

Saint Thomas's Church
The Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 11, 2022

Sung Mass at 9:30 am



' . . like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly. . . '

Photo by Christine Cover

Saint Thomas's Anglican Church
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Welcome!

On behalf of everyone who claims St. Thomas's as their spiritual home, we are happy you are with us, whether in person or via our livestream. If you are a visitor or newcomer, or even a longtime parishioner, but find it awkward or difficult to stand or kneel at the places indicated, remaining seated is perfectly acceptable. Please assume the posture most conducive to prayer throughout this service, or simply observe.

St. Thomas's has many peculiar ways that we cherish and are happy to share. If there seems to be no rhyme or reason for something, there might not be! But feel free to ask anyone after the service; it usually makes for entertaining conversation.

You are not obliged to engage any of us in conversation, though you should know that pretty much everyone here is happy to do so when we gather. You can always slip away without any judgement. We seem to have a lot of introverts here, so we understand the energy it takes to put yourself out there. Even if you're a raging extrovert, the experience of church can be disorienting. Relax and be yourself. Believe it or not, whether from near or far, God has led you here today. We want to honour what God is up to in your life, and we are here for you as you (re-) discover the joy and the challenge of the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Fr. Nathan Humphrey, Rector



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Low gluten communion hosts are available upon request. When you approach for communion, indicate to the priest that you require a low gluten host.

Celebrant & Homilist: Fr. Humphrey
Reader: John Stuart
Interim Director of Music & Organist: Elizabeth Anderson

MUSIC OF THE MASS: Mass of the Good Shepherd, *Matthew Larkin*

VOLUNTARY: Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen, *Johannes Brahms*

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.
And also with you.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.

TRISAGION

Sung three times.

Matthew Larkin

Andante

Ho - ly God, ho - ly and migh - ty, ho - ly im -
mor - tal one, have mer - cy up - on us. us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35.1-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 146.4-9



Response: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! whose hope is in the Lord their God; who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps his promise for ever; **R/**.

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; **R/**.

The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked. The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah! **R/**.

SECOND READING: James 5.7-10

A reading from the Epistle of Saint James:

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The People stand. The choir will sing the first three Alleluias, followed by the people; a cantor will sing the verse and then all sing the final three Alleluias.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 11.2-11

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The People sit.

SERMON

After the Sermon, the People remain seated for a period of silent reflection, standing when the Celebrant stands.

THE NICENE CREED

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

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: (*Bow.*) by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. (*Rise.*)

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. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped 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.

The People remain standing.

INTERCESSIONS

Celebrant

May waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert as we look forward to the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Saviour. May God direct our hearts and minds to his will and show the light of his countenance on us, as we present our petitions.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Intercessor

Pray that we may be witnesses of God's good gifts of the Spirit that heal the broken hearted, proclaim liberty to captives, release prisoners, and comfort all who mourn. Pray for the peace of Ukraine and for many other troubled places in our world.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Pray for Charles, our King, and all those in authority. We pray especially for those who govern and lead us in uncertain times in order that peace, justice and equity may prevail until Christ comes to reign over us.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Pray that in this festive season we will be ever mindful, in word and generous deed, of those who are hungry, homeless, unemployed and in despair; may we who are blessed share of our bounty with those who have little or nothing.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the world-wide Anglican communion and for Linda, our Archbishop, for Andrew our Diocesan Bishop, and for all who serve and minister to God's people in this diocese.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Pray for our parish of St. Thomas, that we may continue to be a beacon of hope and a light to those who seek God in a dark world. May we hold fast to that which is good and abstain from those things that quench the Spirit. Pray for Nathan, our Rector, James, our Associate Priest and for all those who are stewards of God's mysteries in this place. That they may help turn disobedient hearts to the wisdom of the just so that we may be found acceptable in God's sight at the day of his coming.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Pray for all those who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity. Among the sick pray for (), and among those for whom we have been asked to pray, remember (). May God clothe them with the garments of salvation and the cloak of righteousness.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Remember before God the souls of those who died this week () and for those whose yearly remembrance occurs at this time (). Pray that God, who comforts all who mourn, give them a garland, instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning. Pray for gifts of heavenly grace.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Celebrant

O great Shepherd of Israel: Maranatha, come Lord! We make our requests known to you in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving: prepare us now for the celebration of your incarnation and for the coming again in glory of our Immanuel, who with you and the Holy Spirit is one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

INVITATION, CONFESSION, & ABSOLUTION

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

The People bow or kneel. Silence is kept.

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 neighbours 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 upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All standing, the Celebrant bids the Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The People remain standing for the hymn during the Offertory.

OFFERTORY HYMN 61 – Jesus came – the heavens adoring

1 Jesus came – the heavens adoring –
Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came for man's redemption,
Lowly came on earth to die:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Came in deep humility.

2 Jesus comes again in mercy,
When our hearts are bowed with care:
Jesus comes again in answer
To our earnest heart-felt prayer;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comes to save us from despair.

3 Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
Bringing news of sins forgiven;
Jesus comes in sounds of gladness,
Leadings souls redeemed to heaven;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Now the gate of death is riven.

4 Jesus comes on clouds triumphant,
When the heavens shall pass away;
Jesus comes again in glory;
Let us then our homage pay,
Alleluia! ever singing
Till the dawn of endless day.

ST THOMAS
J.F. Wade's Cantus Diversi, 1751

Rev. Godfrey Thring, 1862

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of hope, renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

The first line of musical notation is in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody for the Celebrant is a simple, steady line of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The melody for the People is a similar line: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Celebrant *People*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

The second line of musical notation continues the melody. The Celebrant's part has a slight rise in pitch for 'Lift up your hearts'. The People's part has a similar rise for 'We lift them to the Lord'. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

The third line of musical notation continues the melody. The Celebrant's part has a slight rise in pitch for 'Let us give thanks'. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

People

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The fourth line of musical notation continues the melody. The People's part has a slight rise in pitch for 'It is right'. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing.

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.

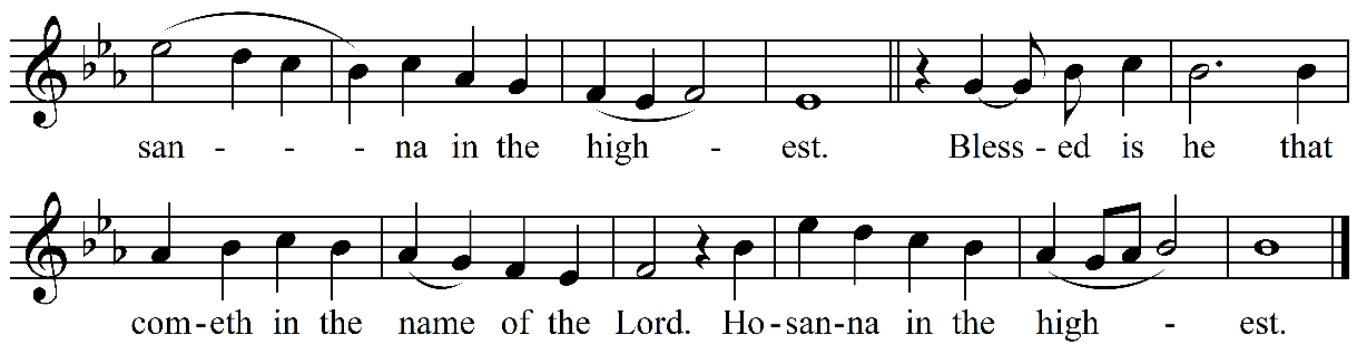
The People and Choir sing,

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

mf

Ho - - ly, ho - - ly, ho - ly Lord God of
pow - er and might. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

The Sanctus & Benedictus section begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). It features a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is a simple, steady line of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are placed below the notes.



The People remain standing.

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command:

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Music by McNeil Robinson

Celebrant *People*

As our Sa - viour taught us, let us pray, Our Fa - ther in heav - en,
hal - lowed be your name, your king - dom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread, For - give us our sins
as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er,
and the glo - ry are__ yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.
Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

HOLY COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

AGNUS DEI

The people and Choir sing:

mp

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin_ of the world, have
mer - cy up - on_ us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin_ of the world, grant_ us_ your peace.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

All baptized Christians are warmly invited to receive Communion as directed by the Sidespeople. Please receive the host (bread) on the right palm of the hand (supported underneath by the left palm). To receive the cup, gently guide with your hand the base of the chalice. Please refrain from intinction (dipping the host into the cup), as diocesan policy does not allow us to do so.

Low gluten communion hosts are available upon request. When you approach for communion indicate to the priest that you require a low gluten host.

If you have not been baptized or are not receiving communion, please cross your arms over your chest in the shape of an X to receive a blessing. If you are not receiving from the cup, please pause to reverence it with a bow before returning to your pew.

If you wish to inquire about baptism for yourself or your child, we would love to speak with you!

MOTET: 'Rejoice in the Lord always,' Anon (16th c)

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice. Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e'en at hand. Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication, let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

(Phil 4.4-7)

COMMUNION DEVOTIONS

An Act of Spiritual Communion, which may be prayed silently by those not receiving:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I humbly ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen.

ANIMA CHRISTI

The following devotion may be prayed silently by communicants and non-communicants.

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesu, hear me.
Within thy wounds hide me.
Suffer me not to be separated from thee.
From the malicious enemy defend me.
In the hour of my death call me.
And bid me come to thee,
That with thy saints I may praise thee,
For ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.
Merciful God, may this Eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

DOXOLOGY

Glory to God,
whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CONCLUDING HYMN 63 – Hark! a herald voice is sounding

- 1 Hark! a herald voice is sounding;
‘Christ is nigh,’ it seems to say;
‘Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!’
- 2 Wakened by the solemn warning,
Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven;
Let us all, with tears of sorrow,
Pray that we may be forgiven;
- 4 That when next he comes with glory,
And the world is wrapped in fear,
With his mercy he may shield us;
And with words of love draw near.
- 5 Honour, glory, might, and blessing
To the Father and the Son,
With the Everlasting Spirit,
While eternal ages run.

STUTTGART
Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

Tr. From the Latin of 6th cent. By Rev. E. Caswall

The people may be seated. Please maintain an atmosphere of reverent silence during and after the Postlude.

VOLUNTARY: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, *Dietrich Buxtehude*