

SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE,
NEW YORK CITY



DECEMBER 24, 2025
CHRISTMAS EVE AT 10:30 P.M.

Midnight Mass

SUNG BY THE SAINT THOMAS CHOIR OF MEN AND BOYS
WITH THE SAINT THOMAS BRASS & TIMPANI

Welcome to Saint Thomas Church, a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New York.

*Our mission is to worship, love, and serve Our Lord Jesus Christ
through the Anglican tradition and our unique choral heritage.*

contact us: welcome@saintthomaschurch.org

Please do not take photographs or videos, or make recordings during the service.

ASSISTING CLERGY

The Reverend Matthew Moretz

Vicar and Chief Operating Officer

The Reverend Dr. Alison J. Turner

Associate for Children and Family Ministry, and School Chaplain

The Reverend Mark Schultz

Associate for Pastoral Care

The Reverend Prisca Lee-Pae

Associate for Pan-Asian Ministry

The Reverend Dr. Luigi Gioia

Theologian in Residence

The Reverend Preston Gonzalez-Grissom

Associate Priest for Children and Family Ministry

STAFF

Richard Tanner, *Organist & Director of Music*

Nicolas Haigh, *Associate Organist*

Maks Adach, *Associate for Musical Studies and Assistant Organist*

Bruce Smith, *Chief Advancement Officer*

Adam MacDonald, *Director of Development*

Blake Martin, *Director of Communications and Digital Production*

Lizette Hernandez, *Executive Assistant to the Rector*

SAINT THOMAS CHOIR SCHOOL

The Rev. Dr. Alison J. Turner, *Director of Transition*

202 West 58th Street, New York, NY 10019

Telephone: 212-247-3311 email: admissions@choirschool.org

www.ChoirSchool.org

HONORARY CLERGY

The Reverend Andrew C. Mead, OBE, DD, *Rector Emeritus*

Right Reverend Andrew R. St. John, DD, *Bishop in Residence*

The Reverend Mark Brown, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Canon Victor Conrado, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Canon Anne Mallonee, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend David F. Mc Neeley, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Stephen Morris, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Thomas F. Pike, *Honorary Assistant*

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Samuel Lee

John G. Oghia

Benita Potters

Inge Reist

Karl C. Saunders, *Treasurer*

You may contact the Wardens using this address: Wardens@SaintThomasChurch.org.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC FOR ORGAN

Einige kanonische Veränderungen über das Weihnachtslied
"Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her", BWV 76

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

- I. Canon all' Ottava
- II. Alio modo Canona alla Quinta
- III. L'altra Sorte del' Canone all' roveroico
- IV. Canone alla Settima, cantabile
- V. Canon per augmentationem

Variations sur un Noël, Op. 20

Marcel Dupré
(1886-1971)

Weihnachten op. 145 Nr. 3

Max Reger
(1873-1916)

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen from Eleven Chorale Preludes, Op. 122

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Nicolas Haigh, Maks Adach, and Bethany Dame, Organ



ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ORDINARY OF THE MASS

Missa in C (Krönungs-Messe)

Wolfgang A. Mozart
(1756-1791)

The People stand at the entry of the Ministers.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| <i>Celebrant</i> | Do I not fill heaven and earth? Saith the Lord. |
| <i>People</i> | Now he is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger. |
| <i>Celebrant</i> | From eternity to eternity thou art God, |
| <i>People</i> | And now we see thee as a new-born child. |
| <i>Celebrant</i> | Alleluia. Unto us a child is born. |
| <i>People</i> | O come let us adore him. Alleluia. |



PROCESSIONAL HYMN

ADESTE FIDELES

arr. David Willocks

(1919-2015)

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,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

3. 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,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

7. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

4. Lo! star-led chieftains
Magi, Christ adoring,
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
We to the Christ Child
Bring our hearts' oblations:
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

5. Child, for us sinners
Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee,
Loving us so dearly?
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

6. 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,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!



THE PENITENTIAL ORDER

Celebrant 
Bless-ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho-ly Spi-rit.

People 
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev-er. A-men.

The Celebrant says

CHRIST the Light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

The People kneel. Silence is kept.

Celebrant and People

MOST merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

The Celebrant says

THE Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins,
true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. Amen.

The People sit.

