



The Beacon

St. Thomas Episcopal Church



Give thanks and praise to God and share God's love.

April/May 2025

Volume 26 Issue 4

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From the Rector's desk ~

The devotion The Way of the Cross (otherwise known as Stations of the Cross) is an adaptation to local usage of a custom widely observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem: the offering of prayer at a series of places in that city traditionally associated with our Lord's passion and death.

The number of stations, which at first varied widely, finally became fixed at fourteen. Of these, eight are based directly on events recorded in the Gospels. The remaining six (numbers 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 13) are based on inferences from the Gospel account or from pious legend.

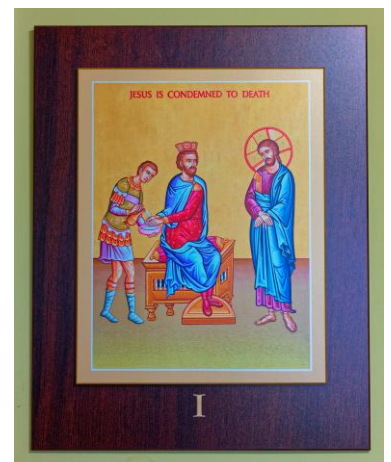
At many churches, the Way of the Cross is observed as a public service or as a private devotion, particularly on the Fridays of Lent. At St. Thomas, we have been holding our service on the Wednesday of Holy Week.

Traditionally, the stations are made before a series of plain wooden crosses placed along the walls of the church or in some other convenient place. With each cross there is sometimes associated a pictorial representation of the event being commemorated. Until this year, we have observed the stations guided by five or six sketches made by our Sunday School students many years ago (you can find them in the hallway outside the sacristy). But this year, an anonymous donor has given St. Thomas a full set of fourteen icons to serve as our stations. Those icons are temporarily in place of the fourteen apostles' shields hanging on our sanctuary walls. We hoped to receive the icons before Lent, but they didn't arrive in time. They are now on the walls, and the shields are being carefully stored until Easter. It is my hope that by Ash Wednesday each year the icons will be up throughout the season of Lent.

Please lift up prayers of thanksgiving to the anonymous donor for this very special and beautiful gift. In addition, special thanks go to Larry and Judy Wilson, who spent a great deal of time affixing the hardware to the icons so they could be hung. Larry has now finished hanging up the icons, which will be blessed on Sunday, April 6th.

Peace and many blessings,

Ann +



Parish Workday



As the St. Thomas parish faithful, we are proud of our beautiful campus. The annual parish workday is scheduled for Saturday, April 12 beginning at 10:00 am. Wear your work clothes and be prepared for some satisfying work and visiting as participants attend to some essential tasks to spruce up our exterior and interior facilities. Those with some creative dexterity are encouraged to participate in the crafting of the palm crosses starting at 9:00 am to prepare for our Palm Sunday service. Many hands make light work and encourage a joyful spirit.



Grace Notes



While this newsletter edition is being published prior to the parish workday, accolades must be given to all those hardy and faithful souls who show up for the parish workday. Your gracious deeds brighten the appearance of our facilities and will be appreciated for months to come. God's grace personified!

The Easter Season

As a faith community we have travelled together through this season of Lent. The lively Shrove Sunday Mardi Gras celebration and the burning of last year's palm crosses initiated this time of thoughtful meditation and repentance.

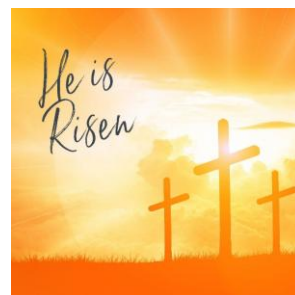


Jani Paulson, Adeline Hoover Rev. Ann, Mark Pezzoni, Ed Johnson, Dan Paulson and Gloria Baker attend to the burning of the Palm Crosses to prepare for Ash Wednesday service.

We now anticipate Holy Week which begins with Palm Sunday and our joyful procession into the church followed by the profoundly moving reading of the Passion of our Lord Christ. Then follows a week of meditative services, the schedule of which is included at the end of this newsletter.



On Easter Sunday we proclaim, He is risen! Then we are into the Easter Season, the glorious revelation of the Risen Lord. In this season we celebrate the promise of our salvation – by His sacrifice, with His presence in our daily lives, and in us as we walk in His way to our everlasting life in Him.



Outreach

...think of generosity as a river flowing through a community; it nourishes everything it touches. Through acts of giving, we cultivate a richer, more inclusive world.

Tamar Peterson – A Year in the Bible



In 2 Corinthians 9:10 Paul reminds us that being generous with each other is an extension of God's generosity to us. The St. Thomas Outreach Committee thoughtfully manages and distributes the funds and material contributions of our St. Thomas parishioners. In their March reporting it was noted that \$500 was given to Home Starter Kits managed by Church of the Resurrection and \$250 was given to Heifer International. Donations from parishioners of blankets and sheets were also provided to the Home Starter Kits project.

Our resident published author, Trisha Crisafulli, announced the October 7, 2025 release of her latest novel in the Onhita Harbor mystery series. Tricia has graciously offered to make copies available at a book release fundraiser scheduled for Sunday, November 9. The event will follow the church service and will involve a prepared lunch. Tricia will offer a program based on the new book. Mark your calendars for this special event to support our St. Thomas outreach efforts.

Through the work of our St. Thomas Outreach Committee our lives are enriched by sharing God's grace in the community.

Important Reminders



Attached to this *Beacon* edition are the order form for contributions to Easter flowers and the schedule of Holy Week services. Please make note of these attachments.

St. Thomas Book Group



The St. Thomas Ladies Book Group is looking forward to their April and May gatherings and preparing for some enlightening discussions by reading the selected books. The April book assignment is The Butterfly and the Violin by Kristy Cambron. Book group members will meet at 1:30 pm on April 24 in the Parish Library. The selected book for May is Maria, A Novel of Maria Von Trapp by Michelle Moran. "Sound of Music" fans will get a fresh perspective after reading this book. And of course, the book review will take place on May 22, same time/same station.

GrassRoots Garden



Seed to Supper

We at GrassRoots are excited to announce the return of the Seed to Supper program again to our site! Since 2015, FFLC and OSU Extension MGs have partnered to offer Seed to Supper beginning gardening class for free in Lane County. The course was first developed by Oregon Food Bank, and then created into a 6-week class series in partnership with OSU Extension, and it is now offered throughout Oregon.

The series of classes are held over 6 weeks and cover the basics of beginning gardening geared towards folks gardening on a budget, so there is a focus on low-cost ways to successfully grow vegetables. Instructors are usually Master Gardeners and/or experienced vegetable gardeners who receive training on facilitating adult classes with a focus on hands-on learning, group

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participation and conversation. Ideally class participants form bonds and get to know one another as they develop skills to increase their personal food security.

For this series we're fortunate to have returning Master Gardeners and Seed to Supper instructors Doris Tai and Deb Schmidt, who will again be joined in teaching by longtime GrassRoots participant, Jamie Levitan.

At GrassRoots, the lessons are taught indoors in the St. Thomas Church Library using a Power Point format. Since the class size is limited to 15 participants, there is plenty of time for group discussions. Following the indoors portion, we head outside for hands-on activities in the Garden. Starting in May, participants will also be invited to stay after class for our full spectrum garden lunch. On the last day of class, participants help prepare the meal themselves from fresh garden produce and crops we've preserved or put up.

Our next Seed to Supper class series at GrassRoots starts April 9 and is every Wednesday from 10:00am-noon through May 14. To register and for more information, visit: <https://mobilize.us/s/ptsotV>.



Annual Plant Sale: We are also just around the corner from the annual Gardens Program Plant sale! This event is a major source of funds to help cover operating costs for both FFLC Gardens: GrassRoots Garden and the Youth Farm. Pre-ordering began March 21 at noon at our online ordering site, <https://plantsale.foodforlanecounty.org>.

