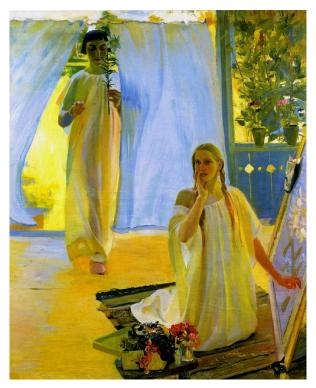
Saint Thomas's Church The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 24, 2023 Sung Mass at 9:30 am



The Annunciation, Alexander Murashko, 1909 The National Art Museum of Ukraine, Kiev

Saint Thomas's Anglican Church 383 Huron Street, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2G5

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www.stthomas.on.ca office@stthomas.on.ca

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. Theo Ipema

Reader: Christy Okoigun **Intercessor:** Ronwen Guest

Organist & Choirmaster: Elizabeth Anderson Assistant Organist & Choirmaster: Manuel Piazza

MUSIC OF THE MASS

New Plainsong Mass, David Hurd (b. 1950)

GREETING

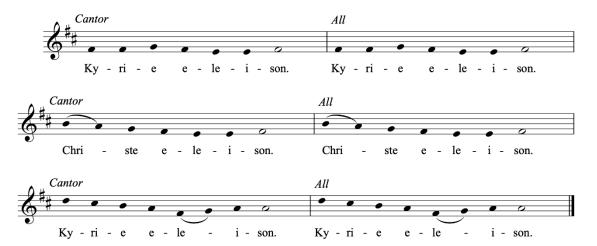
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

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



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The People sit.

FIRST LESSON 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16

A reading from the second book of the prophet Samuel.

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 89.1-4,19-26

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



Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness, for I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens. *Refrain*.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn an oath to David my servant: 'I will establish your line for ever, and preserve your throne for all generations.'" *Refrain*.

You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: "I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people. I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him. My hand will hold him fast and my arm will make him strong. No enemy shall deceive him, nor any wicked man bring him down. *Refrain*.

I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. My faithfulness and love shall be with him, and he shall be victorious through my name. I shall make his dominion extend from the Great Sea to the River. He will say to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.'" *Refrain.*

THE EPISTLE Romans 16.25-27

A reading from Saint Paul's Epistle to the Romans.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith - to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

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: I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to his word. Repeat Alleluias.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 1.26-38

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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

Watch for the glory of God. Search out what new thing the Lord requires of you, what you need to create.

In the Church, in the Communion, ____ in this Diocese, ____ and in this parish; what does the Lord need us to create? Does he need us to proclaim the prophets of old and search out and hear the prophets of this time?

Lord, strengthen us to offer our best.

For those we hold up in Thanksgiving, that they portray Emmanuel, God with us.
Lord, strengthen us to offer our best.
For the sick, that as Elizabeth the mother of John, they hear God and are healed, leading us to renew creation.
Lord, strengthen us to offer our best.
For the others we are asked to hold up to God, that attending needs he will find a way for them to serve.
Lord, strengthen us to offer our best.
For the dead, that finding their place in the city of God, they inspire us to move forward in our journey, making like Mary an offering of service to our God.

Lord, strengthen us to offer our best.

Blessed are you our God and King; your light shines in our darkened world. May we who wait 'just a little more' see your glory and accept your renewal, giving birth like Elizabeth to a new thing that leads all towards you. **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

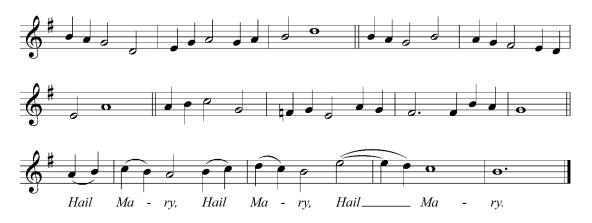
All standing, the Celebrant bids the Peace.

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

Gracious Lady, you are blest



- All 1 Gracious Lady, you are blest with God's favour; In your womb all hopes shall rest - this world's Saviour; He shall save the world from sin, as the kingdom's ushered in. Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary.
- Upper 2 Can it be I am God's choice? (Lowly maiden)?
 Voices How can God's Word use my voice to proclaim Him?
 Can the great God stoop to me: that the world His grace may see?
 Hail Mary, Hail Mary.

Lower 3 Blessed Mother you shall be; God's own dwelling;
 Voices You, the rose whose sanctity, sweetly smelling
 Shall create the space on earth, for God's Son to come to birth.
 Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary.

Upper 4 Let it be then as you say; God me raises!
Voices Let me now and every day, learn His praises.
May the 'Yes' that I have giv'n be a pathway into heav'n.
Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary.

