

**Saint Thomas's Church**  
**The Third Sunday in Advent**  
**Sunday, December 11, 2022**  
**High Mass at 11 o'clock**



*' . . . the desert shall rejoice and blossom. . . '*  
Photo by Christine Cover

**Saint Thomas's Anglican Church**  
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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. 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



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/smokytops](http://qrco.de/smokytops). Scroll to the bottom of the webpage to fill out the online form.

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

**Celebrant:** Fr. Ipema  
**Homilist:** Fr. Humphrey  
**Deacon:** Fr. Shire  
**Reader:** Larry Beckwith  
**Interim Director of Music & Organist:** Elizabeth Anderson

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**MUSIC OF THE MASS** – Missa XI: *Orbis Factor*

*Throughout this booklet, the People match the pitch of the Minister on the underlined syllable.*

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY:** Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen, *Johannes Brahms*

*The People stand as the choir enters the church during the prelude, sitting again when the choir sits.*

*At the sound of the bell, all stand for the entrance of the Sacred Ministers.*

**INTROIT:** Gaudete (*Sung by the choir*)

*Mode i*

Rejoice ye in the Lord alway and again I say, rejoice ye. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing, nor troubled, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. (Phil 4.4-6) Lord, thou art become gracious unto thy land: thou hast restored the fortunes of Jacob. (Ps 85.1)

*The People kneel.*

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE DECALOGUE

Responses by Pelham Humfrey (1647-1674)

*The People still kneeling, the Decalogue is sung by the Celebrant and Choir.*

*Celebrant:* Hear the Law of God which was given to Israel in old time. God spake these words and said: I am the Lord thy God; Thou shalt have none other gods but me.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Celebrant:* Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them. For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, and visit the sins of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and show mercy unto thousands in them that love me and keep my commandments.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Celebrant:* Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless, that taketh his Name in vain.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Celebrant:* Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all that thou hast to do; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. In it thou shalt do no manner of work, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, thy man-servant, and thy maid-servant, thy cattle, and the stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Celebrant:* Honour thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Celebrant:* Thou shalt do no murder.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Celebrant:* Thou shalt not commit adultery.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Celebrant:* Thou shalt not steal.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Celebrant:* Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

*Celebrant:* Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his servant, nor his maid, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is his.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

*The Choir alone sings the Kyrie.*

## **KYRIE ELEISON**

Lord, have mercy upon us. Kyrie Eleison.  
Christ, have mercy upon us. Christe Eleison.  
Lord, have mercy upon us. Kyrie Eleison.

*The People remain kneeling for the Collects.*

## **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**  
Let us pray.

O Lord Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight; who liveth and reigneth with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

## COLLECT OF ADVENT

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. **Amen.**

*The People sit.*

### FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 35.1-10

The First Lesson is written in the thirty-fifth chapter of the book of the prophet Isaiah, beginning at the first verse.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

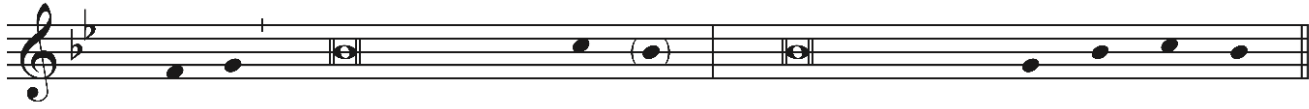
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The people remain seated as the choir sings the psalm.*

**PSALM 146.4-10**

*Lauda, anima mea*  
VIII. 2.



*The People stand.*

**SEQUENCE HYMN 66** – Creator of the starry height

- All*        1    Creator of the starry height,  
                 Thy people's everlasting Light,  
                 Jesu, Redeemer of us all,  
                 Hear thou thy servants when they call.
- Lower*     2    Thou, sorrowing at the helpless cry  
*Voices*     Of all creation doomed to die,  
                 Didst save our lost and guilty race  
                 By healing gifts of heavenly grace.
- Upper*     3    Thou cam'st, the Bridegroom of the bride,  
*Voices*     As drew the world to eventide;  
                 Proceeding from a virgin-shrine,  
                 The spotless Victim all divine.
- Lower*     4    At thy great Name, exalted now,  
*Voices*     All knees in lowly homage bow;  
                 All things in heaven and earth adore,  
                 And own thee King for evermore.
- Upper*     5    To thee, O Holy One, we pray,  
*Voices*     Our Judge in that tremendous day,  
                 Ward off, while yet we dwell below,  
                 The weapons of our crafty foe.
- All*        6    To God the Father, God the Son,  
                 And God the Spirit, Three in One,  
                 Praise, honour, might, and glory be  
                 From age to age eternally. Amen.

*CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM*  
*Sarum Plainsong, 7th cent.*

*From the Latin (c 6th cent.)*  
*Tr. Rev. J.M. Neale 1818-66*



## **HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 11.2-11**

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

The Holy Gospel is written in the eleventh chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, beginning at the second verse.

