

# The Holy Eucharist

December 26, 2021

10:00 am

The First Sunday after Christmas



## 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. 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](mailto: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!***

# The Word of the Lord

Processional Hymn *Sung by all.*

Hark! the herald angels sing

The Hymnal 1982 #87

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!  
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

## 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 sung, all standing.*

## Gloria

S #280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
 King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. 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.

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## **The First Reading**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

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.

*Leader*     **The Word of the Lord.**

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 147:13-21**   *Said responsively.*

<sup>13</sup> Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*  
**praise your God, O Zion;**

<sup>14</sup> For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
**he has blessed your children within you.**

<sup>15</sup> He has established peace on your borders; \*  
**he satisfies you with the finest wheat.**

<sup>16</sup> He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
**and his word runs very swiftly.**

<sup>17</sup> He gives snow like wool; \*  
**he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.**

<sup>18</sup> He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
**who can stand against his cold?**

<sup>19</sup> He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
**he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.**

<sup>20</sup> He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
**his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**

<sup>21</sup> He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
**to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!**

# The Second Reading

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

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.

*Reader*     The Word of the Lord.

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

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

Go, tell it on the mountain

LEVAS 21

Go, tell it on the moun - tain o - ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

The first line of musical notation is in 2/2 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

go, tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born. **Fine**

The second line of musical notation continues in the same 2/2 time and key signature. It also consists of two staves. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The word "Fine" is written above the final measure of the treble staff.

1. While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
 2. The shep - herds feared and trem - bled, when lo! a - bove the earth,  
 3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

1. Be - hold through - out the heav - ens there shown a ho - ly light.\_\_\_\_  
 2. Rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed the Sav - ior's birth.\_\_\_\_  
 3. And God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.\_\_\_\_

D.C.

## 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.**

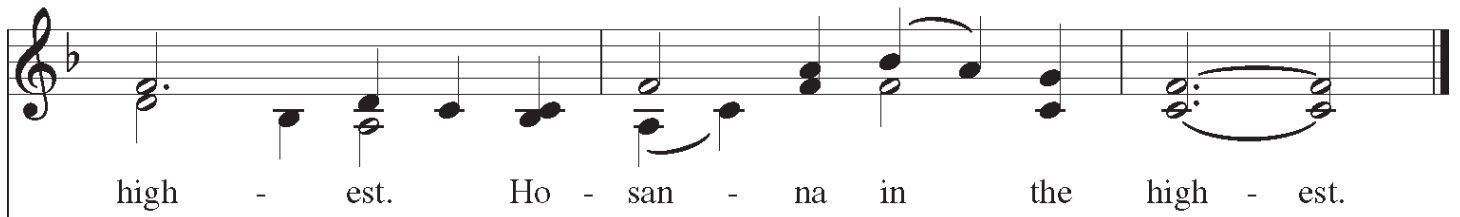
*The Celebrant proceeds*

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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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

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



*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 Hymn *Sung by all.*

Love came down at Christmas

The Hymnal 1982 #84

1 Love came down at Christ-mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;  
2 Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;  
3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,

love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign.  
wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?  
love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The music is in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the treble clef staff.

## Postcommunion Prayer *After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

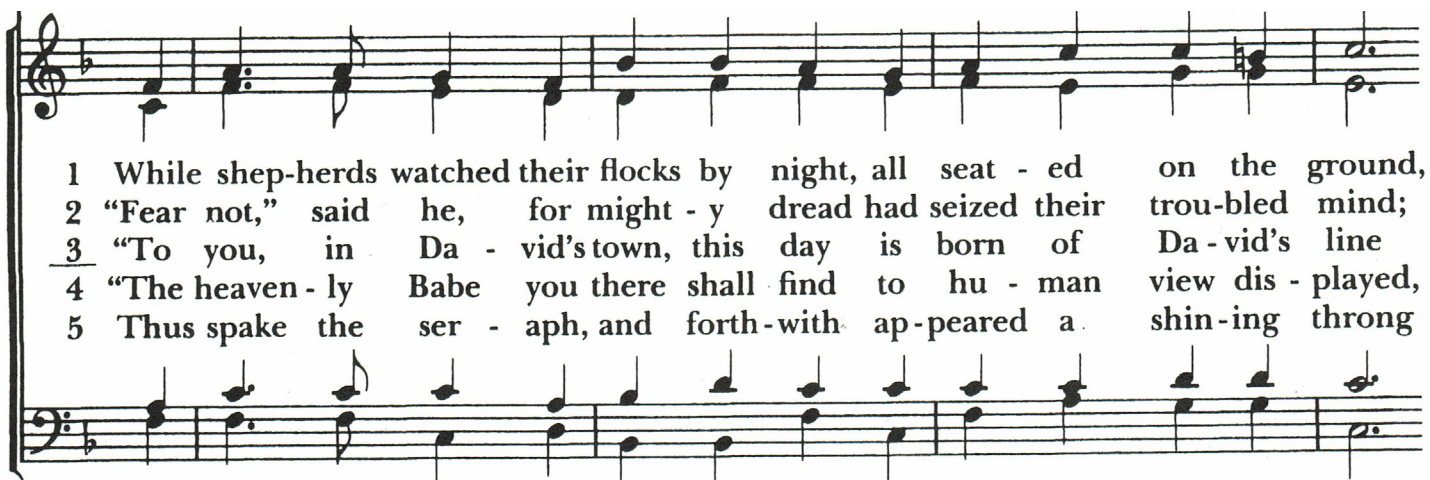
**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us  
as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

