

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) Holy Eucharist

November 27, 2016

10:00 A.M.

Information for newcomers and visitors is located on the back page of this service bulletin.

VOLUNTARY Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645 J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

INTROIT Advent Prose Plainsong

Pour down, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

Turn your fierce anger from us, O Lord, and remember not our sins for ever.
Your holy cities have become a desert, Zion a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation;
Our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised you.

Text: Introit for the First Sunday of Advent

PROCESSIONAL HYMN O Christ, the Word Incarnate
Hymn 632 (*Munich*)

1 "Sleep-ers, wake!" A voice a - stounds us, the
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; her
3 Lamb of God, the heavens a - dore you; let

shout of ram - part - guards sur - rounds us: "A -
heart with joy - ful hope is spring - ing, she
saints and an - gels sing be - fore you, as

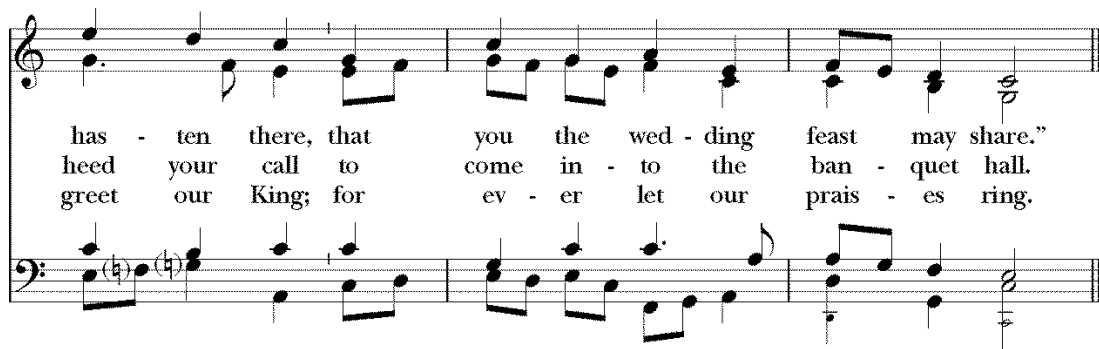
wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!" Mid - night's peace their
wakes and hur - ries through the night. Forth he comes, her
harps and cym - bals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the

cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum - mons clear - ly spo -
Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in truth vic - to -
ci - ty's por - tals: through them we stream to join the im - mor -

ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!
rious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.
tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.

Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in
Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate
No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -

sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and
Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and
light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to



OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.
 People: You come to your people and set them free.

Celebrant and People

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.

KYRIE ELEISON (*sung by the choir*) Communion Service in F Harold Darke (1888-1976)

<i>Kyrie eleison.</i>	Lord, have mercy.
<i>Christe eleison.</i>	Christ, have mercy.
<i>Kyrie eleison.</i>	Lord, have mercy.

THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: God be with you.
 People: **And also with you.**
 Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
 the mountain of the Lord's house
 shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
 and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.
O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122 (*sung by the choir*)

Laetatus sum

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."
- 2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;
- 4 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, *
the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the Lord.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the Lord our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

THE SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 13:11-14

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Thy kingdom come, O God!
Hymn 613 (*St. Cecilia*)

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in G major (one sharp). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has five lines of lyrics, and the second system has five lines of lyrics. The music is a simple, homophonic setting of the hymn.

1 Thy king - dom come, O God! Thy rule, O Christ, be - gin!
2 Where is thy reign of peace, and pu - ri - ty, and love?
3 When comes the prom - ised time that war shall be no more,
4 We pray thee, Lord, a - rise, and come in thy great might;
5 Wher - ev - er near or far thick dark - ness brood - eth yet:

1 Break with thine i - ron rod the tyr - an - nies of sin!
2 When shall all ha - tred cease, as in the realms a - bove?
3 op - pres - sion, lust, and crime shall flee thy face be - fore?
4 re - vive our long - ing eyes, which lan - guish for thy sight.
5 a - rise, O Morn - ing Star, a - rise, and nev - er set!

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 24:36-44

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake

therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

When Sunday School is offered, the students follow the children's processional cross up the aisle, and then their teachers bring them to their classrooms. At the preacher's invitation, all are seated.

THE SERMON

After the Sermon, there follows a short period of silent reflection. Then all stand.

THE NICENE CREED

Celebrant and People

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:
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
who 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

Priest

O Wisdom from on high, Holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. In this Advent season of anticipation and longing, we pray to you, saying, “O come, O come, Emmanuel.”

Intercessor

Inspire and strengthen your universal church. Help your ministers, lay and ordained, carry the Good News of salvation to all who await the signs of your coming. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Lend your wisdom and compassion to those in authority around the world. Help them lead those held captive by injustice and conflict, into the freedom of justice and peace. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Inspire all people to be grateful occupants and faithful keepers of your wondrous creation. Help us protect and preserve the earth, its lands and waters, and all its inhabitants. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Uphold and guide the people and ministries of St. Thomas’s Church. Help us listen closely to you, and follow where you lead. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Comfort those who are grieving, lonely, or depressed this holiday season. Help them find peace, joy, hope, and love. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Sustain those troubled by sickness, poverty, or violence. Help them overcome adversity, so that they may be renewed. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Bring into your glorious presence those who have died. Help all people find risen life in you. **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Hear our additional prayers of thanksgiving and intercession, which we now offer either silently or aloud.

Celebrant

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, come and shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death; Emmanuel, God with us, come and save us, O Lord our God.
Amen.

THE CONFESSION

Priest

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence is kept.

