

St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church



The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 27, 2024 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 an "I'm New" 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.

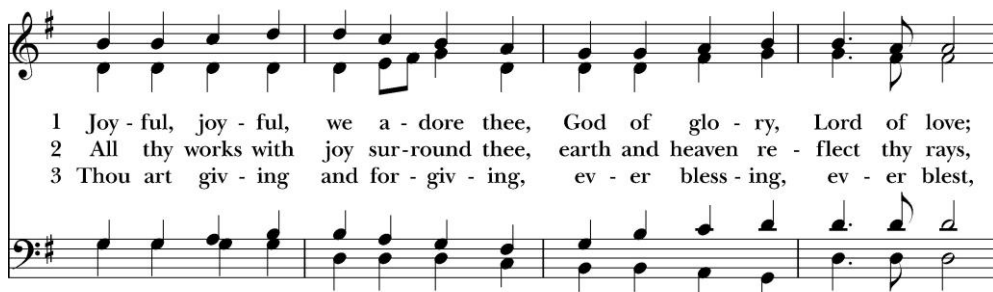
To request prayers, please fill out the "Pray" card located on the backs of the chairs. We invite you to list your specific concerns and leave them in the offering plate, bring to the church office, or hand to one of the clergy. Prayers of the People are written weekly. They are offered for three weeks,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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

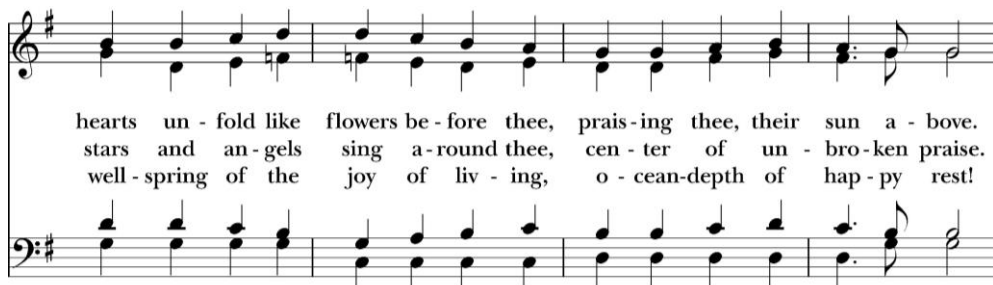
Prelude

Opening Hymn

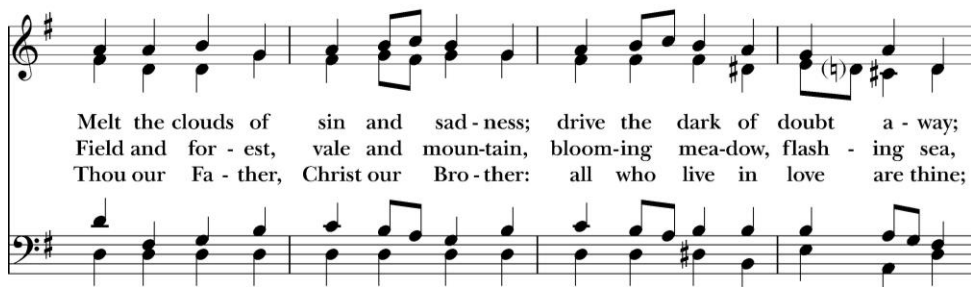
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



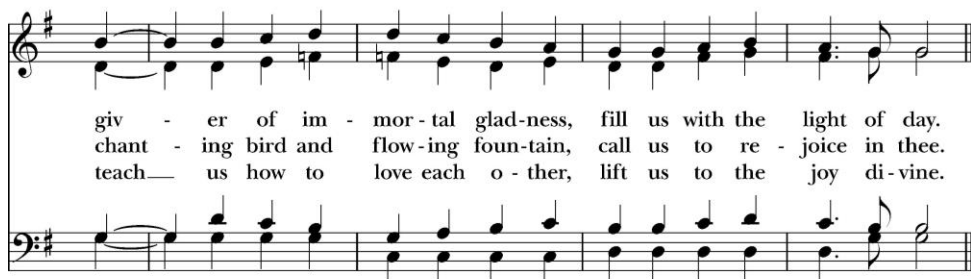
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



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.

Collect for Purity

All standing, the Celebrant says

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

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

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.***

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,

almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

The Lessons

The First Reading: *Deuteronomy 18:15-20*

[Moses summoned all Israel and said to them,] ¹⁵“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: ‘If I

hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.’
¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: ‘They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.’”

The word of the Lord.

Response Thanks be to God.

The Psalm: Psalm 111

¹Hallelujah!

*I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.*

*²Great are the deeds of the LORD! *
they are studied by all who delight in them.*

*³His work is full of majesty and splendor, *
and his righteousness endures forever.*

*⁴He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; *
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.*

*⁵He gives food to those who fear him; *
he is ever mindful of his covenant.*

*⁶He has shown his people the power of his works *
in giving them the lands of the nations.*

*⁷The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *
all his commandments are sure.*

*⁸They stand fast for ever and ever, *
because they are done in truth and equity.*

*⁹He sent redemption to his people;
he commanded his covenant forever; *
holy and awesome is his Name.*

*¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
his praise endures forever.*

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him. ⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. ⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The Word of the Lord.

Response **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

All stand.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. 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.*

Prayers of the People

Deacon or other leader

. . . Let us gather our prayers saying, "**Hear our prayer.**"

The Celebrant adds a concluding 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

God is Love

1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let
2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in
3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him
one em - brace: with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,
hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun -
ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are
guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through
break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that
nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.
self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.
Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

Offertory

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

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.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions.

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

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 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.**

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 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.

Fraction Anthem

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 Music *My God, Thy Table Now is Spread*

1 My God, thy ta - ble now is spread, thy cup with
2 O let thy ta - ble hon - ored be, and fur - nished
3 Drawn by thy quick - ening grace, O Lord, in coun - tless
4 Nor let thy spread - ing Gos - pel rest till through the

love doth o - ver - flow; be all thy chil - dren
well with joy - ful guests; and may each soul sal -
num - bers let them come and gath - er from their
world thy truth has run, till with this Bread shall

thith - er led, and let them thy sweet mer - cies know.
va - tion see, that here its sa - cred pledg - es tastes.
Fa - ther's board the Bread that lives be - yond the tomb.
all be blessed who see the light or feel the sun.

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.

Post Communion 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

O God Beyond All Praising

1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to - day
2 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,

and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can - not re - pay:
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our king:

for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be fill'd with good or ill.

at bless - ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:
we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:

we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your Word,
 to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,

we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
 and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, b. 1942
 Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934
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THAXTED
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Dismissal

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.
 People ***Thanks be to God.***

Postlude

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