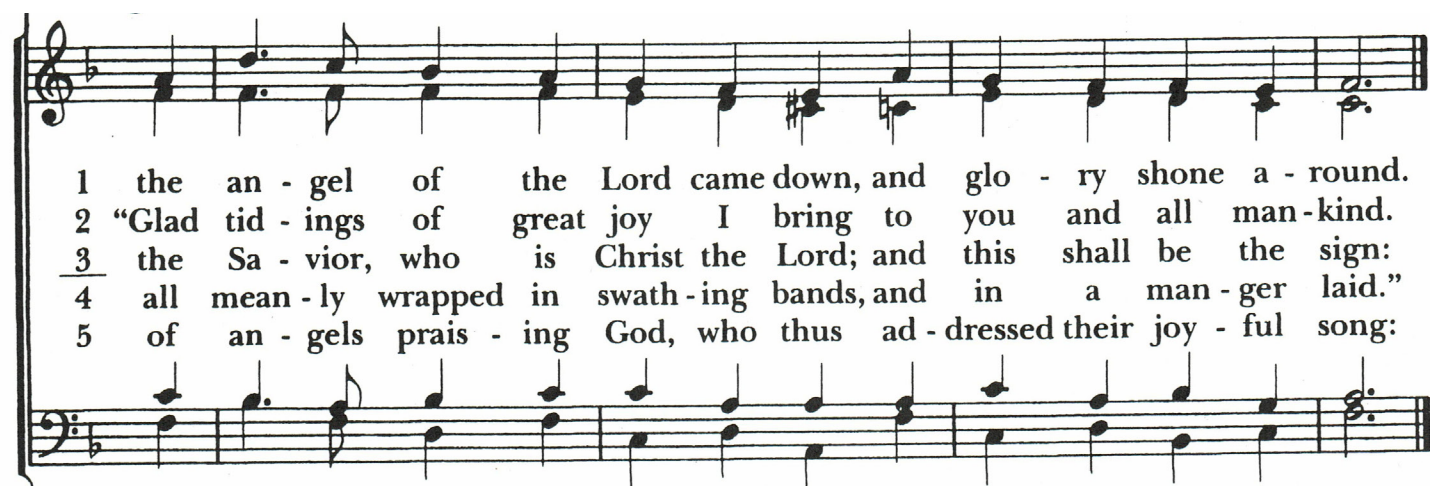
## Recessional Hymn *Sung by all.*

While shepherds watched

The Hymnal 1982 #94



1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed on the ground,  
2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had seized their trou-bled mind;  
3 "To you, in Da - vid's town, this day is born of Da - vid's line  
4 "The heaven - ly Babe you there shall find to hu - man view dis - played,  
5 Thus spake the ser - aph, and forth-with ap - peared a shin - ing thron



1 the an - gel of the Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.  
2 "Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring to you and all man - kind.  
3 the Sa - vior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:  
4 all mean - ly wrapped in swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid."  
5 of an - gels prais - ing God, who thus ad - dressed their joy - ful song:

6 "All glory be to God on high  
and on the earth be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to men  
begin and never cease."

## 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.*

## Prayers

**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 Shearer; Shifflett; Shurtleff; Sierra; and Elizabeth Silvia families. Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you. Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you.

**Prayers for the Homebound and Ill** members of our parish include... Esther Wilbur, Paul Yagman, Luke Yagman, 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.

**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: Church of Our Redeemer, Lexington; St. James' Church, Somerville; Christ Church, Waltham; Congregation of St. Peter at Christ Episcopal Church, Waltham; Church of the Good Shepherd, Watertown.

**Memorial flowers** are given in memory of Joseph Warner; Ruth Latham & Dorothy & Lewis Horton; May McCarty; Edith Waldron by Barbara Waldron; James Meade Dunne by Patricia & Reza Rahman & Family.

## Participants

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

## Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

111 High Street, Taunton, MA 02780 • 508-824-9595  
[www.StThomasTaunton.com](http://www.StThomasTaunton.com) • [StThomasEpiscopalChurch@comcast.net](mailto:StThomasEpiscopalChurch@comcast.net)