

# St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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*Please, Enter in Silence and Meditation*



## The Second Sunday of Advent December 9, 2018

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

Opening Hymn: *Come, thou long expected Jesus*

Hymnal 66

Greeting .....BCP 351

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

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

Confession..... Prayer Book 352

Absolution..... Prayer Book 353

# 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.

## Collect of the Day..... Prayer Book 211

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## **A reading from Malachi 3:1-4**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God.

# Canticle 16

Pre - pare the way of the Lord.

A B

- 1 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David. [ANT.]
- A 3 Through his holy prophets he promised of old  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us,
- B 4 He promised to show mercy to our fathers, \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.
- A 5 This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- B 6 Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life. [ANT.]
- 7 You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins. [ANT.]
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the  
shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. [ANT.]

## **A reading from Philippians 1:3-11**

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.



*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.  
*People*      Thanks be to God.  
*We all stand.*

**Sequence Hymn: *There's a voice .....*Hymnal 75**

*Remain standing for the reading of The Gospel.*

## **The Gospel Luke 3:1-6**

*Celebrant*      The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus  
                         Christ according to Luke.  
*People*            Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the

Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Sermon ..... The Rev. Kenneth 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 2, Prayer Book 385**

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishops; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.  
Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.  
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.  
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence.*

I ask your prayers for the departed.  
Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

*Celebrant*

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect,*

**Local Blessings for Birthdays and Anniversaries**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

**The Peace**

*Celebrant* The Peace of the Lord be always with  
you.

*People* And also with you.

**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: Once he came in blessing  
..... Hymnal 53***

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

***The Doxology***

**The Great Thanksgiving..... Eucharistic Prayer B**

The people remain standing. The Celebrant,  
whether bishop or priest,  
faces them and sings or says

The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them up unto the Lord.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

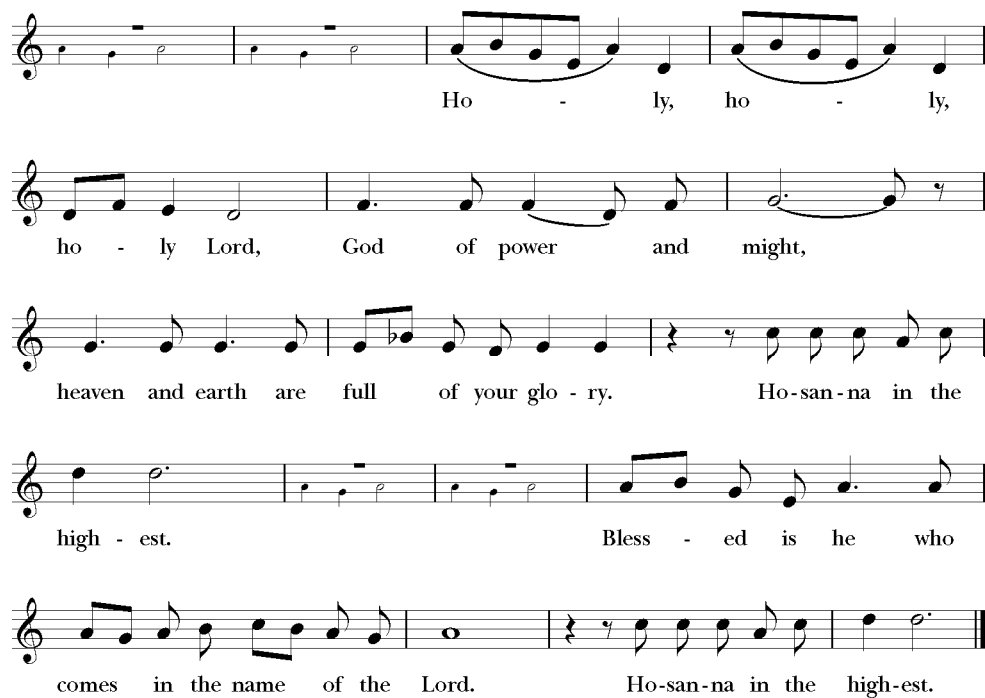
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Here a [Proper Preface](#) is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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:

Celebrant and People



# Sanctus ..... S128



Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven 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.

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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 [\_\_\_\_\_ 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: [1940 Hymnal #741]

JOHN STAINER

A - men, A - - -

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

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

A - - - men,

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us,  
we are bold to say,

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**

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Then may be sung or said

[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]*

# Fraction Anthem: O Lamb of God Hymnal S-157

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the  
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the  
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the  
sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

The image shows six staves of musical notation in treble clef, G-clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first two staves form the first line of the hymn, the next two form the second line, and the last two form the third line. Each line ends with a double bar line.

*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 Instrumental: "Soon and Very Soon"**

*Jan Harrington, Soprano Sax*

**Choir Anthem: "Advent Hymn"**

*Arr. by Patrick M. Liebergen*

**Post - Communion Hymn: The Lord will come  
Hymnal 462**

Choir and Congregation Remaining Seated

**Postcommunion Prayer.....BCP 339**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

*People and Celebrant*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Advent Blessing**

**Final Hymn: *Prepare the way, O Zion***

**Hymnal 65**

**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.