



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 Second Sunday after Christmas

January 2, 2022

The Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Go Tell It On The Mountain

arr. Ray

93 Hymn (vs. 1, 2, & 3) *Angels from the realms of glory*

Regent Square

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.*

96 Hymn of Praise *Angels we have heard on high*

Gloria

¹ **Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.**

(Refrain) **Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

² **Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?**

(Refrain)

³ **Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.**

(Refrain)

⁴ **See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.**

(Refrain)

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.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people sit.

The Word of God

The First Lesson [Jeremiah 31:7-14](#)

Lector A reading from the book of Jeremiah.

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;

their life shall become like a watered garden,
 and they shall never languish again.
 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
 and the young men and the old shall be merry.
 I will turn their mourning into joy,
 I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
 I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
 and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
 says the LORD.

Lector The word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God***

Psalm 84:1-8 (*all chant the psalm on the following tone*)



- ¹ How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
 My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
 my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- ² The sparrow has found her a house
 and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
 by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
- ³ Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
 they will always be praising you.
- ⁴ Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
 whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- ⁵ Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
 for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- ⁶ They will climb from height to height, *
 and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- ⁷ LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
 hearken, O God of Jacob.

⁸ Behold our defender, O **God**; *
and look upon the face of your **Anointed**.

The Epistle Ephesians 1:3-6; 15-19a

Lector A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Lector The word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God***

109 Presentation Hymn (vs. 1, 2, and 3) ***The first Nowell***

The First Nowell

The Holy Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

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

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

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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 III

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. For **John Tolbert, Bobbie and Rendol Cobb, Julia Credle, Peggy Parker, Riley Raines, Mary Gillam, Rita Hoggard, Beth Bryant, Daniel Perry, Steve Wilson, Betty Hayden**, and others known to us.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

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.)*

Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem

As With Gladness Men Of Old

Dix

(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 C

In this prayer, the lines in italics are spoken by the People.

The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Celebrant and People

**S 128 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Mathias

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

***We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.***

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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.

And may add:

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.

115 Dismissal Hymn

What child is this

Greensleeves

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Sing Noel, Noel!

arr. Ray

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Pat Ivey.

The Ministers of the Liturgy

Celebrant: The Rev. Jim Horton

Organist: Tom Parker

Lector: Mike Spruill

Acolyte: Annie Hayes Trowell

Altar Guild: Pat Ivey, Kristen Warren, and Harriet Stout

Hostesses: Pat Ivey, Emily Wilson, and Grace DeMajewski

Counters: Lauren Perry, Rosanna Rhea **Ushers:** Norman and Free Perry

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

The nursery, children's Sunday school, and adult Bible study will resume on January 9.