

# St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

207 Bob O Link Lane  
Wharton, Texas 77488  
Office phone: (979) 532-1723

*Please, Enter in Silence and Meditation*



## The First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

This service is offered to God and to the community that we may journey together seeking God's Kingdom through sharing Christ's Love one with another and with all people.

New? Confused? Don't worry! We are genuinely pleased to have you worship here today. We suspect you may have some questions.

Everybody you see was a newcomer at one time or another and we've all had questions – probably the very same ones. So, don't hesitate to ask a question!

Books? This bulletin contains our liturgy, and all you need along with this bulletin is the blue Hymnal found in the pew rack for singing the hymns. But there is plenty more if you like! We have included the page numbers of the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP), also found in the pew rack. This is the sourcebook for our liturgy, and is a wonderful resource for prayer and study.

Episcopal worship invites participation by all the people to experience the risen Christ in this place. We want you to be comfortable so you can worship God and enjoy your visit today.

The posture of prayer, whether sitting, standing or kneeling is only a physical manifestation of the inward attitude of prayer. If you adopt the attitude of prayer then you may adapt the posture of prayer to suit your own needs. When you're worshipping God, you can't get it wrong!

Regardless of what anybody else is doing, don't do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable. Remember, if you need help, ask the person next to you. We like people here at St. Thomas'.

We invite all who are baptized to come forward and join us in receiving Holy Communion. Those who wish to come and receive a blessing may come to the rail and simply fold both arms across their chest to signal their desire.

We are delighted you're here, and we want you to come back. May God bless you this day; you have blessed us with your presence.

# Holy Eucharist Rite II

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

*The King shall come*.....Hymnal 73

**Salutation**.....BCP 351

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

*Celebrant*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

**General Confession .....BCP 352**

*The Celebrant then says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and 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.

**Absolution.....BCP 353**

*The Priest, stands and says*

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. *Amen.*

**Trisagion.....Hymnal S-99**

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,  
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.  
Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,  
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.  
Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,  
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

## The Collect of the Day .....BCP 211

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **A reading from the book of Isaiah 64:1-9**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,

so that the mountains would quake at your presence--

as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil--

to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not  
expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your  
presence.

From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our  
iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

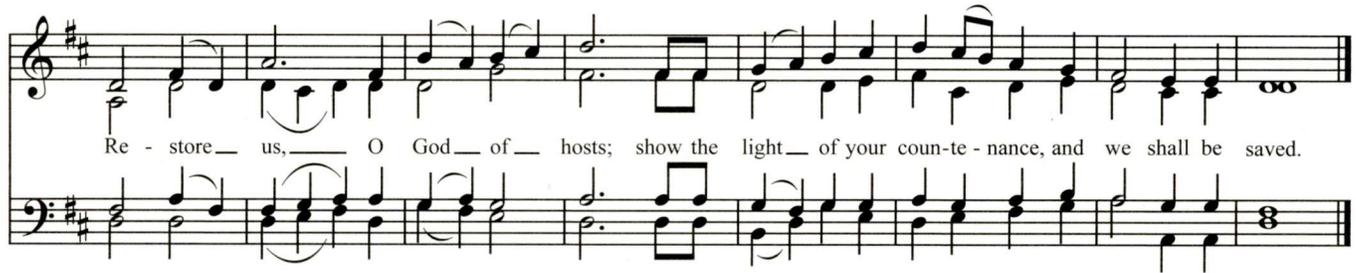
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

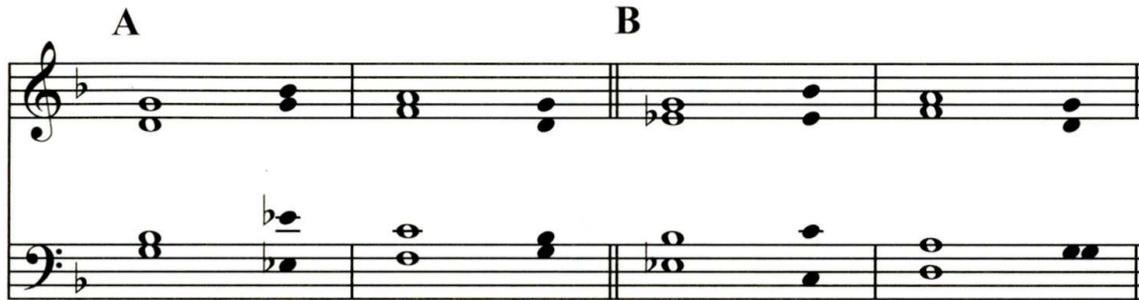
*People*      Thanks be to God.

# Psalm 95

## Choir and Congregation



Re - store us, O God of hosts; show the light of your coun-ten-ance, and we shall be saved.



A B

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us. [ANT.]
- A 4 O LORD God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?
- A 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- B 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn. [ANT.]
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name. [ANT.]

## A reading from 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God.

*We all stand.*

**Sequence Hymn: "Sleepers, wake! .....Hymnal 61**

*Remain standing for the reading of The Gospel.*

## The Gospel *Mark 13:24-37*

*Celebrant*      The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus  
                         Christ according to Mark.

