

Saint Thomas's Church

The Second Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Sung Mass at 9:30 am



Saint John the Baptist in the Wilderness, Guido Reni, 1637
Dulwich Picture Gallery, London

Saint Thomas's Anglican Church

383 Huron Street,

Toronto, Ontario M5S 2G5

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Welcome!

On behalf of everyone who claims St. Thomas's as their spiritual home, we are happy you are with us, whether in person or via our livestream. If you are a visitor or newcomer, or even a longtime parishioner, but find it awkward or difficult to stand or kneel at the places indicated, remaining seated is perfectly acceptable. Please assume the posture most conducive to prayer throughout this service, or simply observe.

St. Thomas's has many peculiar ways that we cherish and are happy to share. If there seems to be no rhyme or reason for something, there might not be! But feel free to ask anyone after the service; it usually makes for entertaining conversation.

You are not obliged to engage any of us in conversation, though you should know that pretty much everyone here is happy to do so when we gather. You can always slip away without any judgement, though we hope you will avail yourself of **coffee hour in the parish hall** following this service, if possible. We seem to have a lot of introverts here, so we understand the energy it takes to put yourself out there. Even if you're a raging extrovert, the experience of church can be disorienting. Relax and be yourself. Believe it or not, whether from near or far, God has led you here today. We want to honour what God is up to in your life, and we are here for you as you (re-) discover the joy and the challenge of the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Fr. Nathan Humphrey, Rector

Low gluten communion hosts are available upon request. When you approach for communion, indicate to the priest that you require a low gluten host.



St. Thomas's relies on the generosity of those whose offerings reflect gratitude for God's own generosity to us. To make a secure gift online, simply scan the QR code with your phone's camera app, or visit qrco.de/smokytoms. Scroll to the bottom of the webpage to fill out the online form. **We no longer pass the plate, so if you want to give the old-fashioned way, an alms basin is available in the narthex.**

Celebrant & Homilist: Fr. Nathan Humphrey
Reader: Georgiana Beal
Organist & Choirmaster: Elizabeth Anderson
Assistant Organist & Choirmaster: Manuel Piazza

MUSIC OF THE MASS

New Plainsong Mass, David Hurd (b. 1950)

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

And also with you.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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 KYRIE

Cantor *All*
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Cantor *All*
Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Cantor *All*
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The People sit.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40.1-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 85.1-2, 8-13

The Choir sings the Refrain, which is repeated by the People. The Choir then sings the verses, and all repeat the Refrain where indicated.

Truth shall spring up from the earth, and
righ - teous - ness shall look down from heaven.

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, you have re-stored the good fortune of Jacob. You have for-given the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins. *Refrain*

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him. Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. *Refrain*

Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven. *Refrain*

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness shall go be-fore him, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet. *Refrain*

THE EPISTLE

2 Peter 3.8-15a

A reading from the second Epistle of Saint Peter.

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and

dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The People stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Cantor sings the Alleluias, which are repeated by the People. The Cantor then sings the verse, and all repeat the Alleluias.



Verse: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. *Repeat Alleluias.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1.1-8

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight”’, John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his

waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The People sit.

SERMON

After the Sermon, the People remain seated for a period of silent reflection, standing when the Celebrant stands.

THE NICENE CREED

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

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: *(Bow.)* by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. *(Rise.)*

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. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped 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 People remain standing.

INTERCESSIONS

Sisters and brothers, as we await the glorious coming of the Christ, let us pray for the needs of the church, our community, and the world.

O Wisdom from the mouth of God, aid your church in showing your love to this world; for Andrew our bishop, for Riscylla and Kevin his suffragans, for _____ according to the Anglican cycle of prayer, for _____ according to the Diocesan cycle of prayer, and for _____ according to the Parish cycle of prayer; come and teach us the way of prudence.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

O Adonai and leader of the nations, guide and direct our governors and leaders; for Charles, King of Canada and for all those in civil authority in our nation, province, and city; aid them in administering justice and peace in our world.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign among the nations; grant peace to our world, particularly in Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, Sudan, and all those who live in the shadow of war; for all places suffering from unrest, calamity, or disaster; deliver this world and delay no longer.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

