

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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Please, Enter in Silence and Meditation



The Third Sunday of Advent December 16, 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: *Hark! A thrilling voice*

Hymnal 59

GreetingBCP 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 212

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

A reading from Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgments against
you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 9

Sing the praises of the Lord.

A B

- 1 Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
- 2 For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior. [ANT.]
- A 3 Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.
- A 4 And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
- B 5 Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted. [ANT.]
- 6 Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.
- 7 Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. [ANT.]

A reading from Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say,
Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to

everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

We all stand.

Sequence Hymn: *On Jordan's bank*Hymnal 76

Remain standing for the reading of The Gospel.

The Gospel Luke 3:7-18

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who

warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John,

whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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: Comfort, comfort.....Hymnal 67

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.

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 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: "Veni Emmanuel"

Jeffrey Blair, Trumpet

Choir Anthem: "First Song of Isaiah"

Arr. by Jack Noble White

**Post - Communion Hymn: Surely it is God who
saves me**

Hymnal 679

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: *Rejoice! Rejoice, believers*

Hymnal 68

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.