



ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

Service of Holy Eucharist

December 17, 2017 10 A.M.

If you are new or visiting ...

Welcome! After the service, please come to Coffee Hour (in the Lounge on the 2nd floor) for food and fellowship. Though other churches make the claim, ours really is the Best Coffee Hour in Connecticut. Please consider filling out a blue visitor information card (found in your pew rack). You can request a name tag using the form in the pew rack or the sheet at the entrance. Next Sunday your new name tag will be waiting for you on the table in the foyer inside the main church entrance.

To follow along with the service all you need is this service bulletin.

Families with small children: Three 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 areas in front of the two front pews (for children age 10 and under). For safety, every child should be accompanied by a caregiver.

Education for all ages takes place from 9 to 9:45 A.M. on most Sundays during the academic year.

Wireless access in the Sanctuary is accessible by connecting to wireless network STEC – Guest. Your device will open a web browser and St. Thomas's website. Sunday bulletins are posted on the website's Bulletin Archive. We aim to reduce printing by encouraging worshippers to use their smart devices to follow the order of service.

Restrooms for men and women are located on the second floor. Go through the red double doors at the front of the church, up the stairs to the left, and to the far end of the hallway. An **all-gender restroom (with baby changing table)** in the Vesting Room, located opposite the red double doors at the front of the church.

For the celebration of Holy Eucharist, the People gather around the altar. While this may be unfamiliar to you, most find it to be a powerful experience of true communion at our common table.

All are invited to receive Holy Communion. Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. There are usually two communion stations, one at each front corner of the altar. **Gluten-free bread** is available at each station. **Non-alcoholic wine** is available only from the single server at the center of the altar. Any difference will be explained during the announcements.

To receive Holy Communion hold out your hands, and the server will place bread in them. If you wish to receive wine, please sip it from the common cup, using both hands to guide the chalice to your lips.

ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL
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Eric Gregory Snow—Day School Chaplain chaplain@stthomasday.org

ORGAN VOLUNTARIES

Magnificat I: My soul doth magnify the Lord
Magnificat V: He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

At the ringing of the bell, please stand.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN Hymn 76: On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry, *The Hymnal 1982*

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt.;
Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: **You come to your people and set them free.**

A parishioner says this prayer as another lights three Advent candles

Come, O Holy One, breaker of chains and renewer of life! Open our eyes to your presence in all the earth. Stir us to proclaim gladly the signs of your love: the liberation of those oppressed, the healing of those frail and broken, springs of water in all the parched places, and Jesus Christ risen and alive, through whom we pray. **Amen.**

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Gregorian Chant

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 15: THE SONG OF MARY (*sung by the choir*)

Magnificat anima mea

My soul doth magnify the Lord: And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of
their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: As he promised to our
forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Music: C. V. Stanford (1852-1924); from Evening Service in G

SECOND LESSON

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of
God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of
prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and
body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who
calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymn 64: O heavenly Word, eternal Light, *The Hymnal 1982*

1 O heaven - ly Word, e - ter - nal Light, be - got - ten
 2 pour light up - on us from a - bove, and fire our
 3 and when, as judge, thou draw - est nigh the se - crets
 4 O let us not, for e - vil past, be driv - en
 *5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the

1 of the Fa - ther's might, who in these lat - ter days wast
 2 hearts with ar - dent love, that, as we hear thy truth to -
 3 of our hearts to try, to rec - om - pense each hid - den
 4 from thy face at last, but with thy saints for ev - er -
 5 Spi - rit, ev - er One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry

1 born for bless - ing to a world for - lorn;
 2 day, all wrong de - sires may burn a - way;
 3 sin and bid the saints their reign be - gin;
 4 more be - hold thee, love thee, and a - dore.
 5 be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Words: Latin, ca. 7th cent.; tr. *Hymnal 1982*;

Music: *O Heiland, reiss*, melody from *Rheinfelsisches Deutsches Catholisches Gesangbuch*, 1666;
 harm. *Orgelbuch Zum Gesangbuch Der Evangelisch-Reformierten Kirchen Der Deutschsprachigen Schweiz*, 1926

GOSPEL

JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

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

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

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

THE NICENE CREED

Presider 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

Intercessor

Dear children on God, as we joyfully await the full manifestation of God's reign in Christ, let us pray for the needs of the Church, and our world, responding to "God, in your

mercy” with “hear our prayer.”

Delightful God, who animates Christ’s body the church, help us to see your coming light in this season of preparation. Let your light grow ever stronger as this congregation is called to live into your Gospel. Behold and bless your church, remembering especially: Michael our presiding bishop, Ian our bishop, Keri our priest, Don and JoAnn our wardens, our vestry, and all the people of this church. Guide us all in your love and grace. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, your free gift of grace calls us to make straight your path in the wilderness of our lives. Let you word emblazon our hearts, that we may speak your truth in the darkest corners of our society. We pray for Donald our President, Dannel our Governor, Toni our mayor, and all elected officials who have been called to serve your people. May they hear, in this season of preparation, the cries of those whose lands are ravaged by violence and war. May they see the heartbreak of those who are crushed under the weight of systematic oppression. May they seek love and justice in serving the least among us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nourishing God, we experience your majesty in the creation that surrounds us. Grant us your wisdom in confronting the devastating reality of climate change in our global community. Give us strength to withstand the greed which allows us to stand idly by as sacred lands are decimated and protected lands are destroyed in the name of progress. Renew in us our call to stewardship, in caring for our world as a reflection of your love. God, in your mercy, **hear our Prayer.**

Comforting God, you welcome us just as we are. Pierce our hearts and let your love pour forth, as we recognize those areas of our lives that are not a reflection of your grace. Let your peace surround those who suffer from physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, and let this congregation be a place of safety for those who suffer. Guide us in opening the doors of opportunity for the unemployed, for the homeless, for prisoners, and for all who are oppressed; and lead us in closing the doors that lead to poverty, bigotry, and injustice. Let all who suffer in any way be healed in the light of your heavenly countenance especially: Dorothy, Greg, Katie, Lee, Luann, Marilyn, and Parke. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Victorious God, who died that we may know eternal life, touch those who have died and those who mourn them, and help us to remember all those seasoned saints who have gone before us, that we may find comfort in this life and life after death. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thoughtful God, who promised that, when two or three are gathered, you will be among them, receive now our prayers of need and praise, offered in our hearts or on our lips.

Presider

Almighty God, hear these our prayers, and grant their fulfilment as you desire. Cradle us in the palm of your hand, as we prepare for the coming of your Holy Child, Jesus, the Messiah. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

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.**

Presider

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

Presider: 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. After the announcements, the People remain seated for the **Offertory Anthem**, during which the collection is taken.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

This is the record of John

This is the record of John,
when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,
Who art thou?
And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly,
I am not the Christ.

And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias?
And he said, I am not.
Art thou the prophet?
And he answered, No.

Then said they unto him,
 What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us.
 What sayest thou of thyself?
 And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
 Make straight the way of the Lord.

Words: John 1:19-23; Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

*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

Hymn 438: Tell out, my soul, *The Hymnal 1982*



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name!
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might!
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
 Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
 Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.



ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
 his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord



in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - jice.
 his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.
 the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
 to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on *The Song of Mary*; Music: *Woodlands*, Walter Greatorex (1877-1949), alt.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP 2

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*

Lift up your hearts. 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.

Presider

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:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

S-129, *The Hymnal 1982*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, hea - ven 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. _____

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

Presider

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 Mary, the mother of Jesus, 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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

You are invited to say the Lord's Prayer in the language of your choice.

