

## *St. Thomas' Episcopal Church*

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[stthomasbiblestudy.com](http://stthomasbiblestudy.com)

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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 Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

## The Holy Eucharist

**Prelude**

*Pastoral Symphony*

Handel

**59 Entrance Hymn**

***Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding***

Merton

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*  
Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**People** *His mercy endures for ever.*

*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.

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.**

*The people sit.*

## **The Word of God**

### **The First Lesson Zephaniah 3:14-20**

*Lector* A reading from the Book of Zephaniah.

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.

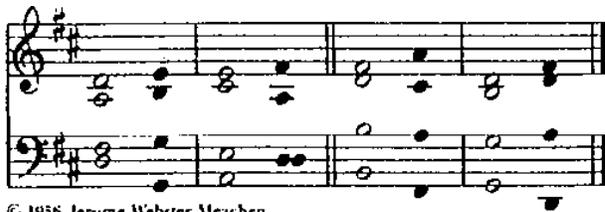
At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah

*(all chant the canticle on the following tone)*



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Surely, it is God who saves me; \*

I will trust in him and not be fraid.

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 Epistle Philippians 4:4-7**

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

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.

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**75 Sequence Hymn      *There's a voice in the wilderness crying***

Ascension

**The Holy Gospel Luke 3:7-18**

*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.**

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.

*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, especially Fred Spencer.

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, Ray Riddick, Steve Wilson, and others known to us.**

*Silence*

I ask your thanksgiving for our diocesan cycle of prayer: St. Peter's by the Sea, Swansboro.

*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**     *Isaiah The Prophet Has Written Of Old*

Samanthra

*(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.*

**72 Dismissal Hymn**     *Hark the glad sound! the savior comes*

Richmond

*The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them*

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings*

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:** Isabella Spruill

**Acolyte:** Sarah Hunter Spruill

**Altar Guild:** Marti Tyler, Agnes Powell, Alice Pittman, and Rosanna Rhea

**Hostesses:** Cathy Wilson, Nancy Joyner, and Clara Blanchard

**Counters:** Rosanna Rhea, Kristin Warren

**Ushers:** Dickie Hall and Steve Trowell

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Crayons and coloring pages are available in the narthex.

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

The annual congregational meeting will be held in the church after worship today. We need to elect 3 delegates to diocesan convention, scheduled for February 11 and 12 in Wilmington. We will also elect 3 new vestry members. Lunch will be served in Cooper Hall after the meeting.

The choir will meet for rehearsal on Wednesday, December 15, at 6:00 p.m.

Next Sunday's worship will be a Service of Advent Lessons and Carols.

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.

Thank you to everyone who has submitted your 2022 pledge. If you have not already done so, please consider prayerfully what God is calling you to give to St. Thomas in 2022. Pledge cards are available in the narthex and on the chest outside Cooper Hall.