

**Saint Thomas's Church**  
**The Third Sunday in Advent**  
**Sunday, December 17, 2023**  
**High Mass at 11:00 am**



Saint John the Baptist, Lucas Cranach the Elder, c. 1550  
Museo Poldi Pezzoli, Milan

**Saint Thomas's Anglican Church**  
383 Huron Street,  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2G5  
416-979-2323  
[www.stthomas.on.ca](http://www.stthomas.on.ca) [office@stthomas.on.ca](mailto:office@stthomas.on.ca)

## 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, though we hope you will avail yourself of **coffee hour in the parish hall** following this service, if possible. 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

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



St. Thomas's relies on the generosity of those whose offerings reflect gratitude for God's own generosity to us. To make a secure gift online, simply scan the QR code with your phone's camera app, or visit [qrco.de/smokytops](http://qrco.de/smokytops). Scroll to the bottom of the webpage to fill out the online form. **We no longer pass the plate, so if you want to give the old-fashioned way, an alms basin is available in the narthex.**

**Celebrant:** Fr. Nathan Humphrey  
**Deacon & Homilist:** Fr. James Shire  
**Reader:** David Kent  
**Organist & Choirmaster:** Elizabeth Anderson  
**Assistant Organist & Choirmaster:** Manuel Piazza

---

**MUSIC OF THE MASS**

Missa I: Conditore Kyrie omnium

**VOLUNTARY**

Ave Maria, Victor Togni (1935-1965)

*At the sound of the bell, the People stand.*

**INTROIT** Gaudete (*Sung by the choir*)

*Mode i*

Rejoice ye in the Lord alway and again I say, rejoice ye. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing, nor troubled, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. (Phil 4.4-6) Lord, thou art become gracious unto thy land: thou hast restored the fortunes of Jacob. (Ps 85.1)

*The People kneel.*

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**THE DECALOGUE**

Responses by Pelham Humfrey (1647-1674)

*The People still kneeling, the Decalogue is sung by the Celebrant and Choir.*

*Celebrant:* God spake these words and said: I am the Lord thy God who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have none other gods but me.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Celebrant:* Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Celebrant:* Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Celebrant:* Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Celebrant:* Honour thy father and thy mother.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Celebrant:* Thou shalt do no murder.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Celebrant:* Thou shalt not commit adultery.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Celebrant:* Thou shalt not steal.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Celebrant:* Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Celebrant:* Thou shalt not covet.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

*The Choir alone sings the Kyrie, the People still kneeling.*

### **KYRIE ELEISON**

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Kyrie Eleison.  
Christe Eleison.  
Kyrie Eleison.

*The People remain kneeling for the Collects.*

### **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**  
Let us pray.

O Lord Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

### **COLLECT OF ADVENT**

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy 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 quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. **Amen.**

*The People sit.*

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11

The First Lesson is written in the sixty-first chapter of the book of the prophet Isaiah, beginning at the first verse.

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 broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The People remain seated for the Psalm.*

**CANTICLE**

Magnificat

II. 2.



- Cantor* 1 MY SOUL doth magnify the **Lord** :  
*People* and my spirit hath rejoic-ed in **Göd** mÿ Sa-viour.  
2 FOR HE hath re-**gard**-ed : the lowliness of **hïs** händ-maid-en.  
*Cantor* 3 FOR BE-hold, from **hence**-forth : all generations shall **cäll** mē bless-ed.  
*People* 4 FOR HE that is mighty hath magnifi-ed **me** : and ho-**lÿ** is his Name.  
*Cantor* 5 AND HIS mercy is on them that **fear** him :  
throughout all **gë**-në-ra-tions.  
*People* 6 HE HATH show-ed strength with his **arm** :  
he hath scatter-ed the proud in the imagina-**tion** öf their hearts.  
*Cantor* 7 HE HATH put down the mighty from their **seat** :  
and hath exalted the **hüm**-blë and meek.  
*People* 8 HE HATH fill-ed the hungry with **good** things :  
and the rich he hath sent **ëmp**-tÿ a-way.  
*Cantor* 9 HE RE-mem-bering his **mer**-cy : hath holpen his **sër**-vânt Is-ra-el;  
*People* 10 AS HE promis-ed to our fore-**fa**-thers :  
Abraham and his **sëed** för ev-er.