Pre-orders are scheduled for pick-up Friday, April 4. On Saturday, April 5 from 10am – 4pm, we will be selling a large selection of starts onsite at the Youth Farm, choose your own plants for a vibrant spring garden!

Early Spring Hours: T, Th, Sat, 9am-4pm.
GrassRoots Garden is located at 1465 Coburg Rd., across from Safeway, behind St. Thomas Episcopal Church. For more information, contact Merry Bradley 458-221-0652, merrybradley@foodforlanecounty.org.

Diocesan Renewal Gathering **Saturday, May 3, at St. Paul's, Salem**

For the second year in a row, our diocese is offering a renewal gathering of all parishioners (not just convention delegates) and clergy for a special day of worship, learning, and community.

This year's gathering will feature **The Rev. Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre**, an acclaimed ethicist and theologian, as our keynote speaker. With timely and thought-provoking reflections on **immigration, political hopelessness, and faithful action**, Dr. De La Torre's presence is a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth and renewed purpose.

Event Details:

- Date: Saturday, May 3, 2025
- Time: 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (doors at 8:30 a.m.)
- Location: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Salem, OR
- Cost: \$20 (includes lunch)
- Register here: ecwo.org/event/diocesan-renewal-gathering-2025

This is a wonderful opportunity for clergy and laity alike to come together in faith, reflection, and fellowship.

Any questions? Ask Rev. Ann or Deacon Mike.



Apostle's Shield ~ Matthias

Matthias was, according to the Acts of the Apostles, chosen by God through the apostles to replace Judas Iscariot following the latter's betrayal of Jesus and his subsequent death. His calling as an apostle is unique, in that his appointment was not made personally by Jesus (who had already ascended into heaven), and it came before the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the early Church.

According to Acts, Matthias had been with Jesus from his baptism by John until his Ascension. In the days following, Peter proposed that the assembled disciples, who numbered about 120, nominate two men to replace Judas. They chose Joseph called Barsabas and Matthias. Then they prayed, "Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all [men], shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." They then cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was numbered with the eleven apostles.



It is believed that Matthias was stoned to death and beheaded. The symbols for Matthias therefore are an open bible and a battle axe.

Apostle's Shield ~ Paul

Paul, also named Saul of Tarsus, commonly known as the Apostle to the Gentiles, spread the teachings of Jesus in the first-century world. For

his contributions towards the New Testament, he is generally regarded as one of the most important figures of the Apostolic Age.

The main source of information on Paul's life and works is the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament. Approximately half of its content documents his travels, preaching and miracles. Paul was not one of the Twelve Apostles, and did not know Jesus during his lifetime. According to Acts, Paul lived as a Pharisee and participated in the persecution of early disciples of Jesus, in the area of Jerusalem, before his conversion. Sometime after having approved of the execution of Stephen, Paul was traveling on the road to Damascus so that he might find any Christians there and bring them "bound to Jerusalem". At midday, a light brighter than the sun shone around both him and those with him, causing all to fall to the ground, with the risen Christ verbally addressing Paul regarding his persecution in a vision. Having been made blind, along with being commanded to enter the city, his sight was restored three days later by Ananias of Damascus. After these events, Paul was baptized, beginning immediately to proclaim that Jesus of Nazareth was the Jewish messiah and the Son of God. He then began his journeys to spread the Christian message to non-Jewish communities. He also founded several Christian communities in Asia Minor and Europe from the mid-40s to the mid-50s AD. He was martyred in Rome in the mid-60's AD.

The symbols of Paul are a book and a sword. The book represents his contributions to the New Testament, and the sword and the words "Spiritus Gladius" refer to "Sword of the Spirit," the phrase that Paul used to describe the Word of God. (*Ephesians 6:17*)



Buildings and Grounds Projects

The Buildings and Grounds Committee reports that two Vestry approved projects will begin this spring as weather permits. The striping of the parking lot is scheduled for Friday, April 11 after business and Head Start hours. Our Companions in



Ministry have been notified. Work on the dry rot repair on the exterior south wall of the church is scheduled to begin in May. The 2025 budget accounts for these expenditures. We are a blessed faith community to be able to address essential maintenance concerns to keep our facilities in good repair.