KYRIE ELEISON

Sung by the Choir

KYRIE eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

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



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Sung by the Choir

GLORIA in excelsis Deo,
et in terra pax
hominibus bonæ voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus altissimus Jesu Christe.
Cum Sancto Spiritu
in Gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Glory be to God on high,
and on 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, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us
Thou that takest away the sins 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 People stand.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

O GOD, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light:
Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth,
so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit
he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The People sit.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**



PSALM 96

Sung by the Choir Anglican Chant (Gerre Hancock/John Andrew)

CANTATE DOMINO

O SING unto the Lord a new song : sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.
Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name : be telling of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his honour unto the heathen : and his wonders unto all people.
For the Lord is great, and cannot worthily be praised : he is more to be feared than all gods.
As for all the gods of the heathen, they are but idols : but it is the Lord that made the heavens.
Glory and worship are before him : power and honour are in his sanctuary.
Ascribe unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people : ascribe unto the Lord worship and power.
Ascribe unto the Lord the honour due unto his Name : bring presents, and come into his courts.
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness : let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
Tell it out among the heathen that the Lord is King : and that it is he who hath made the round
world so fast that it cannot be moved; and how that he shall judge the people righteously.
Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad : let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is.
Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it :
then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord.
For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth :
and with righteousness to judge the world, and the people with his truth.
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 EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

Subdeacon The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The People stand

HYMN

ST. LOUIS

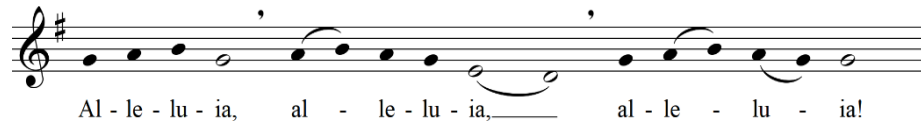
- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>O LITTLE town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.</p> | <p>3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.</p> |
| <p>2. O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.</p> | <p>4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.</p> |



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Plainsong (Mode VI)
arr. Colin Mawby
(1936-2019)

This acclamation heralds the Gospel reading. The Choir sings the Alleluia and all repeat



Choir Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

People Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Cantor The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us: and we beheld his glory,
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

People Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Choir Alleluia!

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

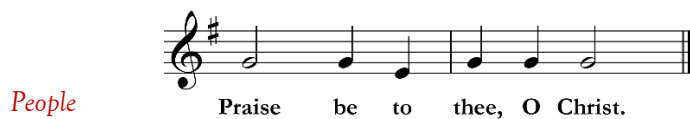
Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke.



People Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord.

After the Gospel, the Deacon says

The Gospel of the Lord.



People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rector

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.



THE NICENE CREED

The People stand. At Christmas, it is customary to kneel at the underlined words, otherwise to bow.

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 his 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;
by 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, and 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.



THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Celebrant says

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

The People kneel.

ALmighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury Designate, Sean the Presiding Bishop, Matthew our Bishop, and Allen his Suffragan, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of New York, and the Mayor of the City of New York, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity (*specific petitions may be added here*).

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear especially our own loved and those whom we wish to remember on this holy night (*silence is kept*) beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, Saint Joseph her spouse, Saint Thomas our patron, and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

The People stand.



THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE PEACE

The Celebrant says

UNTO us a child is born. Unto us a son is given.
And his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

The Celebrant says the Offertory Sentence, and the People sit.

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

Sussex Carol

*arr. Sir Philip Ledger
(1937-2012)*

ON Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place.
Angels and men with joy may sing
all for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men,
now and for evermore, Amen!"

The People stand.

HYMN

GLORIA

ANGELS we have heard on high
singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the new born King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

4. See Him in a manger laid
Whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While we raise our hearts in love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Traditional French Carol



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And with thy spi - rit.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks un - to our Lord God.

People
It is meet and right so to do.

The Celebrant continues

IT is 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.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

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

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Sung by the Choir

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.

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 People kneel or stand.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer

ALL glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ 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 memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.



