

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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Please, Enter in Silence and Meditation



The First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 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

Angels from the realmsHymnal 93

GreetingBCP 355

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

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

Hymn: Angels we have heard on high..Hymnal 96

Collect of the Day..... Prayer Book 161

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light,

enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of
salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring
up,

so the Lord God will cause righteousness and
praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,

until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;

and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the
Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147

Choir and Congregation

The — Word — was — made — flesh and — dwelt — a - mong us.

A B

- 13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you. [ANT.]
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly. [ANT.]
- A 17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- A 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
- B 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow. [ANT.]
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah! [ANT.]

A reading from Galatians 3:23-25;4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

We all stand.

Sequence Hymn: *Hark the herald*Hymnal 87

Remain standing for the reading of The Gospel.

The Gospel *John 1:1-18*

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know

him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession and AbsolutionBCP 360
Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our
neighbor.

Silence

Celebrant and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,

Welcome/Announcements

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: *Go tell it on the mountain*.....Hymnal 99****

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 A

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.

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 S128

Celebrant and People

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

The people stand or kneel, then the Celebrant continues
Holy and gracious Father, in your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy,

and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.*

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 BreadBCP 364

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

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 Anthem during communion...Choir

Post-Communion Hymn: *What star is this*

..... *...Hymnal 124*

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: *It Came Upon the*

Midnight

Clear Hymnal

87

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude