



ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We, the baptized ministers,
declare Christ's Mission for us:
to grow as a Church
in the spiritual strength
of community,
and to care, reach out,
and include all people in Christ's love.

Third Sunday of Advent



Holy Eucharist, Rite II—10:00 AM

December 15, 2024

Welcome to St. Thomas! We are so glad that you are here with us. If you are new to our community, we invite you to fill out a welcome card located in the pew rack in front of you, and either place it in the offering plate or hand it to a priest. We also invite you to stay with us for coffee hour after the service.

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Rejoice in the Lord (inspired by Philippians 4:4)

Audrey Adair

Audrey Adair and Steve Wickman, Recorder

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Jane Frierson

The Lord your God is in your midst, rejoicing over you with gladness, renewing you in love. I will bring you home and restore your fortunes, says the Lord.

In this new light, we give thanks to the Lord.

With joy you will draw waters from the wells of salvation.

We will rejoice in the Lord always.

We light a third candle to reveal the pathway to faithfulness.

[Here light the two blue candles and the pink candle.]

As a covenant people we will seek to live in the joy of the Lord.

Procession

Hark the Glad Sound!

#71 Hymnal 1982

1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior
 2 He comes, the pri - soners to re - lease in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come

prom - ised long: let ev - ery heart pre -
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
 soul to cure; and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

pare a throne, and ev - cry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751). Music: *Bristol*, from *The Whole Booke of Psalmes*, 1621.

The Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

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.**

During the singing of the Trisagion, children from Pre-K to 3rd Grade are invited to follow the crucifer to Children’s Chapel.

Trisagion *Trisagion on Picardy (sung three times)* **Dr. Lori Lind**

Andantino Ho - ly - God, Ho - ly and Migh - ty, Ho - ly Im - mor -

7 tal - One - - Have mer - cy - u - pon - - - us, - Have mer - cy on - - us.

15

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 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 Lessons

The First Lesson

Zephaniah 3:14-20

A reading from the Prophet 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah

Isaiah 12:2-6

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 Lesson

Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from Paul's letter 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn *Baptized in Water, Sealed by the Spirit 1, 2 / 3*

#121 LEVAS II

1. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit, Cleansed by the
2. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit, Dead in the
3. Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit, Marked with the

1. blood of Christ our King: Heirs of sal - va - tion,
2. tomb with Christ our King: One with his ris - ing,
3. sign of Christ our King: Born of one Fa - ther,

1. trust - ing his prom - ise, Faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
2. freed and for - giv - en, Thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
3. we are his child - ren, Joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

The Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

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

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Will Drosos

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

During the season of Advent, our prayers use the word "Maranatha." This is an Aramaic liturgical expression that means, "Our Lord, come!" Aramaic was the language spoken by Jesus.

The prayers of the people is a time for us to come together as we offer our prayers to God. Please kneel as you are able and offer your own prayers in the pauses, either silently or aloud. Let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Come, Lord Jesus."

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus. Come to your Church as Lord and judge. We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Mark, Gayle, and Bud, our Bishops; for Fran, Will, Caroline, Rishabh, Lori, Mary and Nicole, our staff; for Beth, our Seminarian; for the teachers at the Early Learning Center; for the Vestry and Officers of St. Thomas; and those whom you would name [*pause*]. Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom. Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your world as King of the nations. We pray for all those you would name [*pause*]. Before you rulers will stand in silence. Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to the suffering as Savior and comforter. We pray for **Ethan, Vincent, Emily and Dave, Lynn, Betsy, Yusuf, Bill, Barbara, Andrew, Grace, Andrew, Malcolm, Tony, Emily, Betsy and Michael, Melissa, Cassandra, Anne, Andy, Anatoliy, Laura, Jan, Tom, Scott, Vera, Jennifer, Steve, Megan, Steve,** and those whom you would name [*pause*]. Break into our lives, where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you for ever. Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls. We remember those who have died, especially those whom you would name [*pause*]. Give us with all the faithful departed a

share in your victory over evil and death. Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us as the one who taught us how to pray. We remember Susan Gardiner, Emi Gardner, Andy Smith, and all those celebrating birthdays this week, all those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week, and all the blessings you now name [*pause*]. Teach us always to have thankful hearts. Maranatha.

Amen. Come, Lord. Jesus.

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. Lift us up to meet you, that with St. Thomas and all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation. Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The prayers of the people were adapted by The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith from The Church of England's Common Worship resources for Advent.

Together let us pray for St Thomas Church.

