

# Saint Thomas's Church

## The Third Sunday in Advent

**Sunday, December 13, 2020**

**Sung Eucharist at 11 o'clock**  
*livestreamed*



*Saint John the Baptist, by Lorenzo Costa, 1505.  
This was part of the High Altarpiece from the Oratory of  
San Pietro in Vincoli, Faenza. It can be seen at the National Gallery, in London*



**Saint Thomas's Anglican Church**

383 Huron Street,

Toronto, Ontario M5S 2G5

416-979-2323

[www.stthomas.on.ca](http://www.stthomas.on.ca)   [office@stthomas.on.ca](mailto:office@stthomas.on.ca)

**Celebrant:** Fr Brinton  
**Homilist:** Fr D'Angelo  
**Gospeller and Intercessor:** Fr James Shire  
**Cantor:** Jennifer McCallum  
**Reader:** Phil Spencer  
**Organist & Director of Music:** Matthew Whitfield

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

**PRELUDE:** Herr Christ, der einig Gottes-Sohn, BWV 601, *J.S. Bach*

**INTROIT:** Gaudete (*Sung by the cantor only*)

*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)*

*Please 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.*

**KYRIE ELEISON**

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

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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 livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

## COLLECT OF ADVENT I

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.*

*Please be seated*

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself

with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord  
R / *Thanks be to God*

### **PSALM 126**

- 1 WHEN the Lord restored the fortunes of Sion, /  
they were we like unto them that dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, /  
and our tongue with joy.
- 3 Then said they among the nations, /  
'The Lord hath done great things for them.'
- 4 Yea, the Lord hath done great things for us already; /  
whereof we rejoice.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, /  
as the rivers in the South.
- 6 They that sow in tears / shall reap in joy.
- 7 He that now goeth on his way weeping, and beareth forth his seed, /  
shall doubtless come again with joy, and bring his sheaves with him.

### **THE EPISTLE: 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord R/ *Thanks be to God*

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

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

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

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

**HOLY GOSPEL: John 1.6-8, 19-28**

**R / *Glory be to thee O Lord***

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord,"' as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of Christ

**R / *Praise be to thee, O Christ***

**THE NICENE CREED**

Celebrant: I believe in one God

**All: the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible:**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of the Father before all worlds; God, of God; Light, of Light; Very God, of very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father; Through whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man, And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, The Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **SERMON**

## **OFFERTORY**

*Please stand for the hymn during the Offertory, sung by the Cantor only*

**OFFERTORY HYMN 293** – There's a voice in the wilderness crying

- 1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
A call from the ways untrod:  
Prepare in the desert a highway,  
A highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
The lofty hills brought low;  
Make straight all the crooked places,  
Where the Lord our God may go!
- 2 O Zion, that bringest good tidings,  
Get thee up to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
The coming of their King:  
Like the flowers of the field they perish,  
The works of men decay,  
The power and pomp of nations  
Shall pass like a dream away.

- 3 But the word of our God endureth,  
The arm of the Lord is strong;  
He stands in the midst of nations,  
And he will right the wrong:  
He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,  
And fold the lambs to his breast;  
In the pastures of peace he'll lead them,  
And give to the weary rest.
- 4 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
A call from the ways untrod:  
Prepare in the desert a highway,  
A highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
The lofty hills brought low;  
Make straight all the crooked places,  
Where the Lord our God may go!

*ASCENSION*  
*James Lewis Milligan, 1930*

*H. Hugh Bancroft, 1938*

### **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.*

*Please kneel*

### **INTERCESSIONS**

Celebrant: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us pray for the Church and for the world.

*silence*

Lord, in thy mercy

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

Intercessor: I bid your prayers for Andrew our bishop, Jenny our area bishop, and for all the clergy and laity who serve God's people, especially in this parish; for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury and Linda our Primate.



*silence*

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

Intercessor: I bid your prayers for the Queen, and for all in authority in our country, province and city; for all entrusted with promoting and protecting our health and safety during the pandemic; for justice and peace among all people.

*silence*

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

Intercessor: I bid your prayers for all those in need: for the sick, especially \_\_\_\_\_; for the elderly and isolated; for prisoners; for those who mourn and all for whom we have been asked to pray, especially \_\_\_\_\_

*silence*

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

Intercessor: I bid your prayers for the departed, especially \_\_\_\_\_ who have died in recent days, and on their year's mind for \_\_\_\_\_; that they may share with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Thomas, and all the saints in God's eternal kingdom.

*silence*

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

Celebrant: Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

## INVITATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead the new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we from time to time most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him: Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

V / The Lord be with you; R / *And with thy spirit.*

V / Lift up your hearts; R / *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

V / Let us give thanks unto our Lord God; R / *It is meet and right so to do.*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, Creator and Preserver of all things.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fulness 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 Cantor sings:*

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord most High. Blessèd is he that cometh in the Name of the  
Lord: Hosanna in the highest.*

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, O Father Almighty, world without end.  
*Amen.*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER, FRACTION AND PEACE

Celebrant: As our Saviour Christ hath commanded and taught us we are bold to say:

**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 them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. *Amen.***

*The consecrated Bread is broken.*

V / The peace of the Lord be always with you;  
R / *And with thy spirit.*

### HOLY COMMUNION

*All who intend to receive Holy Communion pray together:*

We do not presume

**to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, Trusting in our own righteousness, But in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy So much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, Whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, So to eat the Flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, And to drink his Blood, That our sinful bodies may be made clean by his Body, And our souls washed through his most precious Blood, And that we may evermore dwell in him, And he in us. Amen.**

*The Cantor sings:*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace.*

**MOTET:** *Bereitet die Wege, bereitet die Bahn, BWV 132; J.S. Bach*

*Prepare the paths, prepare the road! Prepare the paths, and make the flagstones in faith and life completely level for the Highest, Messiah approaches!*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Please kneel*

Celebrant: 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.*

## CONCLUDING HYMN 59 – The Advent of our King

- 1 The Advent of our King  
Our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing  
In strains of holy joy.
- 2 The Everlasting Son  
Incarnate designs to be;  
Himself a servant's form puts on,  
To set his servants free.
- 3 Daughter of Sion, rise  
To meet thy lowly King;  
Nor let thy faithless heart despise  
The peace he comes to bring.
- 4 As Judge, on clouds of light,  
He soon will come again,  
And his true members all unite  
With him in heaven to reign.
- 5 Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone;  
The old man all be put away,  
The new man all put on.
- 6 All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever One,  
Through all eternity.

*FRANCONIA*

*Tr. (1837) from C. Coffin (1736) by Rev. John Chandler*

*Harmonischer Liederschatz, 1738*

**POSTLUDE:** Lob sei dem allmächtigen Gott, BWV 602, *J.S. Bach*