



Saint Thomas's Anglican Church
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Christmas Eve

*Low Mass with Hymns at 5:30 pm
in the Lady Chapel*

Welcome to Christmas Eve at St Thomas's Anglican Church. The service follows the Book of Common Prayer, with some rearrangement of key elements in keeping with the historic liturgy of the Western Church.

On the table where you picked up this booklet, you will find a binder containing names for Intercessions. You are welcome to add the names of those for whom prayers are desired, or note any concern or cause for thanksgiving which you would like to have included.

There is also on the table an alms basin. No collection will be taken at this service, but should you choose to support the ministry at St Thomas's, we will be grateful to receive your donation.

The clergy and people of St Thomas's pray God's blessings upon you in this holy Season.

Should you wish to speak with one of the clergy, please call the rector at 416-979-2323, ext. 1 or the Associate Priest at ext. 3.

PROCESSION TO THE CRÈCHE

All are encouraged to follow the priest and server to the Crèche during the singing of the hymn.

HYMN 77 - Hark! The herald angels sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, the Incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

PRAYER AT THE CRÈCHE AND BLESSING OF THE CONGREGATION

3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

MENDELSSOHN
From a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy 1809-47

Charles Wesley 1707-88
and others

All stand as the celebrant enters.

HYMN 73 - O come, all ye faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of angels:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
2 God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very GOD,
Begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore him.
3 Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
Glory to GOD
In the Highest;
O come, let us adore him.
4 See how the Shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:
O come, let us adore him.
O come, let us adore him, CHRIST the LORD!

ADESTE FIDELES
Melody probably by J.F. Wade 1711-86

Latin 13th century
Tr Frederick Oakeley 1802-80 and others

We invite you to remain as long as you wish for a time of silent prayer.

INTROIT

All Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and shall call his name Immanuel. *Isaiah 7.14*

Unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given. *Isaiah 9.6*

In this was manifested the love of God toward us,
because that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world
that we might live through him. *1 John 4.9*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings
in heavenly places in Christ. *Ephesians 1.3*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

All kneel. The priest says

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.

All Amen.

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord;
and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,
and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind,
and with all thy strength.
This is the first and great commandment.

AGNUS DEI

All 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.

THE COMMUNION

After the server has received Communion, the congregation is invited to come forward to the altar rail. All who have been baptized with water in the name of the Holy Trinity are welcome to receive Communion with us. If you wish to receive a blessing instead, please cross your arms over your chest at the rail.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All kneel. The priest says

Almighty God, whose blessed Son didst humble himself
to share our birth and our death,
and who ever permittest us in these holy mysteries
to draw near with gladness unto his holy Nativity:
Bring us with the shepherds and wise men
to kneel before his lowly cradle,
that we may come to sing with thine angels
his glorious praises in heaven;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive, and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

All 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 PEACE

All The peace of the Lord be always with you;
and with thy spirit.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

All who wish to receive Communion say

All 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.

And the second is like unto it:
Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
On these two commandments hang all the law
and the prophets.

All **Lord, have mercy upon us,**
and write both these thy laws in our hearts,
we beseech thee.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy upon us.
All Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

GLORIA

All stand and say

All Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art most high
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The priest says

All The Lord be with you;
and with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son Jesus Christ: grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come again to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever.

All **Amen.**

EPISTLE

All are seated. The reader says

The Epistle is written in the first chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews, beginning at the first verse.

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time,

*Thou art my Son,
This day have I begotten thee?*

And again,

*I will be to him a Father,
And he shall be to me a Son?*

And again, when he bringeth the first-born into the world, he saith,

And let all the angels of God worship him.

And of the angels he saith,

*Who maketh his angels spirits,
And his ministers a flame of fire.*

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.

All **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING

All The Lord be with you;
and with thy spirit.

All Lift up your hearts;
we lift them up unto the Lord.

All Let us give thanks unto our Lord God;
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.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son
to be born as at this time for us;
who, by the operation of the Holy Spirit,
was made very man of the substance of
the Virgin Mary his mother;
and that without spot of sin,
to make us clean from all sin.
Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we laud and magnify thy glorious name,
evermore praising thee, and saying:

All **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.**

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

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

But unto the Son he saith,

*Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever;
A sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom:
Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity;
Therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee
With the oil of gladness above thy fellows.*

And again he saith,

*Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid
the foundation of the earth;
And the heavens are the works of thine hands:
They shall perish, but thou remainest;
And they all shall wax old as doth a garment;
And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up,
And they shall be changed;
But thou art the same,
And thy years shall not fail.*

Here endeth the Epistle.

GRADUAL

All Show yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands:
**sing, rejoice, and give thanks.
Praise the Lord upon the harp:
sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.
With trumpets also and the sound of the horn,
O show yourselves joyful before the Lord, the King.**

Psalm 98.5-7

GOSPEL

All stand. The priest says

All The Lord be with you;
and with thy spirit.

For Year One:

The holy Gospel is written in the second chapter of the Gospel according to Saint John, beginning at the first verse.

All **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father. *John 1.1-14*

The Gospel of Christ.

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

CONFESSION

All who wish to receive Communion kneel and say

All 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.**

ABSOLUTION

The priest says

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.

All **Amen.**

The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

INTERCESSIONS

All kneel. The prayers usually include these concerns

- ◆ The Church of Christ
- ◆ Creation, human society, the Sovereign and those in authority
- ◆ The local community
- ◆ Those who suffer
- ◆ The communion of saints

This response may be used

Lord, in thy mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

This may be used after the prayers for the faithful departed

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,

All **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

May they rest in peace, and rise in glory.

All **Amen.**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

‘You shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.’
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Matthew 1.21

For Year Two:

The holy Gospel is written in the second chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Luke, beginning at the first verse.

All **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Now it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David;) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

*Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

Luke 2.1-14

The Gospel of Christ.

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

THE CREED

All

I believe in one God
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.

(HOMILY)

OFFERTORY

All are seated. The priest says

Beloved, you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that you through his poverty might become rich.
2 Corinthians 8.9

HYMN 79—Of the Father's love begotten

Of the Father's love begotten,
Ere the world worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He is the Source, the Ending he,
Of all the things that are, that have been,
And that the future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessed!
When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bare the Saviour of our race,
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

This is he whom seers in old time
Chanted with one accord;
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word;
Now he shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord,
Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heaven, adore him;
Angel-hosts, his praises sing;
All dominions, bow before him,
And extoll our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore.