



**Welcome to St Thomas'!** If this is your first time worshiping with us, we extend the hospitality of Christ and this community to you. Everything you need to participate in the service may be found in this booklet or in the blue hymnal in the rack in front of you

If our order and style of service is unfamiliar to you, don't worry. Just "go with the flow." God knows your heart. Take delight in God's glory, and let your heart be moved by the words and actions of the liturgy. It will become familiar in time.

# The Holy Eucharist

December 9, 2018

## Liturgy of the Word

**Organ Prelude** *Savior of the nations, come!*

J.S. Bach

**Processional Hymn** *Blessed be the God of Israel*  
(tune: *All glory, laud and honor*)

**Hymnal 444**

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, holy and living One.  
*People* You come to your people and set them free.

*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 following is sung, all standing:*

1. *Choir Men*
2. *Full Choir*
3. *Congregation and Choir*

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the Treble clef, with the Bass clef providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us." The score consists of two systems of music. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with clear phrasing.

## 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.*

## First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

*All sit.*

A reading from the prophet Malachi.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight--indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            Thanks be to God.

**Canticle:** *Benedictus Dominus Deus* (read responsively by full verse,  
beginning with the lector)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Luke 1: 68-79*

## Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

**Sequence Hymn**   *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry*

**Hymnal 76**

**Holy Gospel**

Luke 3:1-6

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

*People*            Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

*Deacon*           The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*            Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**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**

*The Celebrant or Deacon bids the people to prayer, saying*

God of the watching, God of the waiting: Be present with us.

*The appointed minister leads the people in prayer, saying*

*Leader* God of the watching, thank you for the symbol of the Advent wreath, whose circle reminds us that your mercy is endless, with no beginning or end. Help us to set our minds on things eternal.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* God of the waiting, we pray for all in authority. We look forward to the day when the nations of the world walk in the light, and your peace is experienced by all.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* God of the watching, we pray for this city, that we may be a community of hope and light in this world.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* God of the waiting, we pray for all the people of your church, that you may strengthen them for the ministry you have set before them.

*(Here the Prayer Leader adds intercessions from the Parish Prayer Calendar)*

God of the watching, God of the waiting.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* God of the watching, we pray for the sick, the friendless, and the needy, that they may experience your healing presence.

I ask your prayers especially for...

*(Please add your own prayers for those in need)*

God of the watching, God of the waiting.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* God of the watching, we pray for all who have died, especially those we name before you now:

*(Please add your own prayers for those who have died)*

God of the watching, God of the waiting.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* God of the waiting, we are challenged in our worship to set our hearts and minds on the here and now, and to remember and be thankful for what matters.

*(Please add your own prayers of thanksgiving)*

God of the watching, God of the waiting,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* God of the waiting, we pray for all those who are watching and waiting for a dream to be born, that you may give them patience of heart and mind and the wisdom to see your presence.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*The Deacon or Celebrant concludes*

Hasten, O God, the coming of your kingdom, and grant that we, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his advent in glorious majesty. **Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

*The Deacon or Celebrant then says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All may kneel or remain standing. Silence may follow.*

*Minister 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 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.*

## **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

*The children will gather at the chancel steps to have a short conversation with the Priest and then they will lead us in the Lighting of the Advent Wreath.*

**Children Proclaim:** We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Peace.  
May the visitation of your Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready for the coming of Jesus,  
our hope, our joy and our peace.

**Congregation Responds:** O come, O come, Emmanuel.

## **The Peace**

*The children initiate the Peace, saying*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

*All greet one another in the name of Christ.*

## **The Holy Communion**

**Offertory** *Prepare the royal highway*

Traditional Swedish Tune

*arr. B. Ellingboe*

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.*

**Doxology**

*(inside front cover of hymnal)*

**The Great Thanksgiving** *Eucharistic Prayer B*

*The people remain standing.*

*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 our thanks and praise.

*The Celebrant proceeds*

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:

*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

**Hymnal S 130**

*The Celebrant continues*

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,

*Celebrant and People*

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

*The Celebrant continues*

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 [\_\_\_\_\_, 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.*

*The Celebrant continues*

As our Savior Christ has taught us,  
we are bold to say

*People and Celebrant*

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.

## Breaking of the Bread

*A period of silence is kept.*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the



world: grant \_\_\_\_\_ us peace.

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All who come in faith are welcome at the Lord's table.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available at all Communion services. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please advise the person administering the consecrated Bread.*

*Unfermented grape juice is also offered at all liturgies. Begun as an act of ecumenical sharing, our Bishop has given permission for the use of grape juice in addition to wine whenever we celebrate the Holy Communion at St. Thomas'. The minister with the crystal chalice of unfermented grape juice will be situated at the floor-level station by the lectern, alongside the minister with the silver chalice of wine.*

**Communion Hymn** 'Sleepers, wake!' A voice astounds is

**Hymnal 61**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

*Let us pray.*

*Celebrant and People*

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.

### **Blessing**

**Recessional Hymn** *Watchman, tell us of the night*

**Hymnal 640**

### **Dismissal**

*Deacon*            Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People*            Thanks be to God.

