

*St. Thomas Memorial Church
The Third Sunday of Advent
The Holy Eucharist – Rite 2
December 14, 2025*



BEFORE WORSHIP: Please remember that many use the time before the first hymn quietly to pray and to prepare themselves for worship. If you need to speak to someone when you come into church then please do so in soft voices so as not to disturb those around you who may be praying.

Prelude **“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”** **arr. Craig Penifield**

The Lighting of the Advent Candle– The Wissel family (Brian, Marsha, and Michael)

Processional Hymn #76 “On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry”

Starting on Pg. 355 of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP)

Priest Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Canticle: Hymn #S-186 “The Song of Mary” - Magnificat

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

The Reading of God’s Word

The First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146:4-9

The Second Lesson: James 5:7-10

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

Hymn #67 “Comfort, comfort, ye, my people”

Before the Gospel

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*
The Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

After the Gospel

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sermon.....The Rev. Daniel J. Isadore

The Nicene Creed (Pg. 358, BCP)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People, Form V (Pg. 389, BCP)

Leader: In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy”

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our Priests and for all bishops, especially Ketlen Solak, and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our Outreach Ministries and Shepherd's Heart and our Eucharistic ministry, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Pittsburgh Diocese, especially St. James Episcopal Church, Penn Hills, the Reverend Canon Eric McIntosh, Beloved Community Initiative, and Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this congregation [for those who are present, and for those who are absent], that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are celebrating their birthdays this week, especially Tyler Aber, Endy Reindl, Noel Clive, LuAnn Hunter, and Toby Stilley, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those celebrating their wedding anniversaries this week, especially Sanford & Elaine Chilcote, and Cliff & Helen Askin, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Thomas and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God. **To you, O Lord our God.**

(Concluding prayer read by the celebrant.)

The Confession (Pg. 360, BCP)

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

The Absolution

The Peace

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory

“Mary Did You Know?”

Offered by Soloist Doug Brannock

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Offering of Bread, Wine and Alms

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B (Pg. 367, BCP)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them to the Lord.*
Celebrant *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*
People *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing.....Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the
company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Hymnal S-114

Willan

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 who cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the
highest.

Then the Celebrant continues (Pg. 368 BCP)

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us
in creation... ..In Him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into
righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us.....“Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine.....“Whenever you drink it, do this for the
remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
Celebrant and People
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all presenting to you,
from your creation, this bread and this wine...By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity
of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as
we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Priest *Alleluia.* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Prayer of Humble Access

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 we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Invitation

Hymn S-158—O Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)

Willan

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, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.
(All baptized persons are welcome to receive the sacrament at our altar rail.)

Communion Hymn #60 “Creator of the stars of night”

Hymn “Lord, you are more precious than silver”

Lord, You are more precious than silver; Lord, You are more costly than gold,
Lord, You are more beautiful than diamonds, And nothing I desire compares with You.

Lord, Your life is divine, eternal, Lord, Your life regenerated me,
Lord, Your life is growing within me, Until I am fully conformed to Thee.

Lord, Your love is wide as the ocean, Lord, Your love is deep as the sea,
Lord, Your love encompasses the nations, And that is all I want to live in me

Lord, Your light is shining within us, Lord, Your light drives darkness away,
Lord, Your light is guiding us onwards, Preparing us for the coming glorious day.

Words/Music by Lynn DeShazo ©1982 Integrity's Hosanna! Music CCLI #940217

After Communion the Priest says

Let us pray.

Priest and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn #66 “Come, thou long-expected Jesus”

The Dismissal

Priest Alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude “Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates”

David Johnson

Christmas Services

Sunday, Dec. 21: 7:00 pm Longest Night of the Year Service

Wed. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve: 4:30 pm Christmas Eve service with Children’s Pageant
9:10 pm Christmas Eve service with Choral
Presentation (service starting at 9:30)

Thurs. Dec. 25 Christmas Day: 10:30 am Holy Eucharist

Sunday, Dec. 28: 8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I (following normal
schedule)
10:30 am Lessons and Carols and Holy Eucharist Rite