Priest and People

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*The People greet one another with a sign of peace, and then are seated for brief announcements. If the children have been in Sunday School, they return at this time. After the announcements, the People remain seated for the **Offertory Anthem**, during which the collection is taken.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Advent Message

Martin How (b. 1931)

Come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus, Amen, come Lord Jesus.
O come quickly, come Lord Jesus, O come quickly, come Lord come.

The voice of Him that crieth in the wilderness,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus come,
Yea come quickly, come Lord come,
Amen, come Lord come.

Text: Martin How, based on Isaiah 40:3

During the singing of the **Offertory Hymn**, the Ushers carry the gifts forward. The People follow and encircle the altar. You are encouraged to position children where they can see. Small children may sit with a caregiver on the floor in front of the altar. Standing time is approximately 15 minutes. If you are unable to stand, you may sit in one of the chairs arranged near the altar, move to the front row of pews, or remain where you are.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round Hymn 617 (Song I)

Unison or harmony

1 E - ter - nal Ru - ler of the cease - less round
 2 We would be one in ha - tred of all wrong,
 3 Oh, clothe us with thy heaven - ly ar - mor, Lord,

of cir - cling plan - ets sing - ing on their way,
 one in the love of all things sweet and fair,
 thy trust - y shield, thy word of love di - vine;

guide of the na - tions from the night pro - found
 one with the joy that break - eth in - to song,
 our in - spi - ra - tion be thy con - stant word,

in - to the glo - ry of the per - fect day;
 one with the grief that trem - bleth in - to prayer;
 we ask no vic - to - ries that are not thine;

rule in our hearts, that we may ev - er be
 one in the power that makes thy chil - dren free
 give or with - hold, let pain or plea - sure be;

guid - ed and strength - ened and up - held by thee.
 to fol - low truth, and thus to fol - low thee.
 e - nough to know that we are serv - ing thee.

THE HOLY COMMUNION
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP 2

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en 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.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a steady bass line with chords in the right hand. There are three triplet markings in the piano part, corresponding to the lyrics "Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." and "Ho - san - na in the high - est." The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Celebrant

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Thomas and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

The bread which we break is a shar - ing in the
 Bo - dy of Christ. We be - ing ma - ny are one
 bread, one bo - dy, for we all share in the one bread.

Celebrant

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.]

All are invited to receive Holy Communion at God's table in this church. Please proceed to the most conveniently located station to receive communion, and then return to your seat via a side aisle. Gluten-free bread is available at any station. Non-alcoholic wine is available from the server at the center of the altar. To receive a blessing instead of communion, approach the priest with your arms crossed over your chest.

COMMUNION ANTHEM O thou, the central orb Charles Wood (1866-1926)

O Thou, the central orb of righteous love,
 Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light
 Of this our wintry world.

Thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,
 Gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre round Thee move,
 As stars about thy throne, set in the height
 Of God's ordaining counsel, as Thy sight
 Gives measured grace to each, Thy power to prove.

Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
 Our nature all shall feel eternal day
 In fellowship with thee, transforming clay
 To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

Text: Henry Ramsden Bramley (1833-1917)

After all have received communion, the people remain seated for a period of silence. Then all stand.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant

Let us pray.

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.

SENDING FORTH A EUCHARISTIC VISITOR

This prayer is said when a Eucharistic Visitor will take communion to an ill or homebound parishioner. The Eucharistic Visitor joins the Celebrant in front of the altar.

Celebrant and People

We send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread and one cup. Go in peace.

THE BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May Christ, whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at the second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

FINAL HYMN

Rejoice! rejoice, believers
Hymn 68 (*Llangloffan*)

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!
the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

DISMISSAL

Priest: *[A priest dismisses the people.]*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

Nun komm, der Heiden heiland, BWV 661

Bach

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ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

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www.musicatstthomas.org

www.stthomasday.org

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If you are new or visiting ...

Welcome! Thank you for attending worship at St. Thomas's. Please consider returning the information slip below, signing the guest register near the main entry, and introducing yourself to a clergy person or usher. After the service, you are invited to join the congregation for Coffee Hour (in the Lounge on the second floor).

Families with children: On most Sundays during the school year, Sunday School is offered for children from pre-K through grade 8. All children are invited to attend. On three Sundays a month, Sunday School takes place both before and during the service; on one Sunday a month, it follows the service. On any given Sunday, the bulletin announcements and worship instructions provide additional information.

Families with small children: Two seating areas at the front of the church are reserved for families with small children: the area under the array of paper cranes (for children age 3 and under); and the area in front of the left side of the pews (for children age 10 and under). For safety, every child should be accompanied by a caregiver.

At St. Thomas's, the people gather around the altar for the celebration of the Eucharist. While this may be unfamiliar to you, most find it to be a powerful experience of true communion.

At St. Thomas's, all are invited to receive Holy Communion. There are usually two stations, located at the front corners of the altar, where you may receive Holy Communion. **Gluten-free bread** is available at both stations. **Non-alcoholic wine** is available only from the server at the center of the altar. Any difference in orientation will be explained during the announcements.

To receive Holy Communion: The server will place the bread in your hands. Wine is sipped from the common cup; please use both hands to guide the chalice to your lips. This is the most sanitary option. Some people 'intinct' (dip the bread into the wine), or receive bread only, or request only a blessing. Additional instructions for communion and for worship more generally are included at appropriate points in the bulletin.

Tear along dotted line, and then place in the offering plate or give to a member of the parish

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail & Phone _____

How did you hear about St. Thomas's? _____

I would like to:

Speak to a clergy person

Receive parish emails

Have a permanent name tag

Explore becoming a member

Get involved with _____

Enroll my child(ren) in Sunday School

Learn about joining the Adult Choir

Enroll my child(ren) in the St. Thomas's
Choristers (Junior Choir)