a mother hen, leading us to that shelter of love and life.

Today, tomorrow, and the next day, God's grace rests upon us and gives us hope and mercy. Thanks be to God! We are forgiven. Amen.

...TO HEAR GOD'S WORD...

Children's Message

(Children are dismissed to Christian Education Classes)

***Hymn #211 'Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley'** Spiritual

Jesus walked this lonesome valley
He had to walk it by Himself
O, nobody else could walk it for Him
He had to walk it by Himself

We must walk this lonesome valley
We have to walk it by ourselves
O, nobody else can walk it for us
We have to walk it by ourselves

You must go and stand your trial
You have to stand it by yourself
O, nobody else can stand it for you
You have to stand it by yourself

Scripture: Luke 13-31-35

Message: "A Come to Jesus Moment" Pastor Jeff Neevel

...AND RESPOND WITH GRATITUDE"

Offering

(We give our gifts, tithes and offerings as an expression of gratitude for all of God's blessings. Online giving is available at www.strchurch.org You are invited to come forward with your gifts, tithes and offerings. All are invited to take a red ribbon and tie it on the cross – leaving your sins, shortcomings, fears and failures there for eternity.)

Offertory

"Come to Jesus"

Rice

Weak and wounded sinner
Lost and left to die
O raise your head, for Love is passing by
Come to Jesus
Come to Jesus and live
Now your burden's lifted
And carried far away
And precious love has washed away the stain
So, sing to Jesus
Sing to Jesus and live
Like a newborn baby
Don't be afraid to crawl
And remember when you walk, sometimes we fall
So, fall on Jesus
Fall on Jesus and live
Sometimes the way is lonely
And steep and filled with pain
And if your sky is dark, and pours the rain
Then cry to Jesus
Cry to Jesus and live
Oh, and when the love spills over
And music fills the night
And when you can't contain your joy inside
Then dance for Jesus
Dance for Jesus and live
And with your final heartbeat
Kiss the world good-bye
Then go in peace, and laugh on glory's side
And fly to Jesus
Fly to Jesus and live

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

***Hymn 'Ahead of Us, a Race to Run'**

SOLID ROCK

Ahead of us, a race to run
We fix our eyes on God the Son
So looking at the past no more
Forgetting what has gone before
With eager diligence we train
As for the prize ahead we strain
Until at last our course is done

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' love and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' name
On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand

He calls us now to run the race
The path we tread, the way of grace
Discarding every weight and load
To speed our way along the road
And though the journey may be long
The grace of God will keep us strong
Until we stand before His face

***Postlude**

Announcements:

Today is BIRTHDAY SUNDAY! Happy Birthday to all our March birthdays.
Refreshments will be served in the pavilion after worship.

May the good Lord bless:

Gabrielle Arthur, Kayden Arthur, Nya'lease Bastien,
Nashibo Benjamin, Peggy Bennett, Jerome Boschulte Jr., Kristine Burnley,
Celestina Carey, Vicky Gomez Christian, Gabriel Christian, Adam Flowers,
Jessica Henderson, Doreen Heyne, Norman Jr. Heyne, Amy James,
Kayla Jennings, Susan Johnson, Chris Jordan, Kelly Kendall, Sydney
Lee, Gloria Salas Lindquist, R Aries Merrill, Owen McCartney, Jean-Pierre
Oriol, Enrique Richards, Xianna F Smalls, Erin Salzbrun, June Soos,
Anthony Warren, Silas Wisehart and Jill Wyatt.

Thank you to everyone who signed up to serve on one of our eight Ministry Teams! (Fellowship/Hospitality, Youth/XYG, Christian Formation/Education, Stewardship/Finance, Building & Grounds, Worship, Music & Arts, Congregational Care, Mission/Outreach). Consistory meets this week (Tuesday @ 6pm) to organize the teams and get to work! For more information go to www.strchurch.org

XYG Giving Wall –Thank you for your support of our youth Mission/Vision trip Jarabacoa DR! "**LOVE is what we're after!**" Our 2025 Mission Team is scheduled to depart Saturday April 26!

Youth/Young adults: Luke Berry, Shaw Clements, Adrian Grimaldi, Eliana Lima, Maggie James, Trey Thompson, Alex & Rose Whitter, Ellis Wisehart & Madi Wyatt.

Leaders: Nalani Figueroa, Dave Whitter & Pastor Jeff.

Summer Camp 2025 Early Registration is now open! "Bread of Life - Feed Us With Your Love!" is this year's theme based on John 6:35 - "I am the bread of life..." Go to www.strchurch.org to register today! Welcome to our new Summer Camp Director Nalani Figueroa!!!

Children's Choir rehearses today! The group rehearses weekly from 11:15 to 11:45 (following Sunday School) with Chanelle in the Music Room. All children ages 4-12 are encouraged to participate. Join us as we prepare for upcoming services including Lent and Holy Week! For more info, contact Chanelle: music@stthomasreformedchurch.org

Join the Easter Choir!

If you love the music of Palm Sunday, the somber beauty of the Good Friday service, and the joyful musical celebration on Easter morning, why not join the Easter Choir? We've just started rehearsing music for Holy Week, and all are welcome to participate--no previous experience is necessary! The only requirement is the ability to match pitch. If you're interested in making a joyful, harmonious noise during this most sacred of seasons, please contact Chanelle for more info.

The Season of Lent ends with a glorious celebration of Easter on Sunday April 20 including a beach sunrise service with the celebration of the sacrament of Baptism. If you have not been baptized but are seeking the sacrament of baptism for yourself or your children, please speak with Pastor Jeff.

It's not too late to join another Experiencing God Study Group! Contact Rev. Rebecca and Forrest Broom for more information!

Later this month:

23- Be thinking and praying this week about something you need to let go of. Next Sunday we each will be invited to lay our burdens down at the cross, to put to death the old self in order to be raised to new life in Christ.

Guest Preacher: Rev. Robert Johnson - retired ELCA pastor from Silver Bay, NY. He served Gustavus Adolphus L.C. New York City, Christ Lutheran, Little Neck Queens, and St. Andrews Lutheran Yorktown Heights NY. Robert & Susan worship here at STRC for the winter months.

29 - @ 10am A memorial service to celebrate the life of Tom Kennington.

30 - XYG BBQ and Bake Sale

GIVING THANKS

Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All of us worshipping together
Preaching:	Pastor Jeffrey Neevel
Litgurst:	Shanique Woods-Boschulte
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer, the Adult Choir
AV/Livestream:	James Anderson, James Cobb, Trey Thompson & Dave Whitter

CONTACT INFORMATION

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