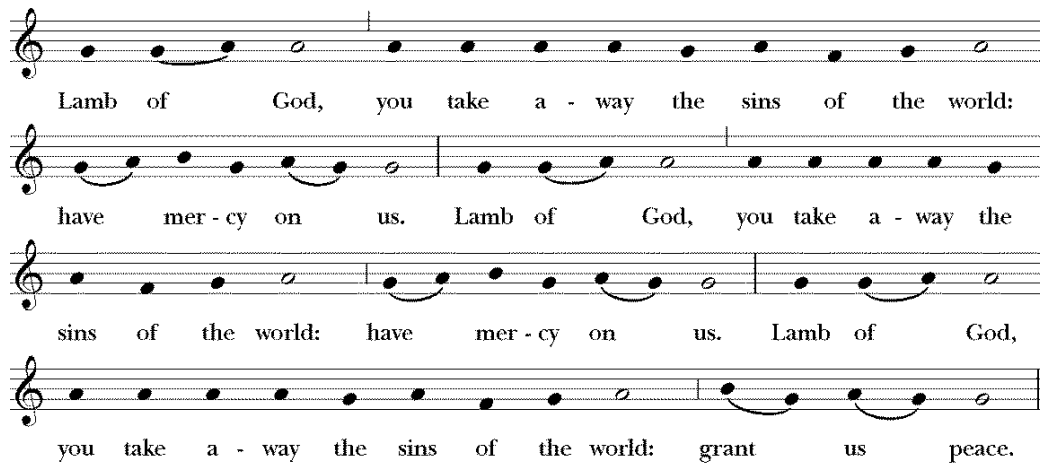
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,	as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.
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THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

FRACTION ANTHEM

S-160, *The Hymnal 1982*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: Anaphora chant; Mass 18; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991)

Presider

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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

A Patre Unigenitus

A Patre Unigenitus

Is through a maiden come to us.

Sing we of him and say 'Welcome!

Veni, Redemptor gentium'.

Agnoscat omne seculum

A bright star made three kings to come

Him for to seek with their presents,

Verbum supernum prodiens.

A solis ortus cardine

So mighty a Lord is None as he,

And to our kind he hath him knit,

Adam parens quod pollut.

Make we joy now in this fest

In quo Christus natus est.

Maria ventre concepit,

The Holy Ghost was aye her with.

In Bethlehem born he is,

Consors Paterni luminis.

Make we joy now in this fest

In quo Christus natus est.

O lux beata Trinitas!

He lay between an ox and ass,

Beside His mother maiden free:

Gloria tibi, Domine!

Words: Anonymous 15th century English; Music: Carl Rütli (b. 1949)

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

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider

Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us, with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us, with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one, with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world,
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

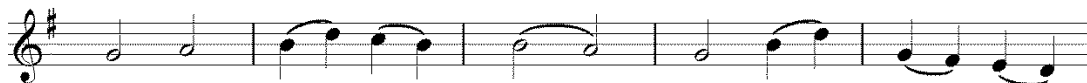
THE BLESSING

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 Hymn 57: Lo! he comes, with clouds descending, *The Hymnal 1982*



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on



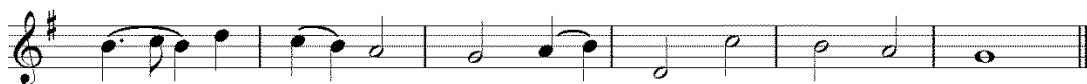
our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand
dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at
daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less
thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the



saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his
nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -
power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine



train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788);
Music: *Helmsley*, melody Thomas Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Fugue on the Magnificat, BWV 733

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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Announcements

Stay in touch! Subscribe to the Weekly Parish Enews and "like" St. Thomas's on Facebook.

It's Stewardship Season! Don't forget to return your pledge card. If you've already returned it, thank you!

Christmas Flowers Offerings: For inclusion in the Christmas bulletins, we must have your offering by 9 a.m tomorrow morning. Besides the importance of flowers to our beautiful Christmas celebration, you can make a gift in honor or memory of someone important to you. Giving envelopes are in the pews; you can also donate via the DONATE button on the St. Thomas's website, or by scanning the QR code on an "I give electronically" chit in the pew rack. Don't forget there is wireless in the church!

Alternative Giving for Christmas. Looking for a gift for the person who has everything? Please consider making a donation in their honor to the nonprofit of your choice. One easy option is to click on the DONATE button on our website - from there you can donate to some of our favorite groups: Episcopal Relief & Development, Loaves & Fishes, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the St. Thomas's Day School Scholarship Fund. In addition, Katherine Vaillancourt & Derek Stefanovsky are collecting funds for the Anglican school and hospital we have joined them in supporting in Northern Malawi—contact them directly. **Let's see how far St. Thomas's can spread Christmas cheer!**

Let's start a new St. T's Christmas tradition: Bring your "family photo" holiday greeting cards! Send or bring your Christmas Cards/Holiday Greetings/Blessings to the Church, for display on the bulletin board in the office hallway. We hope it is the start of a new Holiday Tradition at St. T's. And a great way for those who have moved away to come back! (Thanks to the Ritacco family for the great idea and for getting it started!)

