

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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Sunday Bible Study at 9:45 a.m. in the church library

Children's Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. in Cooper Hall

Holy Eucharist at 11:00 a.m.

The First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

The Holy Eucharist

Prelude *Sleepers Wake, A Voice Astounds Us* J.S. Bach

57 Entrance Hymn (vs. 1, 2, and 4) ***Lo! he comes with clouds descending*** Helmsley

The people standing, the Celebrant says
Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

The Celebrant may say
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.*

S102 Trisagion
All sing three times.

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day
The Celebrant says to the people: The Lord be with you.
People: ***And also with you.***

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people sit.

The Word of God

The First Lesson Jeremiah 33:14-16

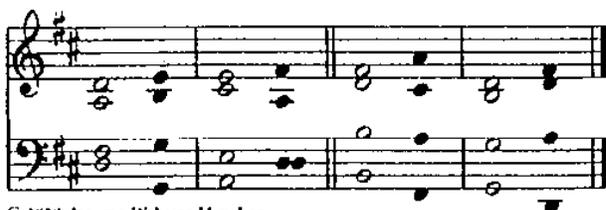
Lector A reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Lector The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-9 (all chant the psalm on the following tone)



© 1956, Jerome Webster Meachen.

- ¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in **you**; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over **me**.
- ² Let none who look to you be put to **shame**; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their **schemes**.

- ³ Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- ⁴ Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- ⁵ Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- ⁶ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- ⁷ Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- ⁸ He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- ⁹ All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

The Epistle 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Lector The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

454 Sequence Hymn (vs. 1, 2, and 4) *Jesus came adored by angels*

Lowry

The Holy Gospel Luke 21:25-36

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

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

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The congregation may stand.

The Nicene Creed

**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.

The Prayers of the People

Form II

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishops, Michael and Rob; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed.

Pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask your prayers for **John Tolbert, Bobbie and Rendol Cobb, Julia Credle, Peggy Parker, Riley Raines, Mary Gillam, Rita Hoggard, Beth Bryant, Daniel Perry, Don Everett, Ray Riddick, Steve Wilson, Fred Spencer, and others known to us.**

Silence

I ask your thanksgiving for our diocesan cycle of prayer: Christ Church and Galilee Mission, Creswell, and St. Luke and St. Anne's, Roper.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Deacon or Celebrant then says:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

**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 neighbors 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.**

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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.**

The Peace

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.** *(Please stay in your pew.)*

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

People, Look East

Bensacon Carol

(Please place your offering in the plate in the narthex as you enter or exit. During the anthem, the altar will be prepared for the Holy Communion.)

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest says

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 our thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, 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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

**S 130 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

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,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

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 Thomas, Mary and Joseph and 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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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**

The Breaking of the Bread *The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said*

W875 Fraction Anthem

Choir: Be known to us Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread

All: **Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

Choir: The bread which we break, alleluia, Is the communion of the body of Christ.

All: **Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

Choir: One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread.

All: **Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.**

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation:

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Ministration of Communion

The bread and the wine will be offered in stations near the chancel steps. After the choir receives communion, the lectern side will receive first. Everyone should use the lectern side of the aisle going to communion; use the pulpit side of the aisle going back to your seat. We are using biodegradable cups for the wine. Please pick up your own cup, step away from the table, and then deposit the cup into the trash can located in the first pew. Please let an usher know if you prefer to have communion brought to you.

Post Communion Prayer

After Communion, all stand and the Celebrant says:

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

***Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.***

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, may bless the people.

73 Dismissal Hymn (vs. 1-4) *The King shall come when morning dawns* St. Stephen

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude ***And the Glory, The Glory Of The Lord*** Handel

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Gina Rascoe.

The Ministers of the Liturgy

Celebrant: The Rev. Bonnie J. Smith

Organist: Tom Parker

Lector: Jane Hall

Acolyte: Winston Warren

Eucharistic Minister: Shirley Cooper

Altar Guild: Della Cherry, Rosanna Rhea, and Cathy Wilson

Hostesses: Ann Cowper, Lisa Rascoe, and Marti Tyler

Counters: Jane Hall and Rosanna Rhea

Usher: Bill Pittman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Crayons and coloring pages are available in the narthex.

The choir will meet for rehearsal on Wednesday, December 1, at 6:00 p.m.

There will be an Advent wreath-making activity on Sunday, December 5, at 10:00 a.m. in Cooper Hall.

The nursery will be available the first three Sundays in December.

From the September 29 diocesan guidelines: "All involved in ministries with children, and particularly with children who are too young to be vaccinated, should be vaccinated, and should continue to practice physical distancing, masking and other recommended protocols."

The annual congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 12.

Monetary donations for church greenery are requested. They can also be made in memory or in thanksgiving.

With wine being offered again for communion, we need additional licensed lay eucharistic ministers. If you are interested in being trained and licensed, please let the priest know.

Stewardship Snippet

Psalm 25:4—Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

The First Sunday of Advent's theme is hope. Christians find our hope in God. We hunger for God and ask for guidance and strength to live fully as steward/disciples.

The 2022 pledge letter from Sr. Warden Lauren Perry has been mailed. Pledge cards are available in the narthex and the chest outside Cooper Hall. Please consider prayerfully what God is calling you to give to St. Thomas' Church in 2022 and return your pledge card by November 30 in the offering plate, mail, or via email to stthomaschurch1@embarqmail.com.

You are invited to participate in discerning diocesan mission priorities. Materials for the proposed mission priorities are located on the diocesan website:

<https://www.diocese-eastcarolina.org/discerning-mission-priorities/>