**Organ Postlude** *Savior of the nations, come!*

J.S. Bach

## **Altar Flowers**

Given to the Glory of God  
in thanksgiving for  
their children and grandchildren  
by Brad and Jane Smith

## **Assisting in Worship**

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Lectors:          | Greg Toth, Harry Merryman                                    |
| Prayers:          | Ellen McCauley   |
| Chalice:          | Marlene Allen, Dick Schieck,<br>Ann Tamburrini, Dawn Wilkins |
| Crucifer:         | Matthew Sowden   |
| Torchbearers:     | Mike Cougler, Tony Ennis                                     |
| Greeters/Ushers   | Brian Kruschwitz, Lisa Hand<br>Tim Mabb, Nick Tamburrini     |
| VPOD:             | Harry Merryman   |
| Hospitality Hour: | Peter & Connie Barker  |

## PARISH PRAYER CALENDAR

***In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, the Diocesan Prayer Cycle and our Parish Prayer Calendar, your intercessions are requested for:*** Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Prince, our Bishop; our Diocesan Staff; St. Thomas' Church, Bath; the clergy, staff and vestry of St. Thomas'.

***Your prayers are requested for:***

***Those who are sick or in special need of our prayers:*** Phil Baader, brother of Trudy Turberg; Jan Beam, grandmother of Joel Thompson; Steven Betts, cousin of Janet Sowden; Katrina Bosse, granddaughter of Sharon Marriott; Pam Cheetham, sister of Janet Sowden; Lawrence and Corine Coon, friends of Sue Lennon; Gary Dunbar, brother of Greg Dunbar; Shelley Fitzgerald, friend of Carolyn Mabb; Jere Fletcher; John Freeman, friend of the Barkers; Dale Gerstner, friend of Marilyn Waddell; Heather Gray; Tim Hay, cousin of Richard Yates; Denise Hoose, mother of Jonathan Hoose; Evelyn Kirst, sister of Sue Lennon; Frank Mandery, friend of Marilyn Waddell; Michael McQuinn; Dorothy Salva, grandmother of Beverly Overacker; Gary Salva, father of Beverly Overacker; Sam Space, friend of the Overackers; Kenneth Taylor, friend of the Tuke Family; Lauren Trevis, friend of the Mabbs; Jean Troutner; Jacqueline Williams, mother of Suzanne Lanyak, Mark Wolski, brother-in-law of Kris Wolski.

***Those in continuing need of our prayers:*** Marlene Allen, Ruth Bowman, Miggs Coleman, Amy Deck, Sloane Elker, Marion Fey, Natalie Findlay, Alison Fletcher, Ginny Fogle, Mark Garner, Art and Maureen Holtzman, Kim Klein, Connie Kless, Marlene Koster, Kyleigh Keukelaar, Gretchen Lane, Gloria Levesque, Marlene Liebmann, Margy Mayk, Ann McNabb, Roxanne McNamara, Jim McLaughlin, Fran Moslow, Lisa Overacker, Alfie Paasewe, Abraham Philip; Craig Powell, Betty Rouleau, Steven Smith, Helen Stamas, Wendy Swift, Tacara Terry, Gertie Wiegert.

***Those serving in the armed forces:*** Joey Andrews, Kyle Cicora, Evan Davies, Tom Dimiero, Jared Hicks, Justin Illes, Adrian Jope, Andrew Kless, Bryant Locke, Cameron Mabb, Darren Mitcham, Salim Rollog.

***Those who have died:*** Jessica Darrifaw Vasbinder, friend of Andrea Stridiron

*Every year the church is filled with fragrant greens  
and beautiful flowers for Christmas, thanks to  
the generous donations of parishioners and friends.*

*Add your contribution online via STC or sign up on the charts  
in the lower hall and on the bulletin board by the choir room.  
Donations in all amounts are welcome.*

*The deadline for names to be printed  
in the Christmas Eve service bulletins  
is Monday, December 17.*

Large-print copies of the Prayer Book and Hymnal are available in the Highland Avenue narthex.

A hearing loop is in operation during the 10:00 A.M. service. Those persons with difficulty hearing can activate the "T" switch on their hearing aids, or request a portable receiver from an usher.

A wheelchair-accessible restroom is located in the north porch at the rear of the nave.

## **Our Mission**

*St. Thomas' Episcopal Church is a welcoming spiritual community  
dedicated to following the teachings of Christ Jesus.  
We grow through learning, celebrate joyful worship,  
and serve our neighbors.*

## **Our Vision**

*We open hearts and minds to create community in Christ.*

## **WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE**

HOLY EUCHARIST

Saturday - 5:00 P.M.

Sunday - 8:00 & 10:00 A.M.

Wednesday - 12:00 Noon

## **St. Thomas' Episcopal Church**

2000 Highland Avenue  
Rochester, New York 14618

The Most Rev'd Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop

The Rt. Rev'd Dr. Prince G. Singh, Bishop

The Rev'd Leslie S. Burkardt, Rector

*leslie@stthomasrochester.org*

The Rev'd Christa Moore-Levesque, Associate Rector for Children & Youth

*christa@stthomasrochester.org*

The Rev'd Andrea Stridiron, Deacon

Dr. Robert M. Ferris, Organist and Choirmaster

*rob@stthomasrochester.org*

Kathleen Merritt, Office Manager

*kathleen@stthomasrochester.org*

442-3544 - Church Office      473-4216 – Fax

**stthomasrochester.org**