**THE EPISTLE**

1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

The Epistle is written in the fifth chapter of St Paul's first epistle to the Thessalonians, beginning at the sixteenth verse.

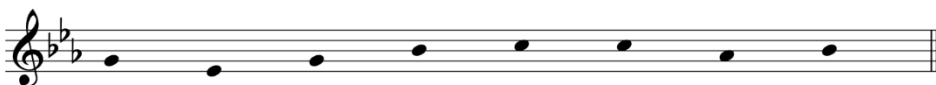
Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify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

The word of the Lord.

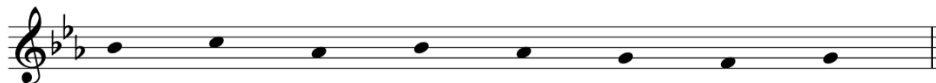
**Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN 66

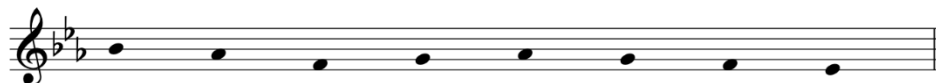
Creator of the starry height



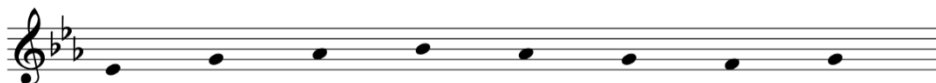
*All* 1. Cre - a - tor of the star - ry height,  
*Lower Voices* 2. Thou, sorr'w - ing at the help - less cry  
*Upper Voices* 3. Thou cam'st, the Bride - groom of the bride,  
*Lower Voices* 4. At thy great Name, ex - alt - ed now,  
*Upper Voices* 5. To thee, O Ho - ly One, we pray,  
*All* 6. To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,



Thy peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing Light,  
 Of all cre - a - tion doomed to die,  
 As drew the world to ev - en - tide;  
 All knees in low - ly hom - age bow;  
 Our Judge in that tre - men - dous day,  
 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,



Je - su, Re - deem - er of us all,  
 Didst save our lost and guilt - y race  
 Pro - ceed - ing from a vir - gin - shrine,  
 All things in heav'n and earth a - dore,  
 Ward off, while yet we dwell be - low,  
 Praise, hon - our, might, and glo - ry be



Hear thou thy ser - vants when they call.  
 By heal - ing gifts of heav'n - ly grace.  
 The spot - less Vic - tim all di - vine.  
 And own thee King for ev - er - more.  
 The wea - pons of our craf - ty foe.  
 From age to age e - ter - nal - ly.



Al - le - lu - ia.



The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

The Holy Gospel is written in the first chapter of the Gospel according to Saint John, beginning at the sixth verse.

**Glory be to thee Q Lord.**

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.

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise be to thee, Q Christ.**

*The People sit at the invitation of the Preacher.*

## SERMON

*The People stand to sing the Creed. All who are able to kneel, please do so at "and was incarnate," rising after "and was made man."*

# THE NICENE CREED

Merbecke



I be-lieve in one God: The Fa-ther Al-migh-ty, Ma-ker of hea-ven and earth,



and of all things vi - si - ble and in - vi - si - ble:



And in one Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly be - got - ten Son of God,



Be - got - ten of the Fa - ther be - fore all worlds;



God of God, Light of Light, Ve - ry God of ve - ry God;



Be - got - ten, not made; Be - ing of one sub - stance with the Fa - ther;



Through whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our sal - va - tion



came down from Heaven,



*\*And was in - car - nate by the Ho - ly Ghost of the Vir - gin Ma - ry, And was made man.\**



And was cru - ci - fi - ed al - so for us un - der Pon - tius Pi - late.