**Glory be to thee O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

*The People sit at the invitation of the Preacher.*

## **SERMON**

*The people stand. The Advent vestments are brought before the sanctuary to be blessed.*

## **BLESSING OF VESTMENTS**

Thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron, for glory and for beauty.

Clothe thy ministers with righteousness:

**Let thy people sing with joy.**

Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O God, thou hast revealed thy Son clothed in majesty and glory: Accept these vestments for the use of the clergy and people of thy Church in memory of Doreen Stanton, that, being clothed with humility as they minister to thee, they may show forth his eternal splendour; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The People remain standing to sing the Creed. All who are able to kneel, please do so at "and was incarnate," rising after "and was made man."*

## THE NICENE CREED

*Merbecke*

I be-lieve in one God: The Fa-ther Al-migh-ty, Ma-ker of hea-ven and earth,  
and of all things vi - si - ble and in - vi - si - ble:  
And in one Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly be - got - ten Son of God,  
Be - got - ten of the Fa - ther be - fore all worlds;  
God of God, Light of Light, Ve - ry God of ve - ry God;  
Be - got - ten, not made; Be - ing of one sub - stance with the Fa - ther;  
Through whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our sal - va - tion  
came down from Heaven,



*\*And was in-car-nate by the Ho-ly Ghost of the Vir-gin Ma-ry, And was made man.\**



And was cru - ci - fi - ed al - so for us un - der Pon-tius Pi - late.



He suf - fer - red and was bu - ri - ed, And the third day he rose a - gain



ac - cord - ing to the Scrip - tures, And as - cend - ed in - to heaven,



And sit - teth on the right hand of the Fa - ther,



And he shall come a - gain with glo - ry to judge both the quick and the dead:



Whose king - dom shall have no end. And I be - lieve in the Ho - ly Ghost, the Lord,



the Giv - er of life, Who pro - ceed - eth from the Fa - ther and the Son,



Who with the Fa - ther and the Son to - geth - er is wor - ship - ped and glo - ri - fied,



Who spake by the Pro - phets. And I be - lieve One, Ho - ly, Ca - tho - lic, and A - pos - to - lic Church.



I ac - know - ledge one Bap - tism for the re - mis - sion of sins.



And I look for the Re-sur-rec-tion of the dead, And the Life of the world to come.



A - men.

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

As we have the opportunity, let us do good unto all men; and especially unto them that are of the household of faith.

*The People remain standing for the hymn.*

## OFFERTORY HYMN 396 – Hail to the Lord's Anointed

- 1 Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
Great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
To set the captive free;  
To take away transgression,  
And rule in equity.
- 2 He shall come down like showers  
Upon the fruitful earth;  
And love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
Spring in his path to birth:  
Before him on the mountains  
Shall peace, the herald, go;  
From hill to vale the fountains  
Of righteousness o'erflow.
- 3 Kings shall fall down before him,  
And gold and incense bring;  
All nations shall adore him,  
His praise all people sing;  
To him shall prayer unceasing  
And daily vows ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing,  
A kingdom without end.

4 O'er every foe victorious,  
He on his throne shall rest,  
From age to age more glorious,  
All-blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove;  
His Name shall stand for ever,  
His changeless Name of Love.

CRÜGER, Johann Crüger, 1640

James Montgomery, 1821

**ANTHEM 'Canite tuba,' Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c. 1525-1594)**

Canite tuba in Sion, quia prope est dies Domini, ecce venit ad salvandum nos. Erunt prava in directa, et aspera in vias planas: veni Domine, et noli tardare. Alleluia.

Sound the trumpet in Sion, for the day of the Lord is near. See, He is coming to save us. Winding paths will be made straight and the rough places smooth. Come, O Lord, and do not delay.

(from Joel 2.1 & Isaiah 40.4)

*The People remain standing as the thurifer approaches for the censuring.*

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel, for ever and ever. All that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine. All things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. **Amen.**

*The People kneel. The celebrant turns to face the people, and bids the intercessions.*

**INTERCESSIONS**

*Celebrant:* Dear friends in Christ, let us pray for the Church and for the world.

*Intercessor:* I bid your prayers for the church universal throughout the world; for Andrew our bishop, according to the Anglican cycle of prayer for \_\_\_\_\_, according to the Diocesan prayer cycle for \_\_\_\_\_, and for all who serve and minister to God's people.  
(*Silence.*)

Lord, in thy mercy,  
**We beseech thee, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* I bid your prayers for the King and for all in civil authority in our country, province, and city. May God guide them in the ways of justice and peace; that all may honour one another and serve the common good. (*Silence.*)

Lord, in thy mercy,

**We beseech thee, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* I bid your prayers for God's blessings upon all people, giving thanks to God for the people, neighbours, and friends of this parish, and especially for all those present in person or via livestream; for newcomers and visitors this morning, both near and far; and for all other thanksgivings we now name, silently or aloud \_\_\_\_\_ [We give thanks especially for\_\_\_\_\_.] May God's abiding presence be with us always, that we may be a blessing to all people. (*Silence.*)

