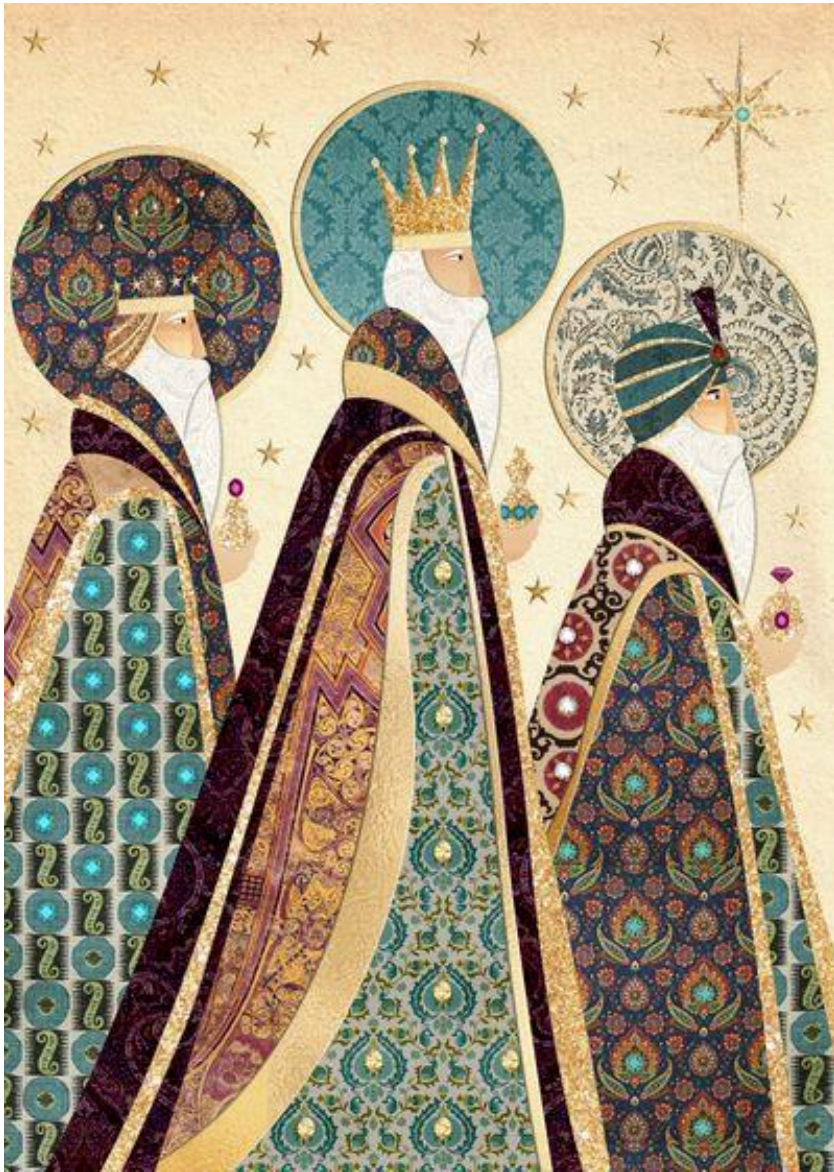


**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**



**THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**FEBRUARY 11, 2024 8:45 AM**

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## **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).*

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# LITURGY OF THE WORD

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## Prelude

## Opening Song

*Raise a Hallelujah*

I raise a hallelujah in the presence of my enemies, I raise a hallelujah louder than the unbelief. I raise a hallelujah my weapon is a melody. I raise a hallelujah Heaven comes to fight for me.

Chorus:

***I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm, Louder and louder you're gonna hear my praises roar. Up from the ashes hope will arise. Death is defeated the King is alive***

I raise a hallelujah with everything inside of me, I raise a hallelujah I will watch the darkness flee. I raise a hallelujah in the middle of the mystery. I raise a hallelujah fear you lost your hold on me. (Chorus)

## 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

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; 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 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will process to Children's Church.*

## The Lessons

### **The First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." <sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." <sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. <sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." <sup>10</sup>He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. The word of the Lord.

*Response Thanks be to God.*

**The Psalm: Psalm 50:1-6**

- <sup>1</sup>*The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; \*  
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.*
- <sup>2</sup>*Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, \*  
God reveals himself in glory.*
- <sup>3</sup>*Our God will come and will not keep silence; \*  
before him there is a consuming flame,  
and round about him a raging storm.*
- <sup>4</sup>*He calls the heavens and the earth from above \*  
to witness the judgment of his people.*
- <sup>5</sup>*“Gather before me my loyal followers, \*  
those who have made a covenant with me  
and sealed it with sacrifice.”*
- <sup>6</sup>*Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; \*  
for God himself is judge.*

**The Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

<sup>3</sup>Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Response **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Amen – Cantor only*

A musical score for the Gospel Acclamation. It consists of three staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics: "A - men, al-le-lu - ia, for". The second staff contains: "ev - er and ev - er, for ev - er, al-le-lu - ia, for". The third staff contains: "ev - er and ev - er. A - men." The music is written in a simple, melodic style with various note values and rests.

## **The Holy Gospel: Mark 9:2-9**

*All stand.*

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

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

<sup>2</sup>Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

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## Offertory Music

*I Am a Promise*  
St. Thomas Children's Choir

## 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

B 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**

*He Made You Special*

Gaither Vocal Band

St. Thomas Children's Choir

Soloists: Gideon Evans, Maggie Sullivan, Richard Wry, Eleanor Wry

## **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 Song**

*Praise*

I'll praise in the valley, praise on the mountain. I'll praise when I'm sure, praise when I'm doubting. I'll praise when outnumbered, praise when surrounded. 'Cause praise is the water my enemies drown in.

Chorus 1:

***As long as I'm breathing, I've got a reason to praise the Lord oh my soul.  
Praise the Lord oh my soul.***

I'll praise when I feel it and I'll praise when I don't. I'll praise 'cause I know you're still in control. 'Cause my praise is a weapon, it's more than a sound. My praise is the shout that brings Jericho down. (Chorus)

I'll praise 'cause You're sovereign, praise 'cause You reign.  
Praise 'cause You rose and defeated the grave.  
I'll praise 'cause You're faithful, praise 'cause You're true.  
Praise 'cause there's nobody greater than You. (Chorus)

Blake/Moore/ Brown/Carnes/Barrett/Furtick

## Dismissal

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

## Postlude

PE



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**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
12251 Antioch Road, Overland Park, KS 66213  
913-451-0512  
Email: [stthomas@stthomasop.org](mailto:stthomas@stthomasop.org)  
Website: [www.stthomasop.org](http://www.stthomasop.org)