FOR in the night in which he was betrayed, he 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 Testament, 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 Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly 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 here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

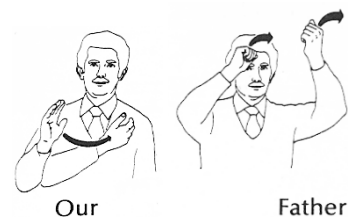
BY whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

The People respond **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Padre nuestro, que estás en el cielo
하늘에 계신 우리 아버지
Notre Père qui es aux cieux
Πατερ ημων ο εν τοις ουρανοις
Pai nosso, que estais nos Céus,
Отче наш, що єси на небесах
أَبَانَا الَّذِي فِي السَّمَاءَاتِ،

Vater unser, der du bist im Himmel
Pater noster, qui es in caelis
我們在天上的父
Baba Yetu uliye mbinguni
Padre nostro, che sei nei cieli
天におられる私たちの父よ
हे हमारे स्वर्गबासी पिता,





The Celebrant says

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

People

There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

AGNUS DEI

Sung by the Choir

AGNUS Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Celebrant says

BEHOLD the Lamb of God: behold him that taketh away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

People **Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof,
but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.**

The People remain kneeling until the bell rings.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION *(for those unable to receive Holy Communion)*

I BELIEVE in thee, O my Jesus, present in the most holy Sacrament of the Altar;
I love thee above all things, and I desire to receive thee into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive thee sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace thee, and I unite myself to thee as if thou wast already there.
Never permit me to be separated from thee!
O Lord Jesus Christ, let the sweet and consuming force of thy love absorb my whole soul, that I
may die for the love of thee, who wast pleased to die for the love of me. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

*All baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion.
The Sacrament is distributed at various stations around the church.*

*Please follow the direction of the ushers. You do not have to receive from the chalice, but intinction is not permitted.
Gluten free hosts are available - please ask the priest.*

MIDDLE VOLUNTARY

Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ

Georg Böhm
(1661-1733)

CAROLS

Sung by the Choir

Samuel Scheidt
(c.1587-1654)

A CHILD is born in Bethlehem, Alleluia.
And joy is in Jerusalem, Alleluia.
Rejoice, rejoice, sing high, sing low, Alleluia.
Benedicamus Domino, Alleluia.
To thee, O Lord, be glory be. Alleluia.
O Son of Mary, Mother-Maid, Alleluia.
To Holy Trinity be praise, Alleluia.
With Deo Gratia always, Alleluia.

14th Century Latin Hymn



*arr. Calvin Hampton
(1938-1984)*

I WONDER as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus, the Savior, had come for to die,
For poor on'ry people, like you and like I,
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, t'was in a cow's stall,
With wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a starlight did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
He surely could have had it, 'cause he was the king.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus, the Savior, had come for to die,
For poor on'ry people, like you and like I,
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

John Jacob Niles (1892-1980)

*Gerre Hancock
(1934-2012)*

I NFANT holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
nowells ringing, tidings bringing,
Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new;
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you!

Attr. Piotrowi Skardze; Paraphrased Edith M.G. Reed



*Harold Darke
(1888-1976)*

IN the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone:
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter,
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom Cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk,
And a mangerful of hay:
Enough for him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him,
Give my heart.

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

If needed, this carol is sung

DING dong! merrily on high
in heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
let steeple bells be swungen,
And io, io, io,
by priest and people sungen.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
your matin chime, ye ringers;
may you beautifully rhyme
your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

*Arr. Mack Wilberg
(b. 1955)*



THE PLACING OF THE CHRIST CHILD IN THE CRÈCHE

The People kneel. As the Celebrant places the image of the Christ Child in the Crèche, the Choir sings this carol.

CAROL

Sung by the Choir

Franz Gruber arr. Barry Rose
(1787-1863) (b. 1934)

SILENT night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The People remain kneeling and silence is kept.

Celebrant and People

ALMIGHTY and everliving God,
we most heartily thank thee
for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries,
with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood
of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us;
and that we are very members incorporate
in the mystical body of thy Son,
the blessed company of all faithful people;
and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom.
And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father,
so to assist us with thy grace,
that we may continue in that holy fellowship,
and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory,
world without end. Amen.



THE SOLEMN BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.

