

# St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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*Please, Enter in Silence and Meditation*



## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 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

*O come, O come, Emmanuel*.....Hymnal 56

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.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **A reading from the book of 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16**

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says

the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your



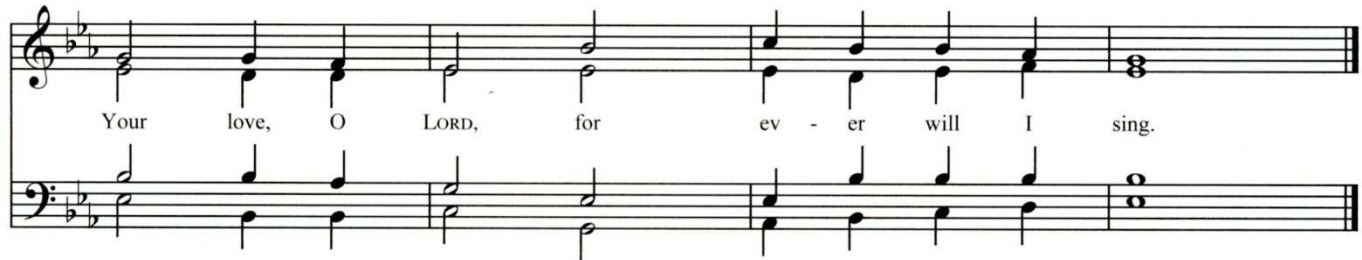
enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

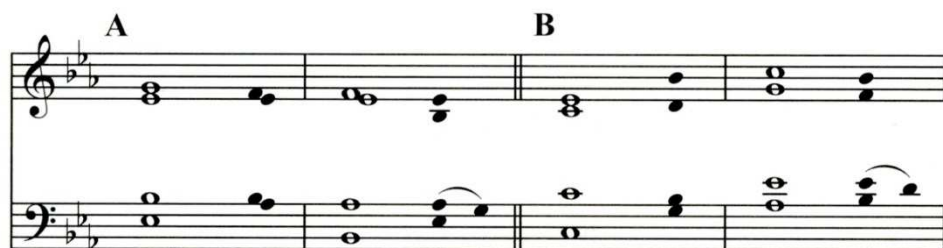
*People*        Thanks be to God.

# Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

## Choir and Congregation



Your love, O LORD, for ev - er will I sing.



A B

- 1 Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- 2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; \*  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens. [ANT.]
- 3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \*  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- 4 'I will establish your line for ever, \*  
and preserve your throne for all generations.'" [ANT.]
- 19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: \*  
"I have set the crown upon a warrior  
and have exalted one chosen out of the people."
- 20 I have found David my servant; \*  
with my holy oil have I anointed him. [ANT.]
- A 21 My hand will hold him fast \*  
and my arm will make him strong.
- B 22 No enemy shall deceive him, \*  
nor any wicked man bring him down.
- A 23 I will crush his foes before him \*  
and strike down those who hate him.
- B 24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \*  
and he shall be victorious through my Name. [ANT.]
- 25 I shall make his dominion extend \*  
from the Great Sea to the River.
- 26 He will say to me, 'You are my Father, \*  
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'" [ANT.]



In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has

also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

*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,



## **Offertory**

*We offer in gratitude what God has given us to spread the Good News and support our common life.*

*You may use the wooden tokens to represent gifts given online and by other ways. The tokens can be found in a plate at the back of the church.*

### **Offertory Hymn: *Ye who claim the .....* Hymnal 269**

*You are invited to stand as our gifts of bread, wine, and money are brought to the altar.*

### ***The Doxology:.....* Hymnal 380**

## **The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP 367**

*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 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. S-146*



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.

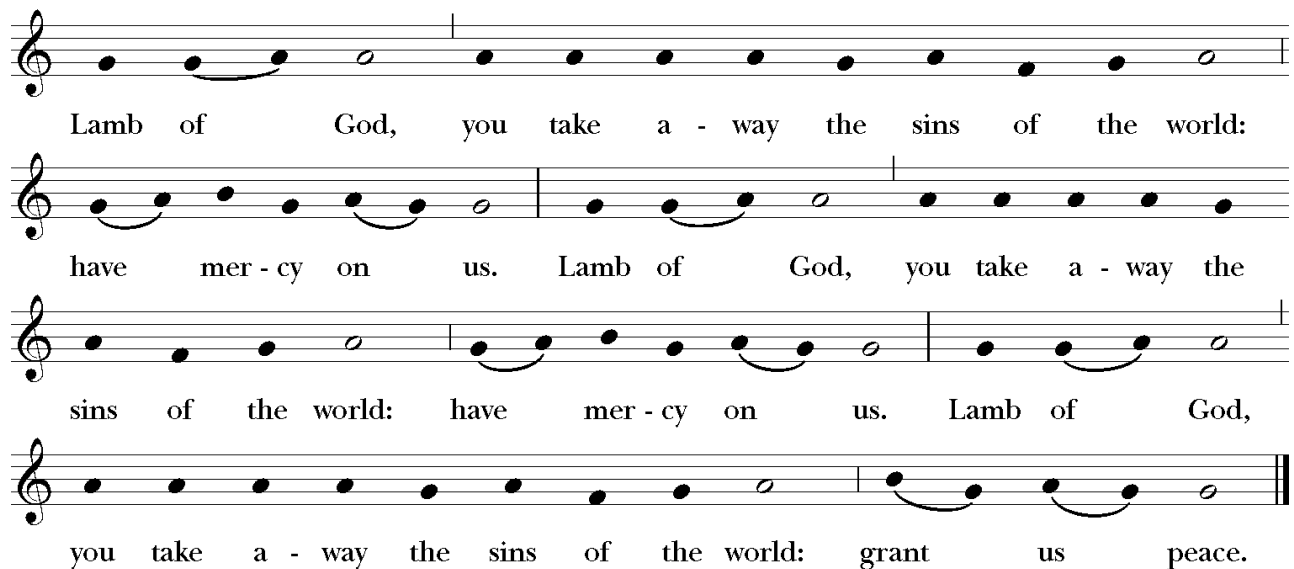
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

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: *Creator of the stars***

..... ***Hymnal 60***

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: *Come, thou long-expected*  
*Jesus Hymnal*  
**66****



## **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.