*People*            Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in  
clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will  
send out the angels, and gather his elect from the  
four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends  
of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its  
branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves,  
you know that summer is near. So also, when you  
see these things taking place, you know that he is  
near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this

generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Sermon ..... The Rev. Ken Dimmick**

**The Nicene Creed.....BCP 358**

*All Stand and say together*

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:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped  
and glorified.  
He 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: Form 6, BCP 392**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;  
*For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those  
who are alone.*

For this community, the nation, and the world;  
*For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
*For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and  
oppression.*

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of  
trouble;  
*For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and  
the*

*needy.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
*For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the  
Truth.*

For our Presiding Bishop, and N. (N.) our  
Bishop(s); and for] all bishops and other ministers;  
*For all who serve God in his Church.*

For the special needs and concerns of this  
congregation.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Hear us, Lord;  
*For your mercy is great.*

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
*And praise your Name for ever and ever.*

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
*Who put their trust in you.*

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Leader and People*

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of  
life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Birthday and Anniversary Prayers**  
**Ministry Blessings**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*



*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 him thanks and praise.

*Then the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

*The Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and

everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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:

## Sanctus .....S-129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.\_\_\_\_\_

*The people stand or kneel, 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; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his

sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Thomas and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; 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 for ever.

# The Great Amen: *We sing "Amen" together.*

The Great Amen: [1940 Hymnal #741]

JOHN STAINER

A - men, A - men, A - - - -

A - men, A - men, A - - - -

men, A - - - - men, A - - - - men, A - men.

f A - men,

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be your 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.

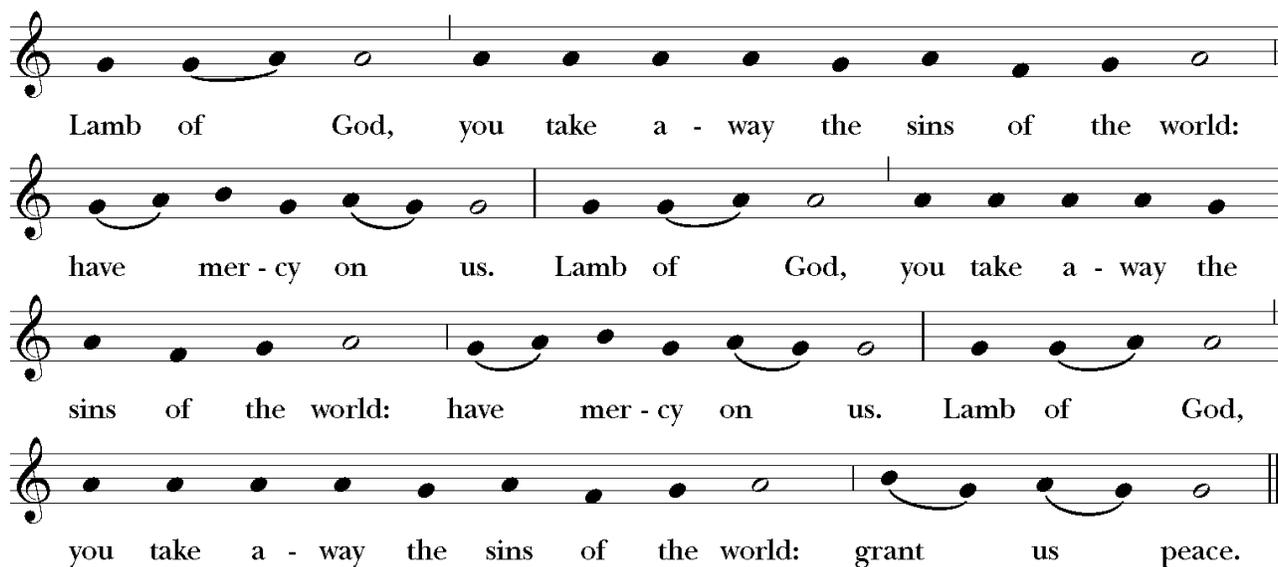
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

**The Breaking of the Bread .....BCP 364**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

**Fraction Anthem: ..... S160**



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:  
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

*The Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

[Communicant Amen.]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

[Communicant Amen.]

## **The Communion of the People**

*All who seek God's blessing are welcome to come to the altar rail. If you are not yet baptized, or do not wish to receive for any reason, cross your arms over your chest and you will be given a blessing. All baptized persons are invited to receive Holy Communion. If you wish to enroll as a candidate for Holy Baptism please contact the church office or the Rev. Ken Dimmick.*

## **Communion Music**

**Communion Hymn: *Judge eternal* .....Hymnal 596**

Choir and Congregation Remaining Seated

**Postcommunion Prayer.....BCP 366**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

*People and Celebrant*

Almighty and everliving 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 for ever. Amen.

**Blessing**

**Procession to Mission: *Hail to the Lord's***

*Anointed*

**Hymnal 616**

## **Dismissal**

*Celebrant*     Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God.

## **Postlude**

To continue our celebration this morning everyone is invited to the Parish Hall after the service for coffee and fellowship.