O Key of David who opens the way for all people; give comfort to the poor and all those in need; for the guests and volunteers of the Friday Food Ministry and for all those who use drop-in programs, shelters, and food banks; lead us all to serve the needs of our neighbours, loving them as ourselves.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and the source of all blessings; we give thanks for the people, neighbours, and friends of this parish, and especially for all with us in person or via livestream, and for newcomers and visitors this morning, both near and far. [We give thanks especially on this day for _____.] And for all other thanksgivings we now name, silently or aloud _____. Come enlighten us to your blessings upon our lives.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

O King of the nations and our desire for strength, give healing and peace to the sick_____, and for all those suffering in mind, body, or estate; for elders, for prisoners, for refugees and migrants, for the oppressed, for those who mourn, and for all others for whom our prayers are asked_____. Come and save us from all ailment and peril.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, guide the souls of the departed to their final rest, especially for _____ who have died in recent days, and those whose year's mind is at this time _____. Come and save us from the shadow of death, and may the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, hear our humble prayers that we may serve you in holiness and faith and give voice to your presence among us until the day of your coming of again in glory, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

INVITATION, CONFESSION, & ABSOLUTION

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

The People bow or kneel. Silence is kept.

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 neighbours 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.

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All standing, the Celebrant bids the Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The People remain standing for the hymn during the Offertory.

OFFERTORY HYMN 67

On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry



1. On Jor - dan's bank, the bap - tist's cry an - noun - ces that the Lord is nigh;
2. Thercleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; Makestraight the way for God with - in;
3. For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, Our re - fuge and our great re - ward;
4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, And bid the fal - len sin - ner stand;
5. All praise, e - ter - nal son, to thee whose Ad - vent sets thy peo - ple free,



A - wake and hear - ken, for he brings glad ti - dings of the king of kings.
Pre - pare we in our hearts a home, where such a migh - ty guest may come.
With - out thy grace we waste a - way, like flowers that wi - ther and de - cay.
Shine forth, and let thy light re - store Earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
Whom with the Fa - ther we a - dore and Ho - ly Ghost for e - ver - more.

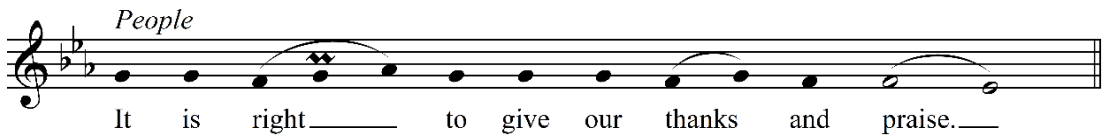
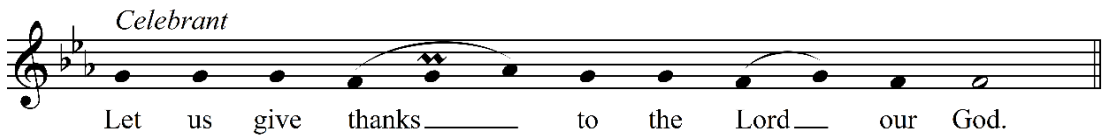
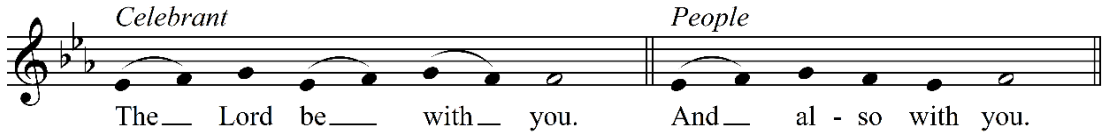
WINCHESTER NEW
Musicalisch Handbuch, Hamburg, 1690 by Rev. John Chandler

Tr. (1837) from C. Coffin (1736)

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God our strength, we are nothing without you. Receive all we offer you this day as you sustain us with your mercy; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

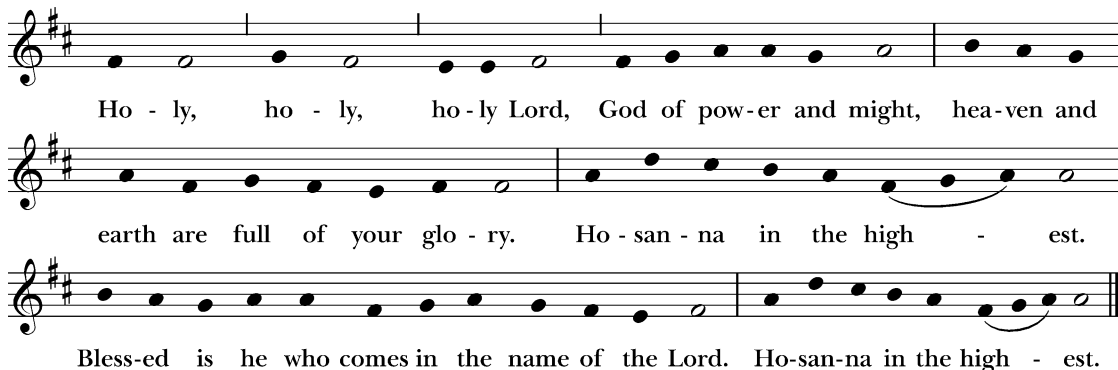
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may 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.

