

SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE  
in the  
CITY OF NEW YORK



One West Fifty-third Street  
New York, New York 10019  
Telephone: 212-757-7013  
[www.SaintThomasChurch.org](http://www.SaintThomasChurch.org)  
The Reverend Canon Carl F. Turner, *Rector*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025 AT 11 A.M.  
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SOLEMN EUCHARIST  
SUNG BY THE SAINT THOMAS CHOIR OF MEN AND BOYS



STC  
200

**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](mailto: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*

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**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](mailto:admissions@choirschool.org)

[www.ChoirSchool.org](http://www.ChoirSchool.org)

**HONORARY CLERGY**

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

The Reverend Mark Brown, *Honorary Assistant*

The Reverend Gina Gore, *Honorary Assistant*

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Karl C. Saunders, *Treasurer*

You may contact the Wardens using this address: [Wardens@SaintThomasChurch.org](mailto:Wardens@SaintThomasChurch.org).



THE ORDINARY OF THE MASS

Mass for four voices

William Byrd  
(1540-1623)

PRELUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

Trio super 'Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland', BWV 660

Johann Sebastian Bach

*The People remain seated for the Mattins Responsory.*

RESPONSORY

adapted from Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina  
(c. 1525-1594)

V. I look from afar:

R. And lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

V. Go ye out to meet him and say:

R. Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

V. High and low, rich and poor, one with another,

R. Go ye out to meet him and say:

V. Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep,

R. Tell us, art thou he that should come?

V. Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come

R. To reign over thy people Israel.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

R. I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

V. Go ye out to meet him and say:

R. Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

*The People stand at the entry of the Choir and Ministers.*



PROCESSIONAL HYMN

HELMSLEY

1 Lol he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for  
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in  
3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his  
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on

our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand  
dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at  
daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less  
thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the

saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his  
nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the  
ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -  
power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine

train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

*Lol he comes, with clouds descending*, #57 from *The Hymnal 1982* – Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788).  
Music: *Helmsley*, melody Thomas Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.  
Descant: David Cooper (b. 1949)



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

THE night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. (*Romans 13:12*)

*The People kneel. Silence is kept.*

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
maker of all things, judge of all men:  
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness,  
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,  
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,  
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.  
We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;  
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,  
the burden of them is intolerable.  
Have mercy upon us,  
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 honor and glory of thy Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**T**HE 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.**

*Sung by the Choir*

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



THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant*    The Lord be with you.

*People*        **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant*    Let us pray.

**A**Lmighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor 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 Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The People sit.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE LESSON

Isaiah 2:1-5

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 122

*Sung by the Choir*

Plainsong (*Tone I<sup>1</sup>*)

LAETATUS SUM

**I** WAS glad when they said unto me : We will go into the house of the Lord.  
Our feet shall stand in thy gates : O Jerusalem.  
Jerusalem is built as a city : that is at unity in itself.  
For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord : to testify unto Israel,  
to give thanks unto the Name of the Lord.  
For there is the seat of judgement : even the seat of the house of David.  
O pray for the peace of Jerusalem : they shall prosper that love thee.  
Peace be within thy walls : and plenteousness within thy palaces.  
For my brethren and companions' sakes : I will wish thee prosperity.  
Yea, because of the house of the Lord our God : I will seek to do thee good.  
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

Romans 13:11-14

*Subdeacon*    The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

*The People stand.*



HYMN

BRISTOL

1. Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior prom-ised long;  
2. He comes, the pris-oners to re - lease in Sa - tan's bond - age held;  
3. He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing soul to cure;  
4. Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come shall pro - claim;

5  
let ev - ery heart pre - pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.  
the gates of brass be - fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
and with the trea - sures of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
and heaven's e - ter - nal arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

*Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes*, #53 from *Hymns Ancient and Modern, Revised* – Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751).  
Music: Bristol, from Thomas Ravenscroft's *The Whole Booke of Psalmes*, 1621.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Plainsong (Mode VI)

*Cantor* *People*  
Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Cantor* Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God:  
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

*People*  
Al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

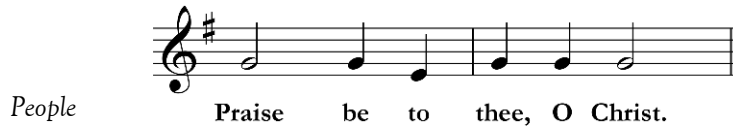
*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew.

*Deacon*  
*People* Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord.

