

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 14, 2025

Holy Eucharist

10:00 am

Don't Hesitate

If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it. There are plenty of lives and whole towns destroyed or about to be. We are not wise, and not very often kind. And much can never be redeemed. Still, life has some possibility left. Perhaps this is its way of fighting back, that sometimes something happens better than all the riches or power in the world. It could be anything, but very likely you notice it in the instant when love begins. Anyway, that's often the case. Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid of its plenty. Joy is not made to be a crumb.

-Mary Oliver

Childcare for children ages 4 and under is available 9am-1pm in the Ebsworth Life Center.

Access the Childcare Room from the north lobby, nearest the main parking area, just past the elevator.

Follow the signs or please ask an usher to escort you to Room 109.



VOLUNTARY

Ave maris stella, Fugue à 4

Nicolas de Grigny

CALL TO WORSHIP

The pealing of the bells calls us to prayer.

LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Celebrant

Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, and the third candle is JOY.

The candles are lit.

Isaiah 55:12 – You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete.

All Amen.

OPENING HYMN

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry



Hymnal 1982, 76 ©; 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.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

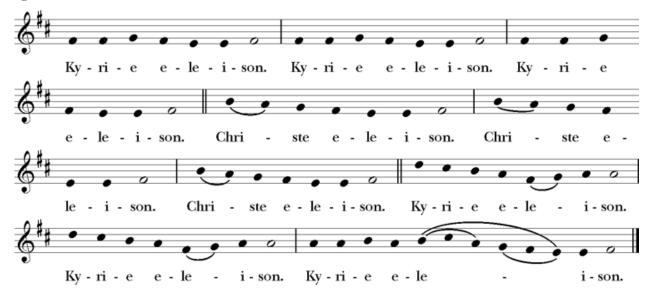
Celebrant

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.

All Amen.

KYRIE

All sing.



Hymnal 1982, S 86 ©; Setting: from New Plainsong, David Hurd (b. 1950)

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All 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.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Lector A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (35:1-10).

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,

and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,

but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,

nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,

and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain joy and gladness,

and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The Song of Mary, Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

Sung by the choir.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him * in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, * he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, * and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, * and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, * for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, * to Abraham and his children for ever.



THE SECOND READING

Lector A reading from the letter of James (5:7-10).

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

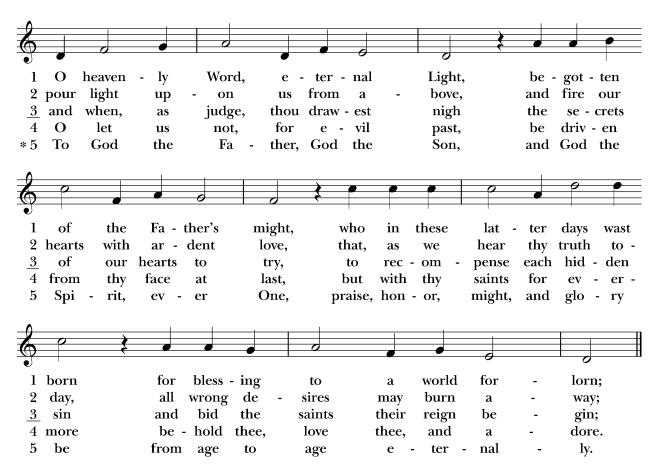
Lector The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

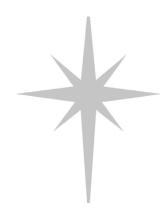
THE SEQUENCE HYMN

O heavenly Word, eternal light

All rise as able and sing.



Hymnal 1982, 64 ©; Words: Latin, ca. 7th cent.; tr. Hymnal 1982 Music: O Heiland, reiss, melody from Rheinfelsisches Deutsches Catholisches Gesangbuch, 1666



THE GOSPEL

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (11:2-11).All Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Elizabeth (Liz) R. Costello

All may be seated.

Silence follows the sermon.



All stand as able and say together.

THE NICENE CREED

All 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

Intercessor

As salvation draws near, let us be awake, alert, and watchful for the One who has come and will come into our lives.

For the Church in every place and context: the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil, and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. Stephen's, Longview, St. Peter's, Seaview, and St. Anne's, Washougal. May we live as children of light and show God's love to those around us.