The People and Choir sing,

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The People remain standing.

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling 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 Saviour 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 he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, 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, Father, according to his command:

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, 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, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all 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 whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Music by McNeil Robinson

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff is for the Celebrant and the second for the People. The lyrics are: "As our Sa - viour taught us, let us pray, Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name, your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread, For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,"

and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er,
and the glo - ry are__ yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.
Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

HOLY COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

The People and Choir sing:

AGNUS DEI

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: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

All baptized Christians are warmly invited to receive Communion as directed by the Sidespeople. Please receive the host (bread) on the right palm of the hand (supported underneath by the left palm). To receive the cup, gently guide with your hand the base of the chalice. Please refrain from intinction (dipping the host into the cup), as diocesan policy does not allow us to do so.

Low gluten communion hosts are available upon request. When you approach for communion indicate to the priest that you require a low gluten host.

If you have not been baptized or are not receiving communion, please cross your arms over your chest in the shape of an X to receive a blessing. If you are not receiving from the cup, please pause to reverence it with a bow before returning to your pew.

If you wish to inquire about baptism for yourself or your child, we would love to speak with you!

MOTET

Once he came in blessing, Michael Weisse (c. 1488-1534)

Once He came in blessing, all our ills redressing; came in likeness lowly, son of God most holy; bore the cross to save us, hope and freedom gave us. Still He comes within us, still His voice would win us from the sins that hurt us; would to truth convert us, not in torment hold us, but in love enfold us. Thus, if thou canst name Him, not ashamed to claim Him, but wilt trust Him boldly, nor dost love Him coldly, he will then receive thee, heal thee, and forgive thee. He who thus endureth bright reward secureth; come, then, O Lord Jesus, from our sins release us; let us here confess thee till in heaven we bless thee.

COMMUNION DEVOTIONS

An Act of Spiritual Communion, which may be prayed silently by those not receiving:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I humbly ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen.

ANIMA CHRISTI

The following devotion may be prayed silently by communicants and non-communicants.

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesu, hear me.
Within thy wounds hide me.
Suffer me not to be separated from thee.
From the malicious enemy defend me.
In the hour of my death call me.
And bid me come to thee,
That with thy saints I may praise thee,
For ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Faithful God, we thank you for feeding us with this heavenly banquet. Help us always to hear the prophet's call to turn our hearts to you; in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

DOXOLOGY

Glory to God,
whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CONCLUDING HYMN 548

Come, thou long-expected Jesus



1. Come, thou long - ex - pec - ted Je - sus, Born to set thy peo - ple free;
2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth thou art;
3. Born thy peo - ple to de - li - ver; Born a child and yet a king;
4. By thine own e - ter - nal spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone:



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in thee.
Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
Born to reign in us for ev - er; Now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
By thine all - suf - fi - cient me - rit raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

STUTTGART

Adapted from a melody in Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

Rev. Charles Wesley, 1744

Coffee Hour follows this service in the Parish Hall.

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DAILY OFFICE SCHEDULE

*Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer services generally last 15-25 minutes
and are a great way to begin and/or end the day!*

MORNING PRAYER

8:30 AM, MONDAY-FRIDAY

9:30 AM, SATURDAY

7:30 AM, SUNDAY

EVENING PRAYER

5:00 PM, MONDAY-FRIDAY

5:00 PM SUNDAY (CHORAL EVENSONG)

Choral Evensong on Sundays is followed by Eucharistic devotions.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

LOW MASS 8:00 AM

SUNG MASS 9:30 AM

HIGH MASS 11:00 AM

WEEKDAY LOW MASS

12:15 PM, MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY

5:30 PM TUESDAY, THURSDAY

10:00 AM SATURDAY

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