

The Holy Eucharist

December 12, 2021

10:00 am

The Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome to St. Thomas!

If you are a guest or visitor, we hope that you will feel warmly greeted and enthusiastically welcomed. If you need any kind of assistance, including a hearing-assistance device, please ask the Greeter at the door.

We provide coloring materials at the back of the church as well as stuffed animals. We also have copies of *The Sunday Paper* and *The Sunday Paper Junior* to help children and their adults understand the day's scripture. Restrooms are located through the back door of the church and in the parish hall.

We encourage you to join us in the liturgy as participation will make your visit much more enjoyable.

Please help us to provide you with more information by filling out one of the cards at the back of the church. You can give the card to a Greeter, the clergy, or drop it in the offering plate; we can send you a Welcome Packet in the mail and contact you by email.

If you have a need or would like to speak with the clergy, please speak to either the Greeter or the clergy. Our clergy are always happy to meet with you to talk about St. Thomas and your own spiritual journey. Whether this is your first Sunday or you have been a member for years, you may contact the Parish Office at 508-824-9595 or at StThomasEpiscopalChurch@comcast.net.

All baptized Christians, including children, are welcome to receive Communion. If you wish a blessing for yourself or your child, just cross your arms at the rail.

We are glad you are here and hope you will feel warmly welcomed!



Prayers

Prayer is a very important part of our life at St. Thomas.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) deliver communion and prayers to the ill and homebound each month. To sign up for this important ministry, please call 508-824-9595.

In the Parish Cycle of Prayer, we pray for five households each week. This is a way for us to reach out in prayer to all our members on a systematic and regular basis. This week we pray for the Sacco, Scherer, Schleinkofer, Schubert, and Eric and Susan Schultz families. Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you.

Prayers for the Homebound and Ill members of our parish include.....Mark M., Sharon DiRubio, Cindy Quinn, Jim Medeiros, Carole Silvia, Virginia Ames, Joe Andrade, Frank Capron, Janice Crepeau, Ken LeGrice, Judy Lincoln, Jay Medeiros, Julie Moore, Wayne Perkins, Jessica Pollard, Louie Raposa, Carol Russell, Sherry, Sandy Trauterman, Jacqui White, and Esther Wilbur.

Prayers for those who serve in the Armed Forces and Overseas... Megan Drewniak, Adam Dyke, William Marsh IV, Donald Souza, Noel Souza, Ryan Vohnoutka, Christopher French, Scott Larson, and Jay Devenger.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer this week we pray for the Parishes of the Alewife Deanery: Christ Church, Cambridge; St. Bartholomew's Church, Cambridge; St. James' Church, Cambridge; St. Peter's Church, Cambridge; the Diocesan Disciplinary Board.

Memorial flowers are given in memory of Henry Youngberg & Bertha Youngberg Richardson; the Ward Family by Family; Ruth Latham by Family; Thomas & Margaret Kelsey & William Sagar by Family; Russell M. Borden by Dave & Judy Cleathero; Ruth Farley by Family; Robert Scully, Sr. by Mrs. Robert Scully; Norman J. Lemaire, Sr. & W/O Douglas J. Lemaire by Christine, David, Lauren & Allison Bisio.

Flowers on the Serviceman's Altar are given in memory of Capt. William Denning by Mrs. Dermot Dalton.

Participants

The Rev. Joseph Mumita, *Celebrant and Preacher*
Ed Seaholm, *Music Director*
Louis Raposa, *Guitarist*

The Word of the Lord

Processional Hymn *Sung by all.*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

The Hymnal 1982 #66

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Opening Acclamation

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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 following is said, all standing.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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

Please be seated.

The First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Leader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 9 The First Song of Isaiah Said responsively.

Surely, it is God who saves me; *

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *

and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *

from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation *We sing verses 1-2 before the Gospel, verses 3-4 after.*

Swing low, sweet chariot

LEVAS 18

Musical notation for the first section of "Swing low, sweet chariot". The music is in common time (2/4), key signature is one flat. The melody is in soprano clef, and the bass line is in bass clef. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with a bass line providing harmonic support.

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, Com-ing for to car - ry me home.

Continuation of the musical notation for "Swing low, sweet chariot". The bass line continues with eighth-note chords.

Fine

Final section of the musical notation for "Swing low, sweet chariot". The melody concludes with a final note, followed by a bass line that ends with a fermata over the last note.

Swing— low, sweet char - i - ot, Com-ing for to car - ry me home.

Continuation of the musical notation for "Swing low, sweet chariot". The bass line continues with eighth-note chords.

Final section of the musical notation for "Swing low, sweet chariot". The melody concludes with a final note, followed by a bass line that ends with a fermata over the last note.

