



ST. THOMAS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022, 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST RITE TWO

If you must talk, whisper a prayer to God. Please turn off all cell phones.

The Lighting of the second candle

(the second blue candle is lit by a family member)

These candles are lit by the York family at 8:00
and the Ward family at 10:30.

Reader: We light the second candle of Advent, the Bethlehem Candle.
We light candles to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the world.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Celebrant: Our God and Father, we thank you for this Advent Season
that helps us prepare for the celebration of the coming of the Messiah, your Son and our Lord, at
Christmas. Thank you for sending Jesus to
save us from our sins. *Amen.*

PRELUDE

O come, O come Emmanuel

Robert Lau

HYMN IN PROCESSION

O come, O come Emmanuel (verses 3&4)

Hymn 56

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

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

People *And blessed be his kingdom now and forever.*

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.*

HYMN OF PRAISE

Kyrie Eleison

Hymn S-96

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST READING Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

THE SECOND READING Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

SEQUENCE HYMN

Prepare the way, O Zion

Hymn 65

THE GOSPEL Matthew 3:1-12

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

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of

repentance. Do not presume 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.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Virginia Monroe

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**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 IV

BCP 388

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

We pray especially for Michael our Presiding Bishop, Glenda, our Bishop, and Brian, our Assisting Bishop; Donavan, our new rector, Virginia, Ranie and Jeannie, our clergy; and all bishops, priests, and deacons;

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

We pray for Joe our President, Kay our Governor, and Tommy our Mayor.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

We give thanks for the birthdays of Mark Stucker, Jack Roberts, Shirley Kittle, Griffin Anderson, Nancy Willisson, Fred Bedenbaugh, Gayle Dodson, Kelly Alburl, Paul Heim, Linda Thames, Thad Mauldin, Pam Marshall, Ruth Erwin, and Luke Rock.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

We pray especially for Kevin Alspaugh, Cindy & Tom Atkins, Nancy Dudney Clayton, Darlene Davis, Maureen Drost, Mary Gant, Kathy Heim, Diane Hutson, Ann Knowles, Pamela Lloyd, Larry Meyer, Linda Mixon, Lip Moy, Diane Powell, Dan Seaman, Jean & Jack Simon, Brenda & Horton Smith, Susan Smith, Jim Stilson, Al Stokes, Kay Strobel, Elizabeth Tagg, Susan Waddle, and Jane Williams, let us pray to the Lord.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We ask your prayers for our Colonia Episcopal Students Ligia, Kensy, Wilson, Maycol, Eric M., Seylin, Jennifer, Jeimy, Josselin, Marcos, Jefferson, Jeison, Erick S., Anthony, Kimberlyn, Saira, Alex, Escarleth, Erlin, and Anderson.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

The Confession of Sins

BCP 360

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

**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 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

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

All who seek Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Arr. Mark Beall

St. Thomas Bell Ringers

DOXOLOGY

Verse 3 of Hymn 380

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer C

BCP 369

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 him thanks and praise.*

The Celebrant proceeds

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

People *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.

People *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.

People *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.

People **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:

Sanctus Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymn S-130

**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.

The Celebrant continues

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,

People **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.

People **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 pray,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

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.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymn S-164

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world;
Give us your peace, give us your peace.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION HYMN

Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

Hymn 339

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

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.

THE BLESSING

HYMN IN PROCESSION

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Hymn 76

THE DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

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Worship Team for Sunday, December 4, 2022

Celebrant	The Rev. Ranie Neislar, Associate Priest
Preacher	The Rev. Dr. Virginia Monroe, Interim Rector
Choir Director	Kathy Heim
Organist	Melanie Payne
Bell Choir	Donna Clark, Kathy Branick, Mary Lackey, Dan Miller
8:00 A.M.	
Eucharistic Ministers	Renee' Redfield
Lector	Alexander Steel
Ushers	Bryan Dodson, Rene' Dippolito
Greeters	Evie Wilson
10:30 a.m.	
Eucharistic Ministers	Robert Hardison
Acolytes	Abby Randall, Brady Jones, Vivanne Brown, Walter Brown
Lectors	Amanda Lee, Ann Marie Batista
Ushers	David Hattaway, Todd Jurhs
Greeters	Maureen Drost, Evie Wilson
Vestry on Duty	Linda Lou Hardison, Donna Palumbo
Altar Guild	Gail Perna, Tut Clements, David Hattaway
Flower Guild	Carey McIntyre
Breakfast	Cursillo
Refreshments	Kelly Evans
Advent Wednesday Night	Nancy Teasdale
Supper	

2022 Vestry Members

George Harriman, Senior Warden Ted Evans, Junior Warden
Cynthia Geis, Bob Harwell, Suzanne Mohler, Jenna Pirani
Mike Bestor, Linda Lou Hardison, Elysa Jones, Scott Moore
John Hanson, Donna Palumbo
Wyn Christian, Vestry Clerk Bob Thurber, Parish Treasurer

The Staff of St. Thomas

The Rev. Dr. Virginia Monroe, Interim Rector
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The Rev. Ranie Neislar, Associate Priest
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Melanie Payne, Organist
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Laura Beth Bestor, Children's Coordinator
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The Rev. Jeannie Randall, Youth Coordinator
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Irene Smith, Bookkeeper
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St. Thomas Episcopal Church Contact Information

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The Week at-a-Glance

Sunday, Dec 04	
7:45 AM	Blood Drive Begins
8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist, Nave Nursery Available
9:30 AM	Adult Formation: Advent: <i>The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ</i> by Fleming Rutledge.
10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist, Nave Nursery Available
3:30 PM	Treble Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, Dec 07	
9:30 AM	Bible Study, Conference Rm 1
11:00 AM	Bible Study, Conference Rm 1
4:00 PM	Grief Group, Parlor
5:30 PM	Taize Service, Parish Hall
6:00 PM	Supper, Parish Hall
6:30 PM	Speaker Program
7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsals, Choir Room

Our last Blood Drive of 2022 is today. The need for blood is still critical. Please stop by the bloodmobile between 7:30 AM and noon.

Join us for the Anticipation of Advent Service. Please make plans to join us during this holy time.

**December 7 The Rev. Michael Goldsmith, Rector, Church
of the Nativity, Huntsville**

The schedule is: 5:30 p.m. Taizé Service Nave
6:00 p.m. Supper Parish Hall
6:30 p.m. Program
6:30 p.m. Children's Program

A Festival of Lessons & Carols service will be held at **5:00 PM on Sunday, Dec. 11.**
Please join our choir for this special Christmas event.

Don't forget the **Vestry nominations** are open **TODAY.** Please prayerfully consider if you or someone you know is interested in serving on the vestry. Please remember that in order to be nominated for Vestry a person must be a confirmed Episcopalian, a communicant in good standing, and known to the treasurer. Nomination forms are with the Vestry yellow box in the Narthex.

St. Thomas is participating in **Shellie's Kids Christmas Present Drive.** Shellie's Kids is a local program that provides Christmas gifts to underprivileged kids in the Huntsville area. Any questions please contact Travis Lee at 850-503-5587 or tlee777790@gmail.com.

The Grief Group will meet Wednesday, **Dec. 7 at 4:00 PM** in the parlor. Pat Johnson, LPCS, will facilitate the group. Please join us. For questions contact Pat at alpatjohnson@knology.net.

St. Thomas Night is at **5:00 PM Sunday, December 18.** Supper will follow. The fellowship committee will provide the meat, but we need your favorite sides and/or desserts. This year we are revisiting the story of Christ's birth through the lens of a crowd favorite—**Eek!**

EPISTLE and Bulletin deadline: Tuesday at noon.