Lord, in thy mercy,

**We beseech thee, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* I bid your prayers for all those in need, for the sick\_\_\_\_\_, and all those suffering in mind, body, or estate due to the ongoing pandemic; for victims of warfare and violence; 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\_\_\_\_\_. May God grant that they will be comforted by the ever-present love of our Lord. (*Silence.*)

Lord, in thy mercy,

**We beseech thee, hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* I bid your prayers for the souls of the departed, especially\_\_\_\_\_ who have died in recent days, and those whose year's mind is at this time \_\_\_\_\_, that they may share with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Thomas, and all the saints in God's eternal kingdom. May God grant that their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, may rest in peace and rise in glory. (*Silence.*)

Lord, in thy mercy,

**We beseech thee, hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant:* God of joy and exultation, thou hast strengthen that which is weak, thou hast filled the poor, and thou givest hope to those who live in fear. Look favourably upon our petitions this day. Keep us faithful in thy service until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth for ever and ever. **Amen.**



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 with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee and saying:

*The Choir alone sings:*

### **SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS**

Holy, Holy, Holy,  
Lord God of Hosts:  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
† Blessed is he that cometh  
in the Name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth:  
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.  
† Benedictus qui venit  
in nomine Domini.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

*The Celebrant continues,*

Blessing and glory and thanksgiving be unto thee Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memorial of that his precious death, until his coming again.

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took Bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it; and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me.

Likewise after supper he took the Cup; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all, of this; for this is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.



Wherefore, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we thy humble servants, with all thy holy Church, remembering the precious death of thy beloved Son, his mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again in glory, do make before thee, in this sacrament of the holy Bread of eternal life and the Cup of everlasting salvation, the memorial which he hath commanded; And we entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion; And we pray that by the power of thy Holy Spirit, all we who are partakers of this holy Communion may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be unto thee,

*Celebrant* *People*

O Fa - ther al - might - ty, world with - out \_\_\_ end. A - men. \_\_\_

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Music by John Merbecke*

*Celebrant*

And now, as our Sa-viour Christ hath com-mand-ed and taught us, we are bold to say:

*People*

Our Fa-ther, who art in heav'n, Hal-low-ed be thy Name, Thy king-dom come,

Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heav'n. Give us this day our dai - ly bread;

and for - give us our tres - pass - es, As we for - give them that tres - pass a - gainst us;

And lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, But de - li - ver us from ev - il.

For thine is the king - dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry, For ev - er and ev - er. A - men.



## 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!*

## COMMUNION DEVOTIONS

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

My Jesus, I believe that thou art truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot now receive thee sacramentally, I beseech thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself unto thee, and embrace thee with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from thee. Let me live and die in thy 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.

**MOTET:** There is no Rose, *Philip Stopford (b. 1977)*

There is no rose of such virtue As is the rose that bare Jesu: Alleluia. For in this rose contained was Heaven and earth in little space: *Res Miranda*. By that rose we may well see There be one God in persons three, *Pares forma*. The angels sungen the shepherds to: *Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gaudeamus*. Leave we all this worldly mirth, And follow we this joyful birth: *Transeamus*.

*Anon, 15<sup>th</sup> Century*

*The People may sit or kneel for the hymn.*

**COMMUNION HYMN 61** – Jesus came – the heavens adoring

- 1 Jesus came – the heavens adoring –  
Came with peace from realms on high;  
Jesus came for man's redemption,  
Lowly came on earth to die:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Came in deep humility.
- 2 Jesus comes again in mercy,  
When our hearts are bowed with care:  
Jesus comes again in answer  
To our earnest heart-felt prayer;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Comes to save us from despair.
- 3 Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,  
Bringing news of sins forgiven;  
Jesus comes in sounds of gladness,  
Leadings souls redeemed to heaven;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Now the gate of death is riven.
- 4 Jesus comes on clouds triumphant,  
When the heavens shall pass away;  
Jesus comes again in glory;  
Let us then our homage pay,  
Alleluia! ever singing  
Till the dawn of endless day.

*The People kneel.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee that thou dost graciously feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; assuring us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are living members of his mystical body, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee. And although we are unworthy, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The peace of God, which passeth 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 Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The People stand.*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **CONCLUDING HYMN 63 – Hark! a herald voice is sounding**

- 1 Hark! a herald voice is sounding;  
‘Christ is nigh,’ it seems to say;  
‘Cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day!’
- 2 Wakened by the solemn warning,  
Let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,  
Shines upon the morning skies.

3 Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,  
Comes with pardon down from heaven;  
Let us all, with tears of sorrow,  
Pray that we may be forgiven;

4 That when next he comes with glory,  
And the world is wrapped in fear,  
With his mercy he may shield us;  
And with words of love draw near.

5 Honour, glory, might, and blessing  
To the Father and the Son,  
With the Everlasting Spirit,  
While eternal ages run.

*STUTTGART*  
*Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715*

*Tr. From the Latin of 6<sup>th</sup> cent. By Rev. E. Caswall*

*The people may be seated. Please maintain an atmosphere of reverent silence during and after the Postlude.*

**VOLUNTARY:** Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, *Dietrich Buxtehude*