

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Saturday, December 23, 2023 5:30 pm

Welcome GUESTS & VISITORS!

We are glad you are here. If you are new to St. Thomas, stop by the Welcome table in the lobby and identify yourself to our clergy and people so we may properly welcome you. You may also fill out a welcome card located on the backs of the chairs in the church. If you need assistance with the order of service, feel free to ask the person next to you.

Auditory Assistance is available – ask an usher or a greeter to obtain a hearing device.

To request prayers, please fill out the form on a Prayer Request card located on the backs of the chairs. We invite you to list your specific concerns and leave them in the offering plate, bring to the church office, or hand to one of the clergy. Prayers of the People are written weekly. They are offered for three weeks, but any request may be resubmitted as needed.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prelude

Candlelighting (Lucernaria)

V. Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.

R. *Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.*

V. Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved:

R. O Lord God of hosts.

V. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

R. Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord:

R. And grant us your salvation.

Opening Hymn

O Day of Radiant Gladness

1 O day of ra - diant glad - ness, O day of joy and
2 This day at the cre - a - tion, the light first had its
3 This day, God's peo - ple meet - ing, his Ho - ly Scrip - ture
4 That light our hope sus - tain - ing, we walk the pil - grim

light, O balm of care and sad - ness, most
birth; this day for our sal - va - tion Christ
hear; his liv - ing pres - ence greet - ing, through
way, at length our rest at - tain - ing, our

beau - ti - ful, most bright; this day the high and
 rose from depths of earth; this day our Lord vic -
 Bread and Wine made near. We jour - ney on, be -
 end - less Sab - bath day. We sing to thee our

low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune, sing,
 to - rious the Spi - rit sent from heaven, and
 liev - ing, re - newed with heaven - ly might, from
 prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spi - rit, Son; the

“Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,” to the great God Tri - une.
 thus this day most glo - rious a tri - ple light was given.
 grace more grace re - ceiv - ing on this blest day of light.
 Church her voice up - rais - es to thee, blest Three in One.

Acclamation

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

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

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Trisagion – *repeated three times*

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

Collect of the Day

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.***

The Lessons

The First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the 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.” ³Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.” ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I 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. ⁷Wherever 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?” ⁸Now 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; ⁹and 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. ¹⁰And 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, ¹¹from 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. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The word of the Lord.

Response ***Thanks be to God.***

The Psalm: Canticle 15 (Luke 1:46b-55)

***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.***

***From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.***

***He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.***

***He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.***

***He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.***

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

***He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,***

***The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.***

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

The Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Response ***Thanks be to God.***

Holy Gospel: Luke 26-38

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

Response ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

The Sermon

Nicene Creed

All stand.

***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.*

The Prayers of the People

All remain standing.

Deacon or other leader

In waiting on your return, we lift our prayers saying, **Hear our Prayer. . .**

The Priest closes the prayers with a Collect.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept. Leader 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.*

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.

The Peace

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Music

Advent Hymn

Christy Nockels

Christ whose glory fills the skies; Christ the everlasting light;
Son of righteousness arise and triumph o'er these chains of mine.

Come, thou long awaited One, in the fullness of Your love.
And loose this heart bound up by shame, and I will never be the same.

Chorus:

So, here I wait in hope of You.

All my soul's longing through and through.

***And Dayspring from on high be near,
and Daystar in my heart appear.***

Dark and cheerless is the morn, until Your love in me is born.
And joyless is the evening song, until Emmanuel has come (Chorus)

Offertory

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.
People ***And of thine own have we given thee.***

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

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.***

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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

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.

Celebrant

We give thanks to you, O God. . .

. . . Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

***We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;***

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. . .

. . . 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. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

The Lord's Prayer

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy 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

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

We invite everyone who has been baptized by water in any Christian tradition to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.

If you have a wheat allergy, please tell one of the clergy administering communion and we will see that you receive a rice wafer instead.

Communion Music

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Neale/Chapman

O come O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear
O come Thou Dayspring come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight

Chorus:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel!

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel, rejoice!

Chorus:

O rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel!

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel!

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee

O come O come Emmanuel

Ransom captive Israel

Jesus come

Sending Forth

When a Lay Eucharistic Visitor is to take the sacrament to those hospitalized, ill at home or home-bound, the following is said:

In the name of this congregation, go forth bearing these holy gifts; that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

Congregation ***We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread; one cup. Amen.***

Let us pray.

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant and People

***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.***

Blessing

Closing Hymn

Joyful, Joyful

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
teach - us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

Dismissal

Celebrant
People

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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