After the Gospel, the Deacon says



The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

The Rector

*A period of silent reflection may follow the sermon.*

THE NICENE CREED

*The People stand. It is customary to bow at the underlined words.*

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 (SPECIAL FORM)

*The People remain standing for the prayers. The Leader says*

**W**ATCHFUL at all times,  
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence  
before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy,  
let us pray to the Lord:

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

That God may establish among the nations his scepter of righteousness,  
let us pray to the Lord:

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,  
let us pray to the Lord:

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen,  
let us pray to the Lord:

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live  
in darkness and the shadow of death,  
let us pray to the Lord:

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world,  
let us pray to the Lord:

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray  
to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

*Silence is kept. The Celebrant says*

**O** LORD, raise up, we pray thee, thy power, and come among us,  
and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness,  
we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us,  
thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us;  
through the satisfaction of thy Son our Lord,  
to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be honor and glory,  
world without end. **Amen.**



## THE PEACE

*The Celebrant says*

**I**N the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way 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.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### MOTET AT THE OFFERTORY

*William Byrd*

**R**ORATE caeli desuper,  
et nubes pluant justum:  
aperiatur terra, et germinet salvatorem.  
Benedixisti, Domine, terram tuam:  
avertisti captivitatem Jacob. Gloria Patri,  
et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in  
principio, et nunc, et semper, et in  
saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*Drop down ye heavens, from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness:  
Let the earth open and bring forth a Saviour.  
Lord, thou hast blessed thy land:  
Thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.  
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.*

*Introit for the Fourth Sunday in Advent*

### HYMN

### CROSS OF JESUS

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set thy peo - ple free,  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth thou art,  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and yet a king,  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit, Rule in all our hearts a - lone;

From our fears and sins re - lease us, Let us find our rest in thee.  
Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
Born to reign in us for ev - er, Now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
By thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to thy glor - ious throne.

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus*, #3 from *The New English Hymnal* – Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788).  
Music: *Cross of Jesus*, John Stainer (1840-1901).



## 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 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.

Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear 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

## 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, which concludes*

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

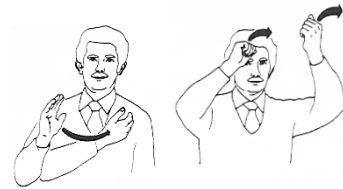
*The People respond*                      **AMEN.**



## 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,



Our

Father

*The Celebrant says*

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

*Celebrant and People*

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. The Celebrant says*

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.



PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

*Celebrant and People*

**W**E 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*The Celebrant says*

**B**EHOLD 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 shouldst 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 the crossing. Intinction (dipping the host in the chalice) is not permitted.*

*You are welcome to receive in one kind only. Gluten free hosts are available - please ask the priest.*

MIDDLE VOLUNTARY

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BuxWV 211

*Dieterich Buxtehude  
(1637-1707)*

AGNUS DEI

*Sung by the Choir*

**A**GNUS 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.*



ANTHEM

*Sung by the Choir*

*Ralph Vaughan Williams*  
(1872-1958)

*arr. Christopher Robinson*  
(b. 1936)

**T**HIS is the truth sent from above,  
the truth of God, the God of love;  
therefore don't turn me from the door  
but hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate,  
is that God did man create;  
the next thing which to you I'll tell,  
woman was made with him to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes  
till God the Lord did interpose;  
and so a promise soon did run:  
that he'd redeem us by his Son.

And at that season of the year  
our blest Redeemer did appear,  
he here did live, and here did preach,  
and many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,  
to show us how we must be saved;  
and if you want to know the way,  
be pleased to hear what he did say.

*John Addington Symonds (1840-1893)*

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*The Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*The People kneel and silence is kept.*

*Celebrant and People*

**A**Lmighty 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

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

*The Celebrant says*

**M**AY Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **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.**

HYMN

WACHET AUF

1 Wake, O wake! with ti - dings thrill - ing The watch - men all the  
2 Si - on hears the watch - men shou - ting, Her heart leaps up with  
3 Ev - ery soul in thee re - joi - ces; From men and from an -  
air are fill - ing, A - rise, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!  
joy un - doubt - ing, She stands and waits with ea - ger eyes;  
ge - lic voi - ces Be glo - ry giv'n to thee a - lone!  
Mid - night strikes! no more de - lay - ing, 'The hour has come!' we  
See her Friend from heav'n des - cen - ding, A - dorned with truth and  
Now the gates of pearl re - ceive us, Thy pres - cence ne - ver  
hear them say - ing. Where are ye all, ye vir - gins wise?  
grace un - en - ding! Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.  
more shall leave us, We stand with An - gels round thy throne.  
The Bride - groom comes in sight, Raise high your tor - ches  
Now come, thou pre - cious Crown, Lord Je - su, God's own  
Earth can - not give be - low The bliss thou dost be -



bright! Al - le - lu - ia! The wed - ding song Swells  
Son! Ho - san - na! Let us pre - pare To\_\_  
stow. Al - le - lu - ia! Grant us to raise, To\_\_

loud and strong: Go forth and join the fes - tal throng.  
fol - low there, Where in thy sup - per we\_\_ may share.  
length of days, The tri - umph - cho - rus of\_\_ thy praise.

*Wake, O wake! with tidings thrilling*, #16 from *The New English Hymnal* – Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608), tr. F. C. Burkitt (1864-1935).  
Music: *Wachet auf*, melody by Philipp Nicolai; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

#### THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to prepare the way of the Lord.  
People Thanks be to God.

#### VOLUNTARY

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

Johann Sebastian Bach

**Please join us for Coffee Hour at the back of the Lady Chapel after the service.**



Saint Thomas gives thanks for those who have given endowed funds to provide flowers to beautify the church in perpetuity. This week, we give thanks for the memory of Linda Griffith Vorsanger, Margaret Crane Hurlbut, Helen Green Battle, and Arthur Turnbull Hill. and pray for the repose of their souls.