MAY Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Deacon Go in the light and peace of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

HYMN

MENDELSSOHN
arr. David Willcocks

HARK! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn 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.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

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.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

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.
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

VOLUNTARY

Sortie sur 'Venez, divin Messie', (1968)

Pierre Cochereau
(1924-1984)
transcribed by François Lombard

Christmas at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue

Thursday, December 25 - Christmas Day

*The Church is open from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.
for Private Prayer and Visits to the Christmas Crèche*

9:00 a.m. Said Mass at the High Altar

11:00 a.m. Solemn Eucharist *Live video-stream*
sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys
Sermon by Fr. Gioia

Friday, December 26 St. Stephen's Day

*The Church is open from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.
for Private Prayer and Visits to the Christmas Crèche*

12 p.m. Shrine Prayers (Intercessions) and Mass *Live audio-stream*

Saturday, December 27 St. John the Evangelist's Day

*The Church is open from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.
for Private Prayer and Visits to the Christmas Crèche*

11 -11.45 a.m. Confessions, Spiritual Advice, and Healing Ministry
Confessor: Mo. Turner

12 p.m. Shrine Prayers (Intercessions) and Mass *Live audio-stream*

Please send your requests for prayers via the website or emailed to: prayer@saintthomaschurch.org

Sunday, December 28

The Sunday after Christmas

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

*The Church is open from 7.15 a.m. until 4 p.m.
for Private Prayer and Visits to the Christmas Crèche*

7:45 a.m. Said Mass in the Lady Chapel

9:00 a.m. Said Mass at the High Altar

11:00 a.m. Solemn Eucharist *Live video-stream*
sung by the Saint Thomas Consort
Sermon by Mo. Turner

New Year's Day – Thursday, January 1, 2026

*The Church is open from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.
for Private Prayer and Visits to the Christmas Crèche*

12pm Said Mass to welcome in the New Year *Live audio-stream*

Parish Notices

Children and Family Ministries: 10am Children's Formation is available for children Pre-K - High School from 10-10:45am following the 9am Mass. There will be no Children's Formation Sunday, December 28th, but we return with a Family Feast on Sunday, January 4th for Epiphany! The Children's area (near the icon of Saint Thomas) is available for families during all services, with quiet activities for young children. The Nursery is available today and will be closed for Sunday, December 28th, returning the following week. The Nursery also continues to be available for the sole use of babies and toddlers with their parents/caregivers, from 9am-1pm on Sundays in the Parish House, 3rd floor. To receive more information, contact childrenandfamilies@saintthomaschurch.org.

The Noble Singers, are off until Sunday, January 4th. There will be no rehearsal that Thursday, but those who can make it to Sunday rehearsals will sing in the 9am Mass. No audition is necessary, just enthusiasm and a love of music! For more information, and to register your singer, contact JLane@saintthomaschurch.org.

Saint Thomas Choir School is home to the boy choristers of the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys. Since September 2025, the Choir School (grades 4-8) has partnered with Professional Children's School for the boys' academic education, while they continue to live and train at STCS in a close-knit, music-centered environment. They sing five weekly services at Saint Thomas Church and perform in the Concerts at Saint Thomas series. If you know a boy who loves to sing and may thrive in this unique setting, please contact Margaret White at mwhite@choirschool.org.

You are cordially invited to the **Holy Eucharist in the Korean language** every **second Sunday** of the month at 1:30pm. It is preceded by brunch at 12:45pm in the Dining Room of the Parish House. 매달 둘째 주일 오후 1:30에 본당에서 올리는 한국어 감사 성찬례에 여러분을 초대합니다. 오후 12:45에 2층 식당에서 브런치를 함께 나누니 조금 일찍 오셔서 친교도 나누세요. 아래 주소로 등록하시면 월요일 아침복상글을 이메일로 받아볼 수 있습니다. <https://mailchi.mp/saintthomaschurch/korean>

Contemplative Prayer takes place most Fridays at 3pm in the Resurrection Chapel. You are welcome to join this sacred time of silent prayer and quiet praise in the presence of God. The service includes Taizé Songs, Centering Prayer, and Lectio-Divina, and is led by Mo. Prisca Lee-Pae. For more information, please contact Mo. Lee-Pae at pleepae@SaintThomasChurch.org.

The Saint Thomas Theological Education Program, rooted in Scripture, tradition, and spirituality, is for those who seek a deeper understanding of faith, worship and prayer. Lecturers are The Rev. Dr. Luigi Gioia, Theologian in Residence, and internationally renowned guest speakers committed to making theology accessible to non-specialists. Classes are held Sundays at 10am on the 5th Floor of the Parish House and are streamed online. For more info, contact Fr. Luigi Gioia: lgioia@saintthomaschurch.org.

Explore the Beauty and History of Saint Thomas Church each Sunday following the 11am service with a guided tour. These tours offer a unique opportunity to delve into the rich history, sacred art, and exquisite architectural details of our landmark building. To take part, please meet the Tour Guide at the "Tour Guide - Meet Here" sign on the south side of the Narthex. All are warmly welcome.

Friday Bible Study occurs at 1pm on Zoom, currently focusing on the book of Ecclesiastes. To receive the zoom link, contact Fr. Brown at mbrown@saintthomaschurch.org

Christmas Candles in Memory of Loved Ones: During Christmastide, the time between Christmas Day and New Year's Day, we will light an eight-day candle for your loved one(s), and place it before the Crèche of Saint Thomas Church. Each candle will be affixed with the name(s) you submit. The suggested donation for each eight-day candle is \$25. All of these names will be added to the prayer list during Christmastide.



The Saint Thomas Community Outreach Program **Neighbor to Neighbor** provides coffee, tea, water, muffins, fresh fruit, yogurt and hot oatmeal to neighbors in need. The program serves guests between 9-10am every Saturday, with volunteers arriving at the Parish House on 53rd Street around 8:15am. Please note that there is a signup form for interested volunteers. If you are interested in knowing more about the program and getting involved, please register to be on the mailing list for this group using the QR code



We will be saying farewell to Nicolas Haigh, Margaret Carpenter-Haigh, and Maks Adach who have worked so hard in the music department for several years, especially through the pandemic. As is our tradition when organists leave, you can contribute to a farewell purse to Nicolas and/or Maks. You can make a one-off donation on-line or send a check to the parish office. If giving on-line, scan the QR code and select the Organist you wish to give to. If writing a check, indicate on the memo line who the funds are intended for.



Christmas Flowers 2025 given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of

The Rev. Walter J. Abbott, S.J.
 Dr. Janis & Minna Abolins
 Lote & Janis Abolins
 Ruta Abolins
 John C. Adams
 Diane Adjamah
 Erasmus & Kate Agble
 Theodore K. Agble
 Dorothy and Arthur Ailey
 Annie Frances Shufelt Albin
 Jim Allcorn
 Dr. Jake Bluekoo Allotey
 Michael Nash Ambler
 The Rev. Canon John G.B.
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 Joanne T. and Donald K. Asperheim
 Jacqueline Baclaw
 Jeannette Bailey
 Mary Helen Baldwin
 Michael Adam Baldwin
 The Most Rev. Vincent J. Baldwin
 Teddy Balk
 Allison Banker
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 Betty Barjou
 Raphael & Mavis Barnaby
 Teal Barnes
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 The Rev. Gordon-Hurst Barrow
 Doris Barth
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 Barbara Helen Battle
 Augustin Cardinal Bea
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 Gustav Count Belrupt-Tissac
 Friedrich Count Belrupt-Tissac, OT
 Stephanie Countess Belrupt-Tissac
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 Agnes Bender
 Harry Paul and Dorothy Benner
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 Ethel Bayne (Watkins) Burrows
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Bruce Mason
Judith V. Mason
Giovanni Count Mastai-Ferretti,
HH Pope Pius IX
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Benjamin Franklin Reinauer
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Cynthia Ann Reinauer
Florence Shelby Reinauer
Patricia Scheelje Reinauer
Robert and Chastine Rennie
Byron Rice
Carey B. Rice
Eva Rice
Hazel Rice
Leslie and Beryl Rice
Samuel and Susan Rice
Fr. John Rick
Earvin Rivera-Robles
Beryl A. Robinson
Neville Robinson
Lois Romain
Neville Romain
Nora Romain
Barbara Rowe
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Carmen Galindo Ordonez
de Santa Anna
Jose Maria Santa Anna Arciniega
Beatrice and William Santos
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John Arthur Saunders
Kenneth Arthur Saunders
Virginia Ingersoll Saunders
Earley & Mayme Savage
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Louise Marguerite Scheelje
Marie Ariana Scheelje
William Dietrich Casper Scheelje
William Stanley Scheelje
Cynthia Whalen Schmadeke
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