You can still order luminaries. See Wednesday's Enews for details. See the order form at the main entrance.

Please note: There will be incense the 10 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.

Our Next Parish Social: Friday, January 5, 6 p.m. Potluck and ? Games? Movie? Craft project? If you have an idea, contact Keri.

IRIS Winter Clothing Drive - THANK YOU!!! Thanks to the many who donated to this important cause.

Evening Prayer at St. Thomas's – Every Tuesday at 6 p.m. Are you interested in deepening your life of prayer while building relationship with our community? Please join us every Tuesday night in the Lady Chapel, as we lift the joys and concerns of our community. Our service begins at 6:00PM, and all are invited.

Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation Class. Have you yet to be confirmed? Were you confirmed in another tradition, and would you like to explore more deeply what it means to be an Episcopalian? Were you confirmed in The Episcopal Church but wish to reaffirm your statement of faith? If you're at all interested, contact Keri.

Christmas Office Closing. The church office will be closed Friday, December 22, through Monday, January 1.

For more information and announcements, see our website and last week's Weekly Parish Enews.

Serving Today

Presider: The Rev. Keri Aubert
Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp
Organist and Choir Director: Simon Jacobs
Emcee: Dr. Dorothy Asch
Eucharistic Minister: Matthew Babcock
Crucifer: Ozan Say
Torchbearers: Sara Misgen, Kate Schilling
Lectors: Jan Hagens, Anne Pengelly
Intercessor: Daniel Harrison
Vestry Host: Martha Deeds Hogan
Sacristans: Joan Hogan, Bill & Sally Nanfeldt
Ushers/Greeters: Bill & Sally Nanfeldt
Coffee Hour Hosts: Erika Nemeti & Michael Dunlap, Edward Leavy, Chandler Riker, Sue Richmond, Kate Schilling

This Week's Prayer Intentions

Pray for those in any need or trouble, including:
Dorothy, Greg, Katie, Lee, Luann, Marilyn, Parke

Pray for those who have died

In St. Thomas's Cycle of Prayer, pray for:
Ricky Guillot, Brian Gallant, Bonnie Moeller, Derek Leiser, Josh Turner, Margo Murdoch

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, pray for:
St. Stephen's, Bloomfield; St. George's, Bolton; Trinity, Branford; Those who advocate at the local, state, national, or global level for the poor, the lonely, and the oppressed

Prayer for Knowledge of God's Creation (BCP, p. 827): Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leadership at St. Thomas's

Church Officers and Vestry
Joann Sweasy (Senior Warden)
Don Edwards (Junior Warden)
Alexander Scherer (Treasurer)
Sarah Insley (Clerk)
Anne Harrison (Assistant Treasurer)
Laura Bower-Phipps
Michael Fournier
Daniel Harrison
Martha Deeds Hogan
Kevin Johnson
Chris Martinez
Tom Radice
Jennifer Regan
Christopher Ritacco
The Rev. Keri Aubert (Priest-in-Charge)

Church (Volunteer) Associate Priests
The Rev. Dexter Cheney
The Rev. Jakki Flanagan
The Rev. Julie Kelsey
The Rev. Bill Loutrel
The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp
The Rev. Lee McGee Street
The Rev. Dr. Parke Street
The Rev. Dr. Lynda Z. Tyson

Church Ministry Coordinators
Dr. Dorothy Asch—Volunteer Lay Assistant

Day School Board of Trustees
Gina Panza—Head of School
The Rev. Keri Aubert—President, Day School Corp.
Jonathan Macey (Chair)
Gina Criscuolo (Vice-Chair)
Tracey Meares (Treasurer)
Jeralyn Fantarella (Secretary)
Alex Babbidge
Frank Chang
Don Edwards
John Forrest
Jennifer McTiernan
Eileen O'Donnell
Kenneth Paul
Kathryn Scherer
Denise Terry

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