May the glory of the LORD endure for ever, may the LORD rejoice in his works. (Psalm 104:31)



STC  
200

God's Love at the Heart of New York

## WORSHIP & RECITALS THIS WEEK

\* indicates livestreamed.

### Today

**4 p.m. The Advent Procession\***

*sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys*

### **Monday December 1<sup>st</sup> – Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

**12 p.m. Shrine Prayers\***

**12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist\***

### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup>**

**3 p.m. Contemplative Prayer**

### **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> Nicholas of Smyrna**

**11-11:45 a.m. Confessions, Spiritual Advice,  
Ministry of Healing in the Resurrection Chapel**  
Confessor: Fr. Mark Brown

**12 p.m. Shrine Prayers\***

**12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist\***

### Next Sunday: December 7<sup>th</sup>

### **The Second Sunday of Advent**

**7:45 a.m. Said Mass**

**9 a.m. Sung Mass**

*Sung by the Noble Singers*

*followed by Coffee Hour in the Parish House*

**11 a.m. Litany in Procession & Solemn  
Eucharist\***

*sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys  
& the Choir of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, UK*  
Sermon by Fr. Moretz

**4 p.m. Solemn Evensong\***

*sung by the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys*  
Sermon by Fr. Gonzalez-Grissom

December 9 & 11 | Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30 PM

George Frideric Handel

**MESSIAH**

Tickets available at [saintthomaschurch.org/concerts](http://saintthomaschurch.org/concerts)

# Parish Notices

**Children and Family Ministries:** The Blessing of the Crèche Service, a telling of the Nativity Story, is Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. If your child wishes to participate, please email Fr. Preston at [pgonzalezgrissom@saintthomaschurch.org](mailto:pgonzalezgrissom@saintthomaschurch.org). 10am Children's Formation is available for children Pre-K - High School from 10-10:45 following the 9am Mass. 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 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. To receive more information, contact [childrenandfamilies@saintthomaschurch.org](mailto:childrenandfamilies@saintthomaschurch.org).

The **Noble Singers**, our children's parish choir for singers (ages 5-14+) sing in the 9am Mass. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 4:15-5:15pm, and new singers are always welcome. No audition is necessary, just enthusiasm and a love of music! For more information, and to register your singer, contact [JLane@saintthomaschurch.org](mailto: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](mailto:mwhite@choirschool.org).

**Concerts at Saint Thomas** presents the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys in their annual performances of Handel's Messiah, accompanied by the period instrument ensemble New York Baroque Incorporated on December 9 and 11 at 7:30pm. The Choir is joined by soloists Margaret Carpenter Haigh, Daniel Moody, James Reese, and Paul Max

Tipton, led by conductor Richard Tanner. Tickets for in person and livestream are available now at [www.saintthomaschurch.org/music/concerts](http://www.saintthomaschurch.org/music/concerts)

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 아침묵상글을 이메일로 받아볼 수 있습니다. <https://mailchi.mp/saintthomaschurch/korean>

**Contemplative Prayer** takes place on 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](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Parish House and are streamed online. For more info, contact Fr. Luigi Gioia: [lgioia@saintthomaschurch.org](mailto: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 Hear" 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](mailto:mbrown@saintthomaschurch.org)

**The Annual Election for the Vestry of Saint Thomas** Church will be held on December 2, 2025. The following parishioners are standing for election: As warden, Lloyd Stanford; and for the vestry, Samyel Lee, John Oghia and Karl Saunders. The by-laws of the parish define those eligible to vote as follows: "Persons of full age belonging to the Parish, who have been baptized and are regular attendants at its worship and contributors to its support for at least twelve months prior to such election or special meeting, shall be qualified voters at any such election or special meeting." Ballots have been e-mailed and mailed if we have no emails on file. If you have not received one and are a qualified voter, please contact Lizette Hernandez at [LHernandez@saintthomaschurch.org](mailto:LHernandez@saintthomaschurch.org).

**The Angelus Tree.** We invite you to donate gifts for disadvantaged children and children who will spend Christmas Day in a municipal shelter this year. We also give gifts to children who are with their mothers in a shelter for those who are escaping domestic violence. Simply take a gift tag from the tree and bring your gift unwrapped before Christmas. If you prefer to make a donation and for us to shop for the gift, use the QR code:



### **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.



**Contributions for Christmas Flower Memorials** are now being received in memory of departed loved ones. The names of the faithful departed in whose memory the church will be adorned will be listed in the Christmas service leaflet on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In order to cover the cost of Christmas flowers, we suggest a minimum donation of \$25 per name. Please send your check, made payable to Saint Thomas Church, and a printed list of those in whose memory you are making your donation to the parish house receptionist. You can also email your list to [giving@saintthomaschurch.org](mailto:giving@saintthomaschurch.org). We cannot guarantee that any names received after December 8 will appear in print, but will be printed and placed on the altar for the Christmas services. The deadline is Monday, December 8 for names printed in the leaflets.



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:



