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SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE

in the  
CITY OF NEW YORK



The Reverend Canon Carl F. Turner, Rector

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](mailto:welcome@SaintThomasChurch.org).*

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2023

SAID EUCHARIST – 9 a.m.

**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*

The sun of righteousness has dawned  
with healing in his wings.  
Let us come to the light of Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*The People remain standing. 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.	<i>or</i>	Kyrie eleison.
<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>		<b>Kyrie eleison.</b>

Christ, have mercy.		Christe eleison.
<b>Christ, have mercy.</b>		<b>Christe eleison.</b>

Lord, have mercy.		Kyrie eleison.
<b>Lord, have mercy.</b>		<b>Kyrie eleison.</b>

*The Gloria in Excelsis is said*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## 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.

*Silence is kept. The Celebrant says the Collect.*

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The People sit.*

## The Liturgy of the Word

### The Lesson

*Isaiah 62:11-12*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called 'The Holy People,' 'The Redeemed of the Lord'; and you shall be called 'Sought Out,' 'A City Not Forsaken.'

The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12*

*The Lector announces the psalm response and all repeat.*

**R. A light will shine on us this day:**

**The Lord is born for us.**

The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice;  
let the many coastlands be glad!  
Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;  
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. **R.**

The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,  
before the Lord of all the earth.  
The heavens proclaim his righteousness;  
and all the peoples behold his glory. **R.**

Light dawns for the righteous,  
and joy for the upright in heart.  
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,  
and give thanks to his holy name! **R.**

## The Second Lesson

*Titus 3:4-7*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Titus.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*The People stand.*

*Lector* Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to God in the highest heaven;  
peace on earth to people of good will.

*People* **Alleluia.**

## The Holy Gospel

*Luke 2:15-20*

*The Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

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

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

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## The Homily

## 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 People remain standing.*

*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

*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 stand or 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 are available; please ask the priest.*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*The People stand. 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 Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace;  
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 the light and the peace of Christ.  
*People* Thanks be to God.