

Saint Thomas's Church

Christmas I

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Sung Mass at 9:30 am



Simeon and Anna in the Temple, Rembrandt Harmensz. van Rijn, 1627
Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg, Germany

Saint Thomas's Anglican Church

383 Huron Street,

Toronto, Ontario M5S 2G5

416-979-2323

www.stthomas.on.ca 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/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: Fr. Don Beyers
Homilist: Fr. Ajit John
Reader: Georgiana Beal
Intercessor: Ronwen Guest
Organist & Choirmaster: Elizabeth Anderson
Assistant Organist & Choirmaster: Manuel Piazza

MUSIC OF THE MASS

Community Mass, Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

GREETING

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

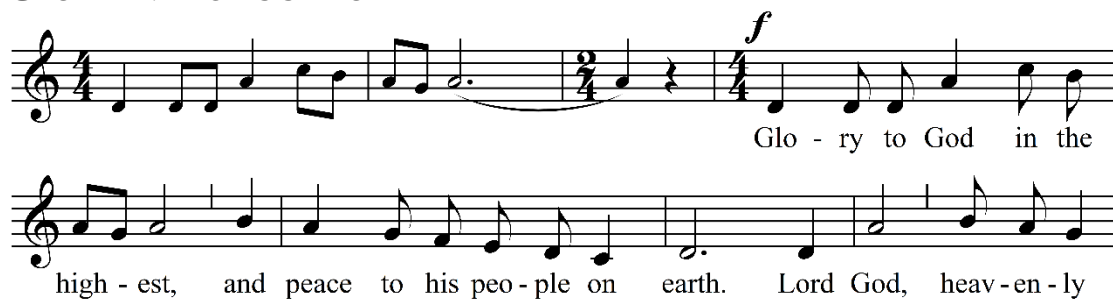
And also with you.

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.

The People and Choir sing:

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO



Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly



king, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we



give you thanks, we praise you for_ your glo - ry.



p
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on



us; you are_ seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther:



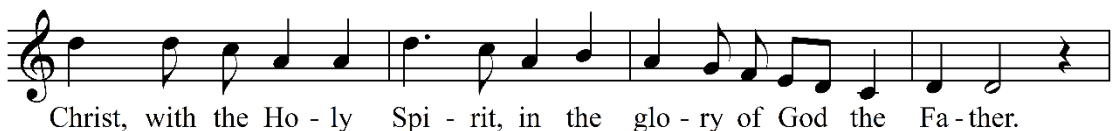
re - ceive our pray'r,___ re - ceive,___ re - ceive our pray'r.



f
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



lone___ are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus



Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



A - - - men. A - - - men._____

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The People sit.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61.10 – 62.3

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 148

The Choir sings the Refrain, which is repeated by the People. The Choir then sings the verses, and all repeat the Refrain where indicated.



Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights. Praise him, all you angels of his; praise him, all his host. Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. *Refrain.*

Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded, and they were created. He made them stand fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away. Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps; fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing his will. *Refrain.*

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and wingèd birds. Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; young men and maidens, old and young together. *Refrain.*

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name only is exalted, his splendour is over earth and heaven. He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah! *Refrain.*

THE EPISTLE

Galatians 4.4-7

A reading from St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians:

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The People stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Cantor sings the Alleluias, which are repeated by the People. The Cantor then sings the verse, and all repeat the Alleluias.



Verse: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. *Repeat Alleluias.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2.22-40

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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

As Simeon and Anna, as the writer of Isaiah 61, let us praise the righteousness brought to all nations and peoples by the renewed presence of our Christ. In a world of change and hope, fear and challenge: in our seeking and finding, for peace and for justice,

Shine as a light for revelation

And glory to all your peoples.

In the common life of our society, in prosperity and need, for those seeking refuge, in words and actions as your church, particularly in _____ and _____ proclaim your goodness,

Shine as a light for revelation

And glory to all your peoples.

Among our friends and with strangers, in our homes and in the market place we give thanks for _____, who give us glimpses of glory,

Shine as a light for revelation

And glory to all your peoples.

In our strengths and victories, in our weakness and death let us hold up to you _____, the sick, the healed, and those who fade from our sight

Shine as a light for revelation

And glory to all your peoples.

In our times of joy and days of sorrow, in all our failures and triumphs we ask comfort and insight, a new life for _____,

Shine as a light for revelation

And glory to all your peoples.

In all your saints in glory _____ and on the day of Christ's coming, his return to your temples,

Shine as a light for revelation

And glory to all your peoples.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose years never fail and whose name is a blessing, let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives, warming our hearts and giving light to our minds that we may pass the coming year with joyful obedience and firm faith through him who is the beginning and the end, Jesus your Son. **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 733

Once in royal David's city

- 1 Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.
- 3 And through all his wondrous childhood
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the mystery of his incarnation was made perfect man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; in him we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory. Therefore with all the angels of heaven, we lift our voices and sing our joyful hymn of praise 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'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.
God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

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

'In the bleak mid-winter,' Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak mid-winter long ago. Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign; in the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. Angels and archangels may have gathered there; cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; but his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshipped the beloved with a kiss. What can I give him, poor as I am? if I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb, if I were a wise man I would do my part, yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

Christina Rossetti (1830-94)

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.

Source of truth and joy, may we who have received the gift of divine life always follow the way of your Son. This we ask 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 741

Good Christian men, rejoice

- 1 Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice,
Give ye heed to what we say:
News! News!
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice,
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Joy! Joy!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath oped the heavenly door,
And man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian men, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice,
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all,
To gain his everlasting hall;
Christ was born to save,
Christ was born to save.

IN DULCI JUBILO
German Melody, 14th cent.

Rev. John M. Neale, 1853

Coffee Hour follows this service in the Parish Hall.

Note – there is no Evensong today.

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.

*The Altar flowers are given to the honour and glory of Almighty God.
Those at the High Altar and the Lady Altar are in memory
of friends and family by Andrew Gray.*

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