

St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church



The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 28, 2024 8:45 AM

Welcome GUESTS & VISITORS!

We are glad you are here. If you are new to St. Thomas, stop by the Reception Desk 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 about obtaining a hearing device.

To request prayers, please fill out the form on the “Pray” card located on the backs of the chairs. We invite you to list your specific concerns and leave them in the Prayer Request box at the back of the church, place them in the offering plate, or bring them to the church office. Prayers of the People are written weekly. Normally they are offered for three weeks, but any request may be resubmitted as needed.

Loving care is offered in our Nursery, open from 8:30am – 12:15pm (6 months-age 4).

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prelude

Be Light for Our Eyes

Praise Band

Refrain:

*Come and be light for our eyes; be the air we breathe, be the voice we speak!
Come, be the song we sing, be the path we seek!*

Opening Hymn

All Are Welcome

*Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions: All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: All are welcome...*

*Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are welcome...*

*Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger: All are welcome...*

*Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: All are welcome...*

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

Holy is Your Name / Luke 11:46-55

Cantor: My soul is filled with joy as I sing to God my savior:
you have looked upon your servant, you have visited your people.

Refrain:

***And holy is your name through all generations!
Everlasting is your mercy to the people you have chosen,
and holy is your name.***

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.***

Children pre-school through 3rd grade will process to Children's Church.

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

¹**Hallelujah!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁰*The 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.***

Gospel Acclamation

Amen – Cantor only



A - men, al - le - lu - ia, for
ev - er and ev - er, for ev - er, al - le - lu - ia, for
ev - er and ev - er, A - men.

The Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

All stand.

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

Response ***Glorify 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***

Gospel Response

Amen - Congregation

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 children will return from Children's Church.

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

King of My Heart

McMillan & McMillan

Let the King of my heart Be the mountain where I run, the fountain I drink from
Oh He is my song, Let the King of my heart be the shadow where I hide
the ransom for my life. Oh He is my song

Chorus:

***You are good good oh, You are good good oh,
You are good good oh, You are good good oh***

Let the King of my heart Be the wind inside my sails, The anchor in the waves
Oh He is my song, Let the King of my heart Be the fire inside my veins
The echo of my days. Oh He is my song

You're never gonna let, Never gonna let me down

When the night is holding on to me, God is holding on

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

D Dadd9 Dsus4 D G Em A G A D

mf

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

E E7 A D F#m Bm Bm4/A

God of pow'r and might. Heav - en and earth are full of your

G Em A G Em Bm Bm7

mp

glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na on

E Melody A D F# Bm Bm4/A

high. Bless - ed is he who comes in the

G Em A D G Em

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -

D G Em A F# Bm Bm4/A

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na, ho -

G A D Dg D

san - na on high.

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.**

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

Shine Jesus Shine

Graham Kendrick

Chorus:

***Shine Jesus shine, fill this land with the Father's glory, Blaze Spirit blaze,
set our hearts on fire; flow river flow. Flood the nations with grace and mercy,
send forth Your word Lord and let there be light.***

Lord the light of Your love is shining in the midst of the darkness shining
Jesus Light of the world shine upon us, set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me shine on me

Lord I come to Your awesome presence from the shadows into Your radiance
By the blood I may enter Your brightness, search me try me consume all my darkness
Shine on me shine on me

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness so our faces display Your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell Your story
Shine on me shine on me

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

Hymn

The Summons

John Bell

Will you go where you don't know And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown In you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer In you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see If I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free And never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, And do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean In you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside And never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found To reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound In you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you And never be the same.
In your company I'll go Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow In you and you in me.

Dismissal

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

Postlude

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