



SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE

in the
CITY OF NEW YORK



The Reverend Canon Carl F. Turner, *Rector*

Pew #

Welcome to Saint Thomas Church, a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New York.
Our mission is to worship, love and serve Our Lord Jesus Christ
through the Anglican tradition and our unique choral heritage.

*Please switch off all cellular telephones. Unauthorized recordings and the
taking of photographs during worship at Saint Thomas Church are prohibited.
To contact us, email welcome@SaintThomasChurch.org.*

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 20, 2020

The Penitential Order

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

The Celebrant says

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.**

The Celebrant may read a sentence of scripture.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The People kneel. Silence is kept.

Celebrant 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 Celebrant 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.**

Lord, have mercy. *or*
Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.
Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

People The Lord be with you.
Celebrant **And also with you.**
Let us pray.

Silence is kept. The Celebrant says the Collect.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily
visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may
find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and
reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

The Lesson *2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16*

A reading from the Second Book of Samuel.

Now when David, the king, was settled in his house, and the
Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him,
the king said to the Prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in
a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan
said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind, for the

Lord is with you.” But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: “Go and tell my servant David: ‘Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne, David, shall be established forever.’”

The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 89:1-2, 3-4, 26+28*

The Lector announces the response and all repeat.

R. Forever I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord.

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. **R.**

You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.” **R.**

He shall cry to me, “You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!” Forever I will keep my steadfast love for him, and my covenant with him will stand firm. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation

The People stand.

Lector Alleluia, alleluia.
Here am I, the servant of the Lord:
let it be done to me according to your word.

People **Alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel *Luke 1:26-38*

The Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

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

The Angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The Angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the Angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The Angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.” Then the Angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Homily

Fr. Spencer

The Nicene Creed

The People stand.

**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 I)

The Leader and People pray responsively

After each petition:

Leader: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

After the last petition:

Leader: . . . and all our life, to Christ our God.

People: To you, O Lord our God.

Silence is kept, then the Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

People Amen.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Peace

The People stand. The Celebrant says

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Offertory

*You can leave your offering at the door as you leave or text
Give to 855-938-2085*

The Celebrant takes the paten with the bread, saying

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
for through your goodness
we have received the bread we offer you:
fruit of the earth and work of human hands,
It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Celebrant takes the chalice, saying

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
for through your goodness
we have received the wine we offer you:
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become our spiritual drink.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

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 says the Preface, ending

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

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 People kneel. The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Prayer concludes

...now and for ever.

People AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

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

Celebrant and People

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 is said

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant and People

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

The Invitation to Communion

The Celebrant says

Behold the Lamb of God.
Behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
People Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter
under my roof, but only say the word and my
soul shall be healed.

*The Celebrant and people receive Holy Communion.
Gluten-free hosts will be available to the right of the Celebrant.*

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The People kneel. 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 Blessing

The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.
People And with your spirit.

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. Amen.

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to prepare the way of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

12 p.m. Shrine Prayers (Intercessions) and Mass (Rite II)
Live audio stream webcast continues, and then on-demand.

✠ **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE**
12 p.m. Vigil Eucharist of Christmas (Rite II) (High Altar)
This service will be a live audio streamed, and then available on-demand.

6 p.m. Solemn Eucharist of the Nativity
sung by the Boys of the Saint Thomas Choir

✠ **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY**
10 a.m. Solemn Eucharist of the Nativity
sung by the Gentlemen of the Saint Thomas Choir

12 p.m. Holy Eucharist of the Nativity (Rite II) (High Altar)
This service is in-person only.

✠ **SUNDAY – DECEMBER 27**
The First Sunday after Christmas Day
These services are in-person and the 11 am is video-cast.

9 a.m. Said Mass (Rite II)
11 a.m. Solemn Eucharist (Rite I) with the choir
Video livestreamed and then available on-demand

For our latest news:

www.SaintThomasChurch.org

Contributions for Christmas Flower Memorials are now being received in memory of departed loved ones. The names of the faithful departed in whose memory the church will be adorned will be listed in the Christmas service leaflet on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In order to cover the cost of Christmas flowers, we suggest a minimum donation of \$25. Please send your check, made payable to Saint Thomas Church, and a printed list of those in whose memory you are making your donation to the parish house receptionist. The deadline is **Sunday, December 20.**

This Christmas season, please join *Concerts at Saint Thomas* online for two special archival audio presentations. Our first offering of **Handel's Messiah** features the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys with New York Baroque Incorporated. The second concert features The Boys of the Saint Thomas Choir's performance of **Britten's A Ceremony of Carols** from 2019. Both of these archival audio presentations are now available On-demand through Christmas at www.saintthomaschurch.org/music/concerts. While we cannot be together in person for these annual events, we hope you will enjoy listening to them this Christmas.

The Bookstore and Gift Shop is selling an inscribed Saint Thomas Church, 3-Ply Face Mask for \$8 plus tax and shipping where applicable. The mask may be purchased by sending an email to the Bookstore@SaintThomasChurch.org. Please be sure to include your full name, address, telephone number and mask request. We will contact you at the number provided to process your payment.