Lower 5 Gracious Lady, your Amen is your blessing;
 Voices Your obedience, now as then love confessing.
 And that Love will you sustain, through the time of trial and pain.
 Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary.

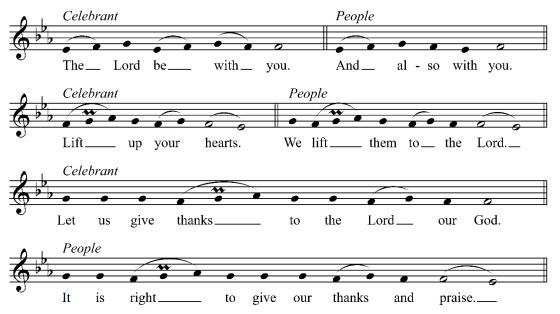
All 6 Mary, Mother of the Lord, God once called you To bring forth His holy Word, that enthralled you, May I too wait patiently for God's will to form in me. Hail Mary, Hail Mary, Hail Mary.

CHISLEHURST Sydney Nicholson (1875-1974) Jeremy Davies, former Precentor, Salisbury Cathedral

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

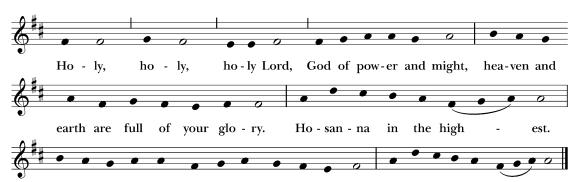
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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 to proclaim the glory of your name.

The Choir and People sing:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS



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."

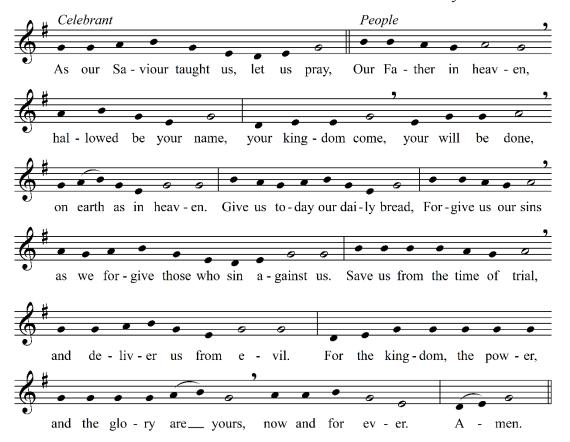
Therefore, Father, according to his command:

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



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.

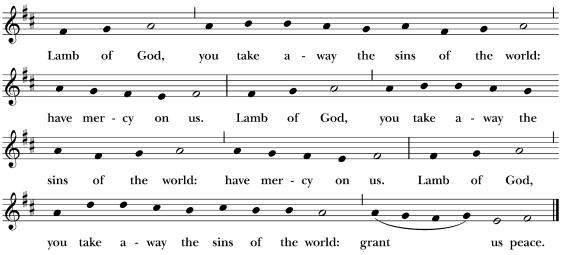
HOLY COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

The Choir and People sing:

AGNUS DEI



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!

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung. It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind, with Mary we behold it, the Virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Saviour, when half spent was the night. O flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispel in glorious splendour the darkness everywhere; true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

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, in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation. May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will. We ask this 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 61

Jesus came – the heavens adoring

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.

- 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.
- 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.

S^t Thomas J.F. Wade's Cantus Diversi. 1751 Rev. Godfrey Thring, 1862

The People may be seated for the Postlude. Please maintain an atmosphere of reverent silence in the church during and after the Postlude.

Coffee Hour follows this service in the Parish Hall.

Please join us for our Christmas Eve Services!

At 5:00 pm there will be a Sung Mass of Christmas Eve.

Beginning at 9:30 pm on Christmas Eve, there will be an organ recital, followed by Midnight Mass, which will commence at 10:00 pm.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Christmas Day Services are as follows: 7:30 am Mattins; 8:00 am Low Mass; 9:30 am Sung Mass (BAS) and 11:00 am High Mass (BCP). There will be no Evensong on Christmas Day.

On Sunday, December 31 the Services will be as follows: 7:30 am Mattins; 8:00 am Low Mass; 9:30 am Sung Mass (BAS) and 11:00 am High Mass (BCP). There will be no Evensong.

The Epiphany of Our Lord Procession and High Mass will be on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 11:00 am.

Sunday, January 7, 2024 is the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. The Services will be as follows: 7:30 am Mattins; 8:00 am Low Mass; 9:30 am Sung Mass (BAS) and 11:00 am High Mass (BCP). At 5:00 pm there will be A Procession with Epiphany Carols during the course of Evensong & Benediction, followed by a reception.

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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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