Hear us as we cry:

All Lord, be with us.

Intercessor For this parish family, St. Thomas Church, that in our worship and work we

may live together in joyful hope and expectation.

Hear us as we cry:

All Lord, be with us.

Intercessor For peace in all troubled places, that God will teach the hearts of all the human

family to turn swords into plows and resources for war into healing and

development.

Hear us as we cry:

All Lord, be with us.

Intercessor For all who are burdened by the cares of life, that they may always be ready to

welcome Christ wherever he reveals himself.

Hear us as we cry:

All Lord, be with us.

Intercessor For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, remembering especially:

All Susan, Alex, Dorothy, Christine, Donna, Barbara, Janet & Tom, Luigi,

Jennifer, Donna, John, Carol, Erik, George, Cam, Mary Ann, Nancy,

Martha, and Catherine & Jim.

Intercessor May they find God's care and compassion as others reach out to them.

Hear us as we cry:

All Lord, be with us.

Intercessor For all those who have died, remembering especially:

All Bryan Elliott, Jean Johnson, Jean Haehl, Jane Leffingwell, and

Christiane Gee Porter.

Intercessor May they rest in peace, and know the fulness of God's presence.

Hear us as we cry:

All Lord, be with us.

Intercessor Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence is held.

Hear us as we cry:

All Lord, be with us.

Celebrant O Incarnate One for whom we long, hear our prayers and keep us ever

watchful, that when Christ our Savior comes, we may welcome him with joy

and gladness. This we ask in his most holy Name.

All Amen.

The Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil (IEAB) is the national Anglican province in Brazil, autonomous since 1965. It comprises nine dioceses plus one missionary district, covering the Amazon, Brasília, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, southern and southwestern Brazil, and more. The IEAB supports worship and pastoral ministry through bishops, priests, deacons and lay ministers; roughly 40% of its clergy are women, and in 2018 the church elected its first female primate. It also runs theological education institutions and social-outreach efforts in urban and rural settings, responding to Brazil's many social challenges.

CONFESSION

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All 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.

Celebrant 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.

All Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

The ministers and the people greet one another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS As stewards of all that God has given us, we share the many ways to be engaged in the life of our community.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

An offering is received to support the mission of St. Thomas. All are invited to make a gift as the plate is passed, using the QR code at right, or at stthomasmedina.org/giving.



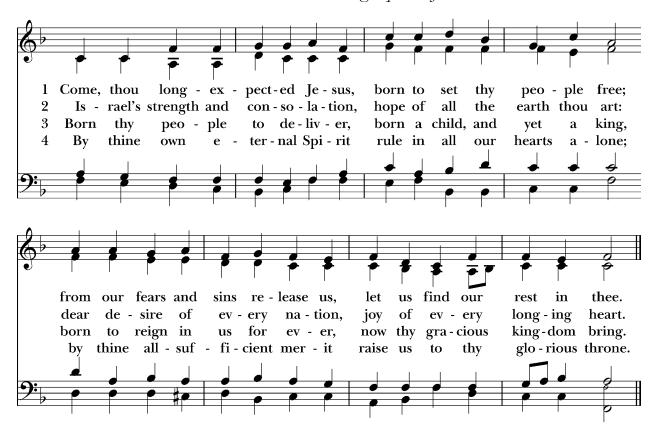
How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace. To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words, Throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

text: Isaiah 52:7, adapted by Julius Schubring and Karl Klingermann

All rise as able and sing.

THE PRESENTATION HYMN

Come, thou long expected Jesus



Hymnal 1982, 66 ©; Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: Stuttgart, melody from Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesange, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

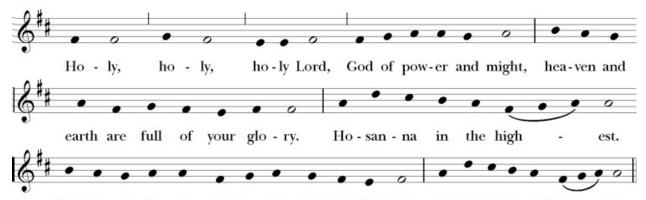
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant

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:

SANCTUS



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Hymnal 1982 S 124 ©; Setting: From New Plainsong, David Hurd (b. 1950)

Celebrant

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."