Almighty God, by your Spirit the whole body of your Church is governed and sanctified, hear our prayer for St Thomas, build in us a renewed vision of your Church; shape our life according to your will; empower us with the gifts to make us one that together we may grow as a church in the spiritual strength of community and reach out to include all people in Christ's love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Confession and Absolution of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *A time of silence.* Together, let us pray: **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

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

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Following the exchange of peace in the church, peace is exchanged with the congregation on Zoom.

The Offertory

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exulted as head over all. *1 Chronicles 29:11*



It's Easy to Give Electronically to St. Thomas

Scan the QR code, or visit the GIVING page on the St. Thomas website:

<https://stthomasmcleanva.org/giving/donate>.

Offertory Anthem

Prepare Your Hearts

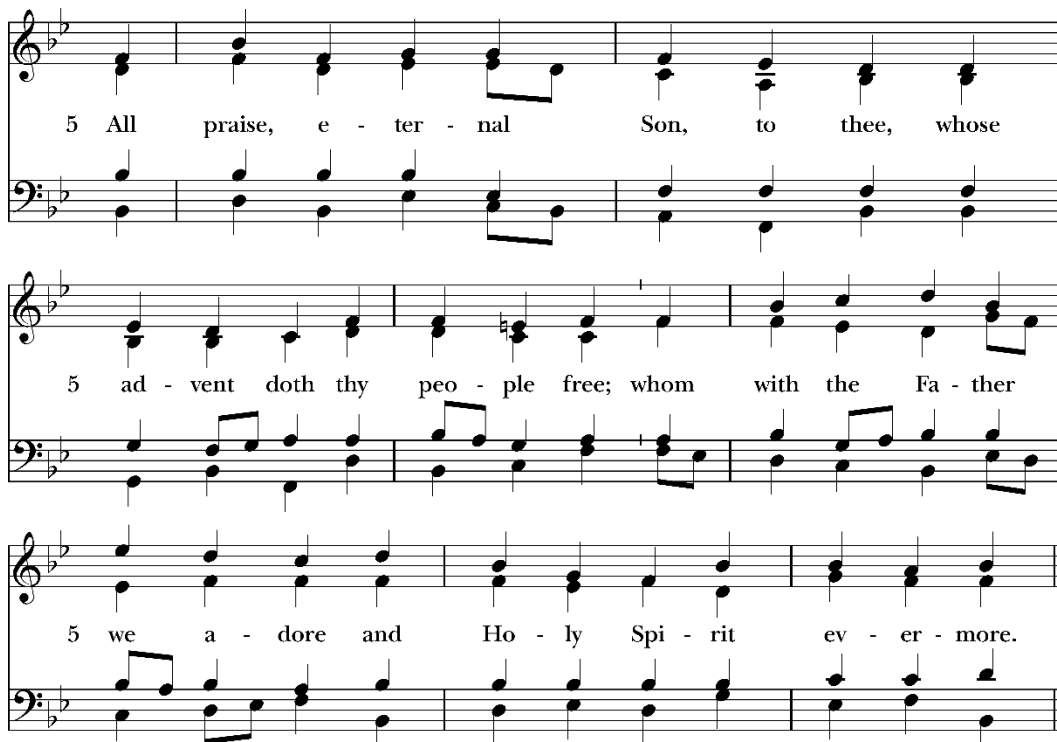
Jacob Handl, edited by Raymond Clark

Prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve him only;
He will deliver you out of the hand of your enemies.

1 Samuel 7:2-4

The Doxology

#76 Hymnal 1982, Verse 5



5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

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 our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where 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:

Sanctus

Sanctus on Picardy

Dr. Lori Lind

f
ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and-might hea-ven and earth are

6
full - of your great glo - ry! Ho-san-na in the high - est ho-san-na in the high - est!

12
comes in the name of the Lord!-- Ho-san-na in the high - est
cresc. *ff*
Bless-ed is He who comes - in the name - of - the-Lord! Ho - san-na in the high - est
in- the - high - est!

17
ff
ho - san - na in the high - est!

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 Thomas 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 pray,

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.

Fraction

Fraction for Advent on Picardy

Dr. Lori Lind

Al - le - lu - ia Al le - lu ia! Al -

9
- le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ our pas-so - ver is sac-ri-ficed for

17 **10**
us, there-fore let us keep the - feast.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a 3/4 time signature. It begins with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span multiple notes. The score is divided into three systems. The first system contains measures 1-8. The second system, starting at measure 9, contains measures 9-16. The third system, starting at measure 17, contains measures 17-24 and ends with a double bar line. A large number '10' is printed above the final measure of the third system.

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.

Gluten free wafers are available upon request. There will be no healing prayers today during the Eucharist.

A note about the distribution of the Eucharist:

We offer both the common cup and a cup for intinction. If you would like to receive by intinction, please go the left side of the altar rail and the presiding priest will dip the bread in the cup for you. If you would like to sip from the common cup, please go to the right side of the altar rail where the bread and the cup will be offered separately.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion on Zoom

While some are receiving communion at church, those worshipping on Zoom say the following prayer:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you were already there, I embrace you and unite myself wholly to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. ~ from St.

Augustine's Prayer Book

Communion Hymn

Surely It Is God Who Saves Me

#679 Hymnal 1982



1 Sure - ly it is God — who saves me; trust - ing him, I shall not
2 Make his deeds — known to the peo - ples; tell out his ex - alt - ed



fear. For the Lord de - fends and shields me and his sav - ing
Name. Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works his



help is near. So re - joice as you draw wa - ter from sal -
might pro - claim. Zi - on, lift your voice in sing - ing; for with



va - tion's liv - ing spring; in the day of your de -
you has come to dwell, in your ve - ry midst, the



liv - erance thank the Lord, his mer - cics sing.
great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944); para. of *The First Song of Isaiah*. Copyright © 1982 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Thomas Merton*, Ray. W. Urwin (b. 1950). Copyright © 1984 Ray W. Urwin.

Post-communion Prayer for a Multi-located Congregation

Let us pray. **God of abundance, we gather as your faithful people near and far. We believe you are present with us as we are united with Christ and one another in prayer and sacrament. We thank you for feeding all of us with your love and for making us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.** *Written by the Rev. Dorota Wright-Pruski, adapted by the Rev. Will Drosos*

The Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his countenance and set you free from all sin. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Announcements

Recessional Hymn

Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

#481 Hymnal 1982



1 Re - joice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore! Mor -
2 The Lord the Sa - vior reigns, the God of truth and love: when
3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven; the
4 Re - joice in glo - rious hope! Our Lord the Judge shall come, and



tals, give thanks and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more.
he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove. Lift
keys of death and hell to Christ the Lord are given.
take his ser - vants up to their c - ter - nal home.



up your heart! lift up your voice! Re-joice! a - gain I say, re -



joice! up your heart! lift up your voice! Re-joice! a -



gain I say, re - joice!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Gopsal*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); arr. John Wilson (1905-1992).
Arrangement, By permission of Oxford University Press.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Improvisations on *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers!*

Worship Participants

Presider	Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith
Preacher	Rev. Will Drosos
Acolyte	Ed Rhodes
Altar Guild	Susan Cowart
Digital Usher	Rev. David Smith
Digital Verger	Walt Lazear
Flower Guild	Mollie Regan
Children's Chapel	Lael Lyons & Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith
Lector / Intercessor	Debby Reed
Eucharistic Minister (EM)	Debby Reed & Louise Armitage
Usher	Becky Ventorini
Fellowship Hour Hosts	Chris Forward

DECEMBER VESTRY PERSON

Melinda Fairchild

meldavid7815@gmail.com

240-274-4741

Questions, comments, concerns, compliments, all welcome.



I hope that everyone who reads this has experienced the true warmth of a St. Thomas welcome. Thank you to everyone who has already pledged to support St. Thomas. We are well on our way to reaching our twin campaign targets (pledges totaling \$410,000 and 70 pledgers). Progress updates can be seen on the hymn boards in church.

There is still time join us and make a pledge to support our church and community.

Pledge cards can be returned in the mail or by dropping in the offertory plate. Even better is to take a photo of your completed card and email that to Rishabh. Entering your own pledge online is not currently working if you try accessing via the internet. However, the ChMS app DOES support online pledging. If you did not receive instructions about pledging via the app please contact Rishabh (parishadmin@stthomasmclean.org). Thank you for your support!

PRAYER FOR ST. THOMAS CHURCH

Almighty God, by your Spirit the whole body of your Church is governed and sanctified. Hear our prayer for St. Thomas: build in us a renewed vision of your Church; shape our life according to your will; empower us with the gifts to make us one, that together we may grow as a church in the spiritual strength of community, and reach out to include all people in Christ's love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MINISTERS

The Baptized Faithful of St. Thomas Episcopal Church
The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, *Presiding Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, *Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, *Assistant Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. James Joseph "Bud" Shand, *Visiting Bishop*

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The Skinny at St. Thomas December 15th, 2024



More information about many of these events can be found on the Announcements page on our website. Scan the QR code to see them.

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Shakespeare Opera Theatre:

La Vie de Bohème

December 14th at 3pm and 7:30pm

December 15th at 4pm

Puccini's soaring melodies mingle with Murger's brilliant storytelling, bringing to life the spirited Bohemians of the Latin Quarter. Perfect for a holiday family outing or whimsical date night. Cabaret seating at our own Café Momus. Savor the best atmosphere and 'pub grub' that Paris has to offer plus traditional holiday treats. All performances are in Hudson Hall at St. Thomas. For details and to get tickets, visit <https://shakespeareoperatheatre.com/>

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ECW Treats and Treasures Sale

Thanks to a core group of ECW volunteers and all of the donors and shoppers, our ECW Treats and Treasures Sale yielded \$2752.50!!! \$72 was donated for purchase of baked goods that were delivered to our area First Responders and we received a generous donation of \$250 from Shakespeare Opera Theatre. And we aren't finished. Following the service today, remaining items will be sold at half price.

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Ladies Lunch Bunch

Monday, December 16th at 11:15 am

Bring lunch or order in advance from your favorite restaurant with an 11:30 delivery.

Audrey Adair's place
2014 Lakebreeze Way
Reston, VA 20191

(Audrey will furnish drinks and dessert)

RSVP (813) 956-7550

Please park on Ridge Heights Road.

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ECW Christmas Book Exchange Party

Wednesday, December 18th at 6:30 pm

ALL women of St. Thomas are invited to attend this fun evening even if you don't normally attend the monthly Book Group meetings. Buffet Italian dinner followed by the book swap. Bring a wrapped book for the exchange (novel or nonfiction) Bring cash for dinner (about \$25) and drinks and/or dessert to share. RSVP by Sunday, December 15th to Susan Cowart, sfcowart@aol.com or 703-893-2229.

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Christmas Flowers Form

We invite all parishioners to share in the beautiful experience of Christmas flowers at St. Thomas through a memorial or thanksgiving gift. You can fill out the Google Form: <https://forms.gle/f3Nd8T1g74SWv8Z28>

Alternatively, you can fill out the physical form that is found in the Narthex. **Please return forms by Wednesday, December 18th.**

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Wow! A St. Thomas Christmas Pageant

Tuesday, December 24th at 5pm

You're invited to be a star (or shepherd, or angel, or maybe even a king) in St. Thomas' annual Christmas Pageant! Visit this [link](#) to sign up and see the script. There will be two rehearsals—the first will be Sunday, Dec. 22nd for the leading roles (Narrator, Mary, Joseph, Angel(s), and Three Wise People) from 12-1:30 PM. The second rehearsal will be for everyone on Tuesday, Dec. 24th at 3 PM before our 5 PM pageant service. We're looking forward to spreading Christmas Joy with you!

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Reminder to Check in on Your 2024 Pledge

With Christmas and the end of the year approaching, if you plan to make year-end payments against your 2024 pledge, make arrangements now. Donations should be received or postmarked by December 31st.

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Coffee Hour Hosts needed Jan / Feb 2025

Coffee hour sign-ups is available via a link to SignUpGenius or by using the QR code, both of which are below. Under our new format, we would like hosts to limit their food offerings to 2-3 items, to include fresh fruit or raw veggies. Also, for those of you who are not comfortable making the coffee, you can ask for someone else to make the coffee. (Just answer yes or no on the sign up). Thank you for continuing this tradition of Fellowship at St. Thomas! If you have any questions or need help signing up, please contact me directly.

Becky Ventrini, Fellowship Hour Coordinator

beckyventorini@gmail.com

Home (703) 288-3166 / Cell: (202) 390-4412

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4EAAAC2CA64-52775851-stthomas>



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This Week

Monday December 16th

11:15 am – Ladies Lunch Bunch

12 noon – Noonday Prayer

Tuesday December 17th

12 noon – Midweek Eucharist

7:30 pm – Blue Christmas

Wednesday December 18th

10 am – Staff Meeting

12 pm – Noonday Prayer

6:30 pm – ECW Book Group Christmas Party

Thursday December 19th

12 pm – Noonday Prayer

7 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Friday December 20th

11 am – Mclean Islamic Center Worship

Sunday December 22nd

8:45 am – Choir Rehearsal

10 am – Worship