

Saint Thomas's Church
The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 18, 2022

Sung Mass at 9:30 am



Saint Joseph's Dream, Francisco Goya, c. 1772
Museo de Zaragoza, Spain

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

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/smokytoms. 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 & Homilist: Fr. Shire
Reader: John Stuart
Interim Director of Music & Organist: Elizabeth Anderson

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

VOLUNTARY: Ave Maria, *Victor Togni*

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.

Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7.10-16

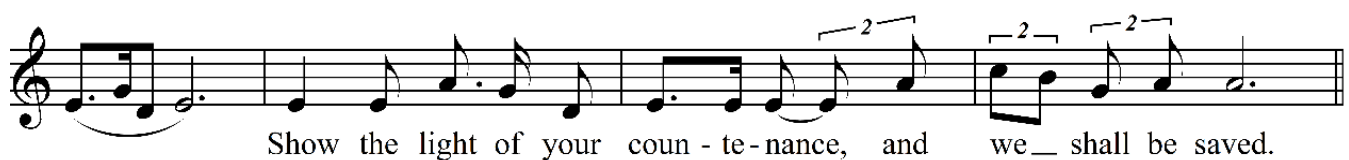
A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 80.1-7, 16-18



Show the light of your coun - te - nance, and we_ shall be saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us. Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R/.**

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people? You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn. Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R/.**

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself. And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R/.**

SECOND READING: Romans 1.1-7

A reading from St Paul's Epistle to the Romans:

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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. A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 1.18-25

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.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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: In this season of joyful expectation, let us bring our thoughts, prayers and supplications to our Lord God, knowing that He is hearing us better than we are speaking.

Intercessor: For the Church in the world, _____, in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, _____, in the Diocesan Cycle, for Andrew our Bishop, Nathan, our Rector, James, our Interim Associate Priest and all who work tirelessly for the Church and for the glory of God. *(Silence.)*

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

I ask your prayers for all in authority in the world, our country, province, and city. Let us thank God for leading us into a time where more of reality is being unveiled for us all to see. Thank you, Lord, for guiding us in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honour one another and place the common good before personal gains. *(Silence.)*

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

I ask your prayers for God's blessings upon the world, and we give thanks to God for the people, neighbours, and friends of this parish, and especially for all those present with us in person or via livestream; our newcomers and visitors this morning; and for all others we now name, silently or aloud. (*Silence.*)

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

I ask your prayers for all those in need, for the sick _____, for all those suffering due to the pandemic and the lack of adequate healthcare; for victims of warfare and violence, the elderly, refugees and migrants, prisoners, for the oppressed, those who mourn, and for all others for whom our prayers are asked. May we place our hope in what matters and what lasts, trusting in God's eternal presence and love. (*Silence.*)

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

I ask your prayers for the souls of the departed, especially _____ who have died in recent days, and on their year's mind for _____, that they may share with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Thomas, and all the saints in God's eternal kingdom. (*Silence.*)

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Lord, help us be mindful of the blessings already present in our lives, and look with hope and gratitude towards the grace that awaits us in the eternal kingdom. **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 192 - The God whom earth, and sea, and sky

- 1 The God whom earth, and sea, and sky
Adore, and laud, and magnify,
Whose might they own, whose praise they swell,
In Mary's womb vouchsafed to dwell.
- 2 The Lord whom sun and moon obey,
Whom all things serve from day to day,
Was by the Holy Ghost conceived
Of her who through his grace believed.
- 3 How blest that Mother, in whose shrine
The world's Creator, Lord Divine,
Whose hand contains the earth and sky,
Once deigned, as in his ark, to lie;
- 4 Blest in the message Gabriel brought,
Blest by the work the Spirit wrought;
From whom the great Desire of earth
Took human flesh and human birth.
- 5 O Lord, the Virgin-born, to thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Ghost for evermore. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.---

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

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 2/2. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The lyrics are: "Ho - - ly, ho - - ly, ho-ly Lord God of _". The second staff continues with: "pow-er and might. Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-". The third staff continues with: "san - - - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he that". The fourth staff concludes with: "com-eth in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est." The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and slurs.