He suf - fer - red and was bu - ri - ed, And the third day he rose a - gain



ac - cord - ing to the Scrip - tures, And as - cend - ed in - to heaven,



And sit - teth on the right hand of the Fa - ther,




And he shall come a - gain with glo - ry to judge both the quick and the dead:



Whose king - dom shall have no end. And I be - lieve in the Ho - ly Ghost, the Lord,



the Giv - er of life, Who pro - ceed - eth from the Fa - ther and the Son,




Who with the Fa - ther and the Son to - geth - er is wor - ship - ped and glo - ri - fied,



Who spake by the Pro - phets. And I be - lieve One, Ho - ly, Ca - tho - lic, and A - pos - to - lic Church.



I ac - know - ledge one Bap - tism for the re - mis - sion of sins.



And I look for the Re - sur - rec - tion of the dead, And the Life of the world to come.



A - men.

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

As we have the opportunity, let us do good unto all men; and especially unto them that are of the household of faith.

*The People remain standing for the hymn.*

## OFFERTORY HYMN 59

## The Advent of our King



1. The Ad - vent of our King our prayers must now emp - loy,  
2. The Ev - er - las - ting Son In - car - nate deigns to be;  
3. Daugh - ter of Si - on, rise to meet thy low - ly King;



And we must hymns of wel - come sing in strains of ho - ly joy.  
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on, to set his ser - vants free.  
Nor let thy faith - less heart des - pise the peace he comes to bring.

- 4 As Judge, on clouds of light,  
He soon will come again,  
And his true members all unite  
With him in heaven to reign.
- 5 Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone;  
The old man all be put away,  
The new man all put on.

- 6 All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever One,  
Through all eternity.

*ST THOMAS*  
*A. William's New Universal Psalmist, 1770*

*Tr. (1837) from C. Coffin (1736) by Rev. John Chandler*

*The People remain standing as the thurifer approaches for the censuring.*

## PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS


Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel, for ever and ever. All that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine. All things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. **Amen.**

*The People kneel.*

## INTERCESSIONS

Sisters and brothers, as we await the glorious coming of the Christ, let us pray for the needs of the church, our community, and the world.

*Intercessor:* O Wisdom from the mouth of God, aid thy church in showing thy love to this world; we pray for Andrew our bishop, for Riscylla and Kevin his suffragans, for \_\_\_\_\_ according to the Anglican cycle of prayer, for \_\_\_\_\_ according to the Diocesan cycle of prayer, and for \_\_\_\_\_ according to the Parish cycle of prayer; come and teach us the way of prudence. (*Silence.*)



The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef. The staff is divided into two sections by a double bar line. The first section is labeled "Intercessor" and contains five notes: a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, and a quarter note D5. The second section is labeled "People" and contains five notes: a quarter note E4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. Below the staff, the lyrics are written: "Lord, in thy mer - cy, we be - seech thee, hear our prayer."

*Intercessor:* O Adonai and leader of the nations, guide and direct our governors and leaders; we pray for Charles, King of Canada and for all those in civil authority in our nation, province, and city; aid them in administering justice and peace in our world. (*Silence.*)

Lord, in thy mercy,  
**We beseech thee, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign among the nations; grant peace to our world, particularly in Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, Sudan. Bring peace to all those who live in the shadow of war; and for all places suffering from unrest, calamity, or disaster; deliver this world and delay no longer. (*Silence.*)

Lord, in thy mercy,  
**We beseech thee, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* O Key of David who openeth the way for all people; give comfort to the poor and all those in need; we pray for the guests and volunteers of the Friday Food Ministry and for all those who use drop-in programs, shelters, and food banks; lead us all to serve the needs of our neighbours, loving them as ourselves. (*Silence.*)