Celebrant

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,

All We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, St. 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.

All AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant

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

A11

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 bread is broken.

Celebrant

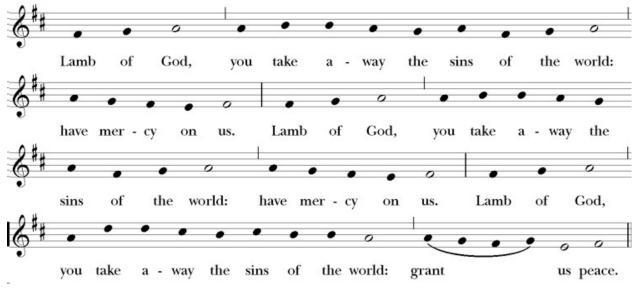
Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

All sing.

AGNUS DEI



Hymnal 1982 S 161 ©; Setting: From New Plainsong, David Hurd (b. 1950)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All may be seated for the time of Communion.

Ushers will guide each row to the altar rail to receive Holy Communion. Please follow their instructions. Intinction (dipping the bread in the wine) is **not** available at this time. If you prefer to receive a blessing (or not to receive bread and/or wine), place your arms across your chest as a sign. Gluten-free Holy Communion wafers are available upon request. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please inform the priest at the altar rail.



COMMUNION HYMN

The desert shall rejoice



- 5. The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose: as the ransomed return to God and come singing back to Zion.
- 6. The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose: unto Zion we come with joy, for our God has come to save us.

Wonder Love and Praise, 722 ©; Words: Gracia Grindal (b. 1943) © 1983 Hope Publishing Co. Music: Sterling, Joy F. Patterson (b. 1931) © 1990 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188



COMMUNION HYMN

There's a voice in the wilderness crying



Hymnal 1982, 75 ©; Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: Ascension, Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988)



All rise as able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant Let us pray.

All

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.

EUCHARISTIC VISITOR BLESSING ** When appropriate.

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that Celebrant those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body

and blood.

We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. All

THE BLESSING

Celebrant May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from

before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and

the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

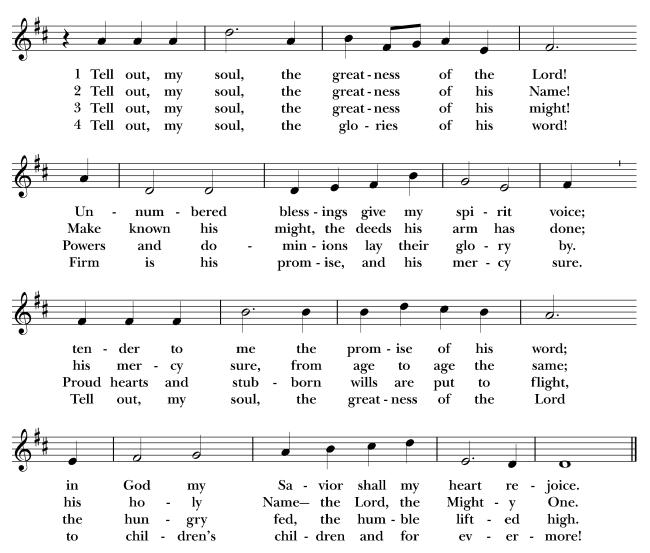
A11 Amen.



CLOSING HYMN

Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord

All sing.



Hymnal 1982, 438 ©; Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)

Music: Woodlands, Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)

Words: Copyright © 1962 by Hope Publishing Company. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY Ave maris stella, Dialogue sur les Grands Jeux Nicolas de Grigny

SERVING THIS DAY

The Rev. Elizabeth (Liz) R. Costello

Rector

The Rev. Edmund Harris

Associate Rector

Dr. Paul Meier

Director of Music & Organist

The St. Thomas Church Choir

VESTRY

Fred Williams · Senior Warden · seniorwarden@stthomasmedina.org

Valerie Wang · Junior Warden · valerie.l.wang@gmail.com

Anne Bentley · *Treasurer* · treasurer@stthomasmedina.org

Doug Weigel · Chancellor · chancellor@stthomasmedina.org

John Sherwood · St. Thomas School Representative · jsherwoodjr@prklaw.com

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