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

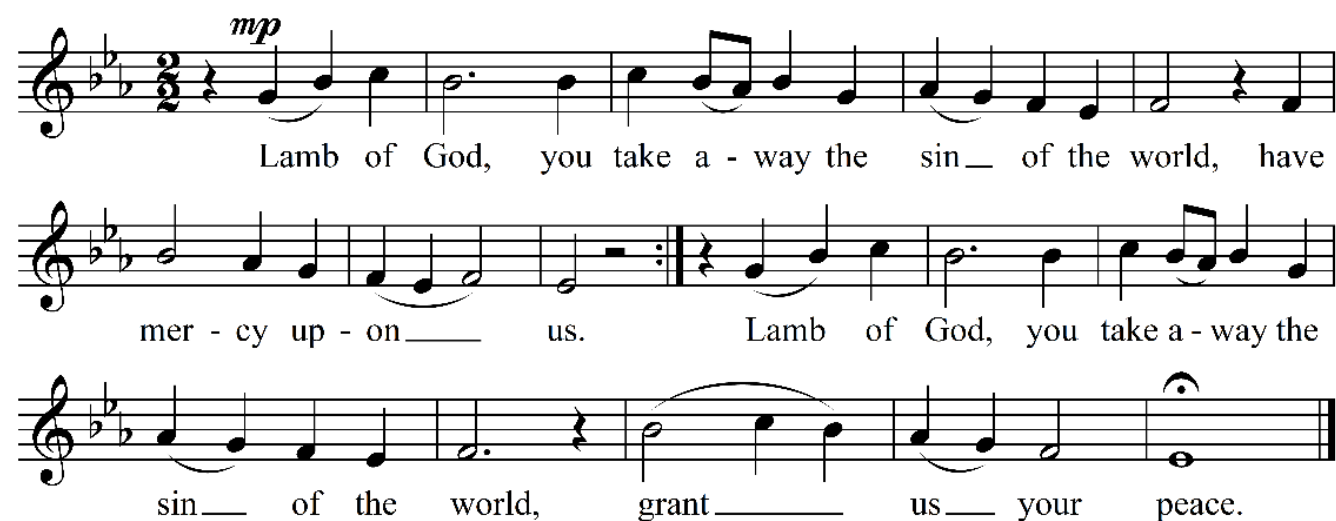
God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.
Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

HOLY COMMUNION

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

The People and Choir sing:

AGNUS DEI



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: 'Ave Maria,' Josquin des Près (c. 1450-1521)

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum, virgo serena. Ave, cujus conceptio, solemnitas plena gaudio, coelestia, terrestria, nova replete laetitia. Ave, cujus nativitas nostra fuit solemnitas, ut Lucifer lux oriens, verum solem praeveniens. Ave, pia humilitas, sine viro fecunditas, cuius annunciatio nostra fuit salvatio. Ave, vera virginitas, immaculata castitas, cuius purificatio nostra fuit purgatio. Ave, praeclara omnibus angelicis virtutibus, cuius fuit assumptio nostra glorificatio. O Mater Dei, memento mei. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you, serene virgin. Hail, whose conception, full of solemn joy, fills the heavens and the earth with new happiness. Hail, whose nativity was our solemnity and a rising light like a bright torch, heralded the true sun. Hail blessed humility, made fruitful without man, whose annunciation was our salvation. Hail true virginity, spotless chastity, whose purification was our cleansing. Hail, foremost among all angelic virtues, whose assumption glorified us. O Mother of God, remember me. Amen.

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.

Faithful God, in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation. May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.
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 - Gracious Lady, you are blest

All 1 Gracious Lady, you are blest with God's favour;
In your womb all hopes shall rest - this world's Saviour;
He shall save the world from sin, as the kingdom's ushered in.
Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary.

Upper 2 Can it be I am God's choice? (Lowly maiden)?
Voices How can God's Word use my voice to proclaim Him?
Can the great God stoop to me: that the world His grace may see?
Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary.

Lower 3 Blessed Mother you shall be; God's own dwelling;
Voices You, the rose whose sanctity, sweetly smelling
Shall create the space on earth, for God's Son to come to birth.
Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary.

Upper 4 Let it be then as you say; God me raises!
Voices Let me now and every day, learn His praises.
May the 'Yes' that I have giv'n be a pathway into heav'n.
Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary.

Lower 5 Gracious Lady, your Amen is your blessing;
Voices Your obedience, now as then love confessing.
And that Love will you sustain, through the time of trial and pain.
Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary.

All 6 Mary, Mother of the Lord, God once called you
To bring forth His holy Word, that enthralled you,
May I too wait patiently for God's will to form in me.
Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary.

CHISLEHURST
Sydney Nicholson

Jeremy Davies, former Precentor, Salisbury Cathedral

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

VOLUNTARY: Magnificat, *Delphin Strungk* (c.1600-1694)