Lord, in thy mercy,  
**We beseech thee, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and source of all blessings; we give thee thanks for the people, neighbours, and friends of this parish, and especially for all with us in person or via livestream, and for newcomers and visitors this morning, both near and far. [We give thanks especially on this day for \_\_\_\_\_.] And for all other thanksgivings we now name, silently or aloud \_\_\_\_\_. Come enlighten us to thy blessings upon our lives. (*Silence.*)

Lord, in thy mercy,  
**We beseech thee, hear our prayer**

*Intercessor:* O King of the nations and our desire for strength, give healing and peace to the sick \_\_\_\_\_, we pray for all those suffering in mind, body, or estate; for elders, for prisoners, for refugees and migrants, for the oppressed, for those who mourn, and for all others for whom our prayers are asked \_\_\_\_\_. Come and save us from all ailment and peril. (*Silence.*)

Lord, in thy mercy,  
**We beseech thee, hear our prayer**

*Intercessor:* O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, guide the souls of the departed to their final rest, especially \_\_\_\_\_ who have died in recent days, and those whose year's mind is at this time \_\_\_\_\_. Come and save us from the shadow of death, and may the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. (*Silence.*)

Lord, in thy mercy,  
**We beseech thee, hear our prayer**

*Celebrant:* O God of joy and exultation, thou strengthenest what is weak; thou enrichest the poor and givest hope to those who live in fear. Look upon our needs this day. Make us grateful for the Gospel of salvation and keep us faithful in thy service until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **INVITATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead the new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we from time to time most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Celebrant alone stands to impart the Absolution.*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him: Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The People remain kneeling.*

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>People</i>
	
<p>The Lord be with you; And with thy spirit.</p>	

<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>People</i>
	
<p>Lift up your hearts; We lift them up unto the Lord.</p>	

<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>People</i>
	
<p>Let us give thanks unto our Lord God; It is meet and right so to do.</p>	

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, Creator and Preserver of all things; 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 with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee and saying:

*The Choir alone sings:*

### **SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS**

Holy, Holy, Holy,  
Lord God of Hosts:  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
✠ Blessed is he that cometh  
in the Name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth:  
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.  
✠ Benedictus qui venit  
in nomine Domini.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

*The Celebrant continues,*

Blessing and glory and thanksgiving be unto thee Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memorial of that his precious death, until his coming again.

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took Bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it; and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me.

Likewise after supper he took the Cup; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all, of this; for this is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.



Wherefore, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we thy humble servants, with all thy holy Church, remembering the precious death of thy beloved Son, his mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again in glory, do make before thee, in this sacrament of the holy Bread of eternal life and the Cup of everlasting salvation, the memorial which he hath commanded; And we entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion; And we pray that by the power of thy Holy Spirit, all we who are partakers of this holy Communion may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be unto thee,

*Celebrant* *People*

O Fa - ther al - might - ty, world with - out \_\_\_ end. A - men. \_\_\_

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Music by John Merbecke*

*Celebrant*

And now, as our Sa-viour Christ hath com-mand-ed and taught us, we are bold to say:

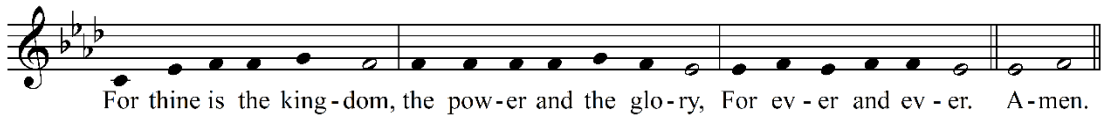
*People*

Our Fa-ther, who art in heav'n, Hal-low-ed be thy Name, Thy king-dom come,

Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heav'n. Give us this day our dai - ly bread;

and for - give us our tres - pass - es, As we for - give them that tres - pass a - gainst us;

And lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, But de - li - ver us from ev - il.