Reflections



Paying attention to nature's wonders is the best therapy for managing the stresses of life, recovering from disappointments, navigating challenges, or simply reviving the spirit. The wonders of nature and all its nuances throughout the seasons are a divine gift. As faith-filled people it is impossible not to see God's presence in His wondrous creation.

In the midst of winter's dark and dreary season the heather came to life in February with bright purple blooms to brighten the gloom. As the rain engulfed us in March, the bleeding heart appeared in the garden, followed by the first blooms of trillium and fairy slippers along the forest trail. Now bright green leaves cluster along the maple branches, and the myrtle and wild cherry are laced with pink and white blossoms. With spring's arrival the migratory

birds have returned to nest in the bird houses located around the garden. It is all a mesmerizing display that delights my soul and energizes me as I look forward to gardening season.



Not to be overlooked, the glorious golden ribbon of daffodils have emerged to frame the St. Thomas campus.

And as if to provide a vivid accent to all this springtime wonder, on a recent morning a rainbow arched over our forest hilltop, a glorious reminder of God's everlasting covenant.



Celebration Time

April Birthdays

3	Patty O'Neal
8	John Paulson
9	Barbara Root
10	Kathy O'Neal
30	Mason Duer

April Anniversaries

16	Stu Hogg & Charlotte Heltman
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May Birthdays

4	Lottie Rohde
7	Joe Konieczka
16	Paul Barnett
26	Ann Gaillard
30	Mark Pezzoni





FLOWERS FOR EASTER

Dear friends,

As we do every year, we are inviting you to contribute to the Easter flowers to decorate the church. Your contribution will be toward both the altar flower arrangement and the lilies and tulips. The suggested contribution is \$25, but any amount is totally fine. Please make sure we receive your contribution by Palm Sunday, April 13, so that we can add your name to the list of persons donating in the Easter Day bulletin.

YOUR NAME _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

This form may be sent to the church office or drop it in the offering plate. Please make sure your donation accompanies the form. If you are writing a check, please put "Easter flowers" in the memo line. Thank you!



Holy Week and Easter 2025



The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday (April 13)

10:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and the Holy Eucharist

We shout “Hosannah!”, our palms are blessed, and we celebrate Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Yet triumph turns to tragedy, shouts of “Hosanna” to “Crucify him,” as the Passion Gospel of St. Luke is read at the end of the service.

Holy Wednesday (April 16)

5:00 p.m. The Way of the Cross

For centuries, Christians of many denominations have conducted services (known as the Way of the Cross or the Stations of the Cross) that commemorate Jesus' journey from being condemned to death by Pilate to his entombment. We will be using the Way of the Cross service from Celtic Daily Prayer. A quiet, meditative service.

Maundy Thursday (April 17)

5:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Liturgy

The word “Maundy” comes from the Latin “mandatum” which means “command;” Christ’s Great Commandment is that we love one another as he has loved us. At this service we reenact his demonstration of this commandment through the ritual of foot washing (optional). We will also commemorate the first Lord’s Supper. The service concludes with the solemn stripping of the altar.

Good Friday (April 18)

12:00 noon The Good Friday Liturgy

This solemn service includes the reading of St. John’s Passion Gospel and the veneration of the Cross.

Easter Eve (April 19)

10:00 a.m. Holy Saturday Liturgy

A short, simple service of readings and prayers.

8:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter (at St. Mary’s)

The kindling of new fire; dramatic readings of the stories of Israel’s redemption; renewal of Baptismal vows; the first Eucharist of Easter; a festive gathering afterwards. St. Thomas is joining with St. Mary’s, St. Matthew’s, and St. John the Divine in celebrating the central feast of the Christian year.

The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day (April 20)

10:00 a.m. Festal Eucharist

Friends old and new join the St. Thomas family to celebrate the Sunday of the Resurrection. All are welcome. An Easter Egg Hunt for children will follow the 10:00 service.