1. I looked o - ver Jor - dan, and what did I see_____
2. If you get_____ there be - fore____ I do,_____
3. The bright - est day that____ ev - er I saw_____
4. I'm some - times up and____ some - times down,_____

Musical notation for the second section of "Swing low, sweet chariot". The music is in common time (2/4), key signature is one flat. The melody is in soprano clef, and the bass line is in bass clef. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with a bass line providing harmonic support.

1. Com-ing for to car - ry me home. A band____ of an - gels
2. Com-ing for to car - ry me home. Tell all____ my friends I'm
3. Com-ing for to car - ry me home. When Je - sus wash'd my
4. Com-ing for to car - ry me home. But still____ my soul feels

Continuation of the musical notation for "Swing low, sweet chariot". The bass line continues with eighth-note chords.

1. com-ing af - ter me, — Com-ing for to car - ry me home. O,
 2. com - ing too, — Com-ing for to car - ry me home. O,
 3. sins a - way, — Com-ing for to car - ry me home. O,
 4. heaven - ly bound, — Com-ing for to car - ry me home. O,

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

All stand and turn to face the Gospel.

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

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Joseph Mumita

Nicene Creed *Said by all, standing.*

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

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 and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped 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.**

Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Alan and Gayle our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant concludes with an absolution.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Peace *All stand.*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Morning Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant says

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians*

The people remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved

Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Wonder, Love, and Praise #858

The musical notation consists of five staves of music in common time (indicated by '4'). The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The first staff begins with a half note followed by a dotted half note. The second staff starts with a quarter note. The third staff begins with a half note. The fourth staff starts with a quarter note. The fifth staff begins with a half note. The lyrics are as follows:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. * Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people kneel.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of 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 Savior 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 before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

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, O 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 may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of 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 him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Celebrant then continues

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread *A period of silence is kept.*

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are invited to the altar to receive communion. You may kneel or stand at the Altar Rail. The bread is received in the open palm, right hand over left. The wine, if desired, may be taken as an individual cup. If you do not wish to receive Communion, but would like a blessing, come forward to the Altar Rail and cross your arms over your chest.

Communion Hymns *Sung by all.*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**Veni, veni, Emmanuel captivum solve Israel,
qui gemit in exsilio, privatus Dei Filio.**

Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel, nascetur pro te Israel!

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that morns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you O Israel!**

**O come, You Rod of Jesse free Your own from satan's tyranny.
From depths of hell Your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you O Israel!**

**O come You Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your Advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you O Israel!**

Rise Up , Jerusalem

Refrain: Rise up, rise up, rise up, rise up Jerusalem!

Sing out, ring out, sing out, sing out, Jerusalem!

Rejoice, the day is near!

Sing all you people for the day is near.

Sing all you people wash away you fear.

Everyone get ready for Salvation is near.

Emmanuel shall come, the long-awaited One.

Emmanuel come to us. *Refrain*

A voice in the desert cries, “Prepare the Way.”

A voice in the desert cries “Today’s the Day”

Everyone get ready for the Lord is on His way.

Emmanuel shall come, the long-awaited One.

Emmanuel, come to us. *Refrain*

Rejoice, O Jerusalem, and start anew.

Rejoice, O Jerusalem, He comes to you.

Everyone get ready for the Lord will light the way.

Emmanuel shall come the long-awaited One.

Emmanuel come to us.

Rise up, rise up, rise up, rise up Jerusalem!

Postcommunion Prayer *After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us
as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing *The Celebrant says the blessing. The people respond Amen.*

Recessional Hymn *Sung by all.*

On Jordan's bank the Baptists cry

The Hymnal 1982 #76

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

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

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

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Please come to the coffee hour in the Parish Hall following the service.

Christmas 2021

Christmas Memorials: Remember loved ones and help support St. Thomas at the same time. *All memorials must be received by the parish office by Thursday, December 16 to be listed in the Christmas worship bulletin.* Forms are in the back of the church.



Christmas Pageant: December 19 during the 10:00 am service. Children of all ages are welcome to participate. Parents, please let Lisa Benedetti or Renee Vitale know as soon as possible if your children wish to participate and their preferred roles.

Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist: December 24 at 6:00 pm

2021 Fundraisers

December: Calendar Raffle

Available in the back of the church. \$10 each, with 7 chances to win in January. Makes a great stocking stuffer!

Ongoing: St. Thomas Wear

Adult sizes range from Small through Extra-Extra-Large.

Short-Sleeve T-Shirts \$15.00 • Long-Sleeve T-Shirts \$20.00

Women's Polo Shirts • \$35.00 • Men's Polo Shirts \$35.00

1/4-Zip Sweatshirts \$40.00 • Hoodies \$40.00

Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

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