

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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Please, Enter in Silence and Meditation



The Third Sunday of Advent December 23, 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: *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

Hymnal 56 vs. 5-8

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

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 Micah 5:2-5a

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of
the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

and he shall be the one of peace.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15

My soul pro - claims the great - ness of the Lord.

A B

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
- 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name. [ANT.]
- 3 He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
- 4 He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit. [ANT.]
- 5 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
- 6 He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty. [ANT.]
- 7 He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
- 8 The promise he has made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever. [ANT.]

A reading from Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not
desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do
your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of
me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

We all stand.

**Sequence Hymn: *Savior of the nations*....Hymnal
54**

Remain standing for the reading of The Gospel.

The Gospel Luke 1:39-55

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of

your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their
thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our
ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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: Come, thou long.....Hymnal 66

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 G-clef, 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first two staves form the first phrase, the next two form the second phrase, and the last two form the third phrase. Each phrase 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: "In the Bleak
Midwinter"** (*What can I give him: give my heart*)

Choir Anthem: "Magnificat"

Arr. by Nicholas Palmer

**Post - Communion Hymn: Praise we the Lord
this day 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: *Tell out, my soul*

Hymnal 437

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.