## FRACTION & PEACE

*A period of silence is kept. The consecrated Bread is broken.*



## PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

*All who intend to receive Holy Communion pray together:*

We do not presume  
**to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, Trusting in our own righteousness,  
 But in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy So much as to gather  
 up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, Whose property is  
 always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, So to eat the Flesh of  
 thy dear Son Jesus Christ, And to drink his Blood, That our sinful bodies may  
 be made clean by his Body, And our souls washed through his most precious  
 Blood, And that we may evermore dwell in him, And he in us. Amen.**

*The Choir alone sings:*

## AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.	Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.	Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace.	Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

*The Celebrant turns to face the People and says,*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God; behold him that taketh away the sin of the world.

**Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof, but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.**

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

## COMMUNION DEVOTIONS

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

My Jesus, I believe that thou art truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot now receive thee sacramentally, I beseech thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself unto thee, and embrace thee with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from thee. Let me live and die in thy 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.

## MOTET

‘This is the Record of John,’ Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

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.

(John.1.19-23)

*The People may sit or kneel for the hymn.*

## COMMUNION HYMN 65

Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes

- 1 Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,  
The Saviour promised long:  
Let every heart prepare a throne,  
And every voice a song.

- 2 He comes, the prisoners to release  
In Satan's bondage held;  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of his grace  
To bless the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim;  
And heaven's eternal arches ring  
With thy beloved Name.

*BRISTOL*  
*Ravenscroft's Psalms, 1621*

*Rev. P. Doddridge, 1735*

*The People kneel.*

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee that thou dost graciously feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; assuring us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are living members of his mystical body, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee. And although we are unworthy, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

The peace of God, which passeth 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 Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The People stand.*

## DISMISSAL

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

## CONCLUDING HYMN

Tell out, my soul



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 bles - sings give my spi - rit voice;  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
Pow'rs and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by;  
Firm is his pro - mise and his mer - cy sure.



Ten - der to me the pro - mise 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 - viour shall my heart re - joice.  
His ho - ly name, the Lord, the migh - ty one.  
The hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lif - ted high.  
To chil - dren's chil - dren and for e - ver - more.

**VOLUNTARY**

Prière à Notre-Dame, Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

*The People may be seated for the Postlude. Please maintain an atmosphere of reverent silence in the church during and after the Postlude.*

*Coffee Hour follows this service in the Parish Hall.*

*Please join us at 5:00 pm this evening for our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, followed by a reception.*

## UPCOMING SERVICES

*Sunday, December 24 is both Advent IV and Christmas Eve. The Services will be as follows: 7:30 am Mattins; 8:00 am Low Mass; 9:30 am Advent IV Sung Mass (BAS) and 11:00 am Advent IV High Mass (BCP). At 5:00 pm there will be a Sung Mass of Christmas Eve.*

*Beginning at 9:30 pm on Christmas Eve, there will be an organ recital, followed by Midnight Mass, which will commence at 10:00 pm.*

*Christmas Day Services are as follows: 7:30 am Mattins; 8:00 am Low Mass; 9:30 am Sung Mass (BAS) and 11:00 am High Mass (BCP). There will be no Evensong on Christmas Day.*

*On Sunday, December 31 the Services will be as follows: 7:30 am Mattins; 8:00 am Low Mass; 9:30 am Sung Mass (BAS) and 11:00 am High Mass (BCP). There will be no Evensong.*

*The Epiphany of Our Lord Procession and High Mass will be on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 11:00 am.*

*Sunday, January 7, 2024 is the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. The Services will be as follows: 7:30 am Mattins; 8:00 am Low Mass; 9:30 am Sung Mass (BAS) and 11:00 am High Mass (BCP). At 5:00 pm there will be A Procession with Epiphany Carols during the course of Evensong & Benediction, followed by a small reception.*

Copyright Information:

*This is the record of John Music by: Gibbons, Orlando  
Copyright Year: 1978 Publisher: Oxford University Press*

One License Licensing Permission:

Reprinted/Streamed with Permission Under One License #A-700000  
All Rights Reserved.

Unless otherwise noted above, all images, music graphics, and texts are either in the public domain or proprietary to Saint Thomas's Anglican Church.