

FOURTH SUNDAY OF

Lent



historic faith. present love. future hope.

**We Welcome One and All**

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

**March 30, 2025**

**10:00 am**

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Founded 1660

[www.strchurch.org](http://www.strchurch.org)

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21;  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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

## Gathering Music

## Greeting | Ministry Updates

**Prelude**            **"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"**            arr. Larson  
D.J. Parson, trumpet

## Call to Worship

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

**Amen!**

O Lord, our God, we gather as Your people, remembering Your mighty acts of deliverance. You have led us through the wilderness, and You continue to call us to return to the land of promise. We come today with hearts both joyful and contrite, seeking Your forgiveness and grace.

**Let the heavens sing, and the earth rejoice, for our God reigns forever and ever.**

In Your mercy, O God, you have redeemed us. In Your power, You have made a way for us. We lift our voices, calling upon Your name.

**Come, let us return to the Lord. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker!**

## Prayer

**\*Hymn**            **'God, You Have Set Us'**            NATIONAL HYMN

God, You have set us in this time and place  
Called us as stewards of Your love and grace  
O keep us faithful, set our souls afire  
And by Your Spirit all our work inspire

Call youth and age into these halls for praise  
Then send us out for service all our days  
Your Word of peace and challenge here made real  
Spurs us to act with energy and zeal

So may the world become our neighborhood  
Each wishing each the right, the true, the good  
Word, font, and table calling us to be  
Bound up in Christ, in Christ set boldly free

## Call to Confession Litany of Confession

Because we nurture too many grudges against others: Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

Because we are sometimes unwilling to forgive: Christ have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

Because we are slow to seek peace and reconciliation: Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

## Response

## 'Your Will Be Done'

Robinson/Thompson

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of five lines of music with lyrics underneath. The first line starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "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". The second line continues: "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". The third line continues: "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". The fourth line continues: "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". The fifth line ends with a double bar line and the lyrics "done. done." repeated twice.

Your will be done, O God my - Mak - er, as in heav - en, so on  
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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

Hear the good news: In Christ, God has forgiven us our sins, and has called us to return to the land of promise, where mercy and grace are ever new. We are made whole again by the once and for all sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

**Thanks be to God! We are forgiven!**

Believe this good news and live in peace.

**Alleluia and Amen!**

**Solo**

**"Jesus Is the Answer"**

Crouch

Naomi Lally

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

## Children's Message

(Children are dismissed to Christian Education Classes)

**\*Hymn**

**'Listen to My Cry, Lord'**

HOLINESS

Listen to my cry, Lord  
Hear my humble prayer  
When my soul is troubled  
Keep me in your care  
From the earth's far corners  
You will hear my cry  
Set me on your rock, Lord  
Higher rock than I

You are my protection  
When my foes appear  
Keep me in your tower  
Safe from every fear  
In your tent forever  
May my dwelling be  
With your wings of mercy  
Gently shelter me

All my cries you've answered  
Kept me safe from shame  
I am richly blest with

Those who fear your name  
May your love and mercy  
Keep me all my days  
Then with joy forever  
I will sing your praise

**Scripture:** Joshua 5:10-12

**Message:** "A Promise and A Problem" 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](http://www.strchurch.org). You are invited to come forward with your gifts, tithes and offerings and to leave your rolled up piece of paper with requests for prayer on the cross.)

**Musical Offering "On Paths to Answered Prayer"** Fuller

Have you ever wondered if your prayers are really heard  
Why is your path so lonely if God listens to each word  
When answers seem so distant through faithful years of pleas  
Still your Guide is right beside you each moment on your knee  
In the wilderness, God's working; in the dark, do not despair  
In the storms, God's sanctifying; in the thunder, God is there  
Out of valleys, God gives victories; out of chaos comes a calm  
Out of testing, God brings triumph, out of sorrow, comes a song  
At last, the destination through weary eye appears  
But rather than rejoicing, prayer's journey ends in tears  
When answers seem so different from anything you planned  
Trust your Sovereign Savior, and hold God's loving hand  
So find power in God's promise, though at times not understood  
As you love the God who leads you, God will guide your paths to good  
Though there's weeping in the waiting, in the morning, joy is there  
Learn to trust God as you travel on the path to answered prayer  
God answers prayer, God answers prayer

**Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**

## \*Hymn

## 'Lead On, Eternal Sovereign'

LANCASHIRE

Lead on Eternal Sovereign, we follow in your way  
Loud rings your cry for justice, your call for peace this day  
Through prayerful preparation, your grace will make us strong  
To carry on the struggle to triumph over wrong

Lead on Eternal Sovereign, we follow not with fear  
For in each human conflict your words of strength we hear  
That when we serve with gladness, you will not let us fall  
Our trust is in your promise that love will conquer all

Lead on Eternal Sovereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease  
And all your saints together will sing a hymn of peace  
Then all in your dominion will live with hearts set free  
To love and serve each other for all eternity

## \*Benediction

## \*Postlude

## "I Love the Lord"

Smallwood

## Announcements:

### March is Women's History Month & VI History Month!

We celebrate the strength and achievements of women around the world, and each week we'll feature music by female writers, composers, and singers. This morning's offertory, 'On Paths to Answered Prayer' is by composer Heidi Fuller, a graduate of Pillsbury Bible College. Ms. Fuller has been a popular published composer since 2007, and also toured the country with the ensemble 'Hallelujah Voices'. The lyrics to our middle hymn, 'Listen to My Cry, Lord', are by Henrietta Ten Harmsel (1921-2012), who was the first female chair of the English department at Calvin University. Ms. Harmsel studied as an undergraduate at Western Union College in Iowa, where she distinguished herself not only as a student, but as a musician. She completed her graduate work at the University of Michigan, earning a Ph.D. in English Literature in 1959. Ms. Harmsel also was a gifted translator of the Dutch language, earning the 1985 Matinus Nijhoff award for translation, and in 1998, as a beloved professor, was honored with Calvin University's 'Faith and Learning' award, which recognizes faculty for their excellence in teaching, spiritual impact, concern for students, and lasting influence.

**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](mailto:music@stthomasreformedchurch.org)

### **Worship Team meets this Saturday!**

The Worship Planning Team will meet this Saturday, April 5th, at 1:30 p.m. in the Pavilion to begin planning for upcoming services and events including Holy Week, Mother's Day, and Pentecost. New members are always welcome: join us as we work to enrich worship services with artistic elements including music, dance, drama, spoken word, and the visual arts, exploring the many ways in which the creative & performing arts can be used to enhance and deepen the experience of worship. For more info, contact Chanelle at [music@stthomasreformedchurch.org](mailto:music@stthomasreformedchurch.org)

**This morning, we welcome back trumpet player D.J. Parson.** D.J. is currently a freshman at the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, where he serves as the 1st-trumpet chair in their Jazz Orchestra, a position that's both prestigious and very rare for a first-year student! He also sings in Choral Ensemble--numerous performances featuring both groups are available to view on the academy's website, [interlochen.org](http://interlochen.org)

**Thank you for your support** of our youth Mission/Vision trip Jarabacoa DR! *"LOVE is what we're after!"* **TODAY is our final XYG BBQ and Bake Sale!** 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).

### **Holy Week Schedule:**

13 – Palm Sunday Service 10am

17 – Maundy Thursday Service remembering the Last Supper 7pm

18 – Good Friday service of shadows 7pm

20 – Easter Sunrise Service 6am @ Smith Bay Beach

Easter Service of the Resurrection 10am with the Blooming Cross

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.

**Summer Camp 2025 "Bread of Life - Feed Us With Your Love!"** is this year's theme based on John 6:35 - "I am the bread of life..." Registration is presently FULL. To be put on the waiting list go to: [www.strchurch.org](http://www.strchurch.org)

### Summary Consistory Minutes

- If you haven't signed up as a volunteer for a committee, there's still time! **Please consider volunteering.** Sign up sheets are in the back of the sanctuary.
- An open position on the Board of the Endowment Committee needs to be filled
- General Property and Commercial Liability Insurance policies are being renewed
- Pastoral Search Committee updated Consistory on continuing search efforts
- The offering to be collected at the Easter Sunrise Service will be donated to MBW

### GIVING THANKS

#### Leading Worship Today:

Ministers:	All of us worshiping together
Preaching:	Pastor Jeffrey Neevel
Liturgist:	Camille McKayle-Stoltz
Music:	Chanelle Schaffer, Naomi Lally, D.J. Parson, and the Adult Choir
AV/Livestream:	James Anderson, James Cobb, Trey Thompson & Dave Whitter

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Jeffrey Neevel -	Pastor pastorjeff@strchurch.org
Chanelle Schaffer -	Minister of Music and Arts music@stthomasreformedchurch.org
Vicky Gomez-Christian -	Operations Administrator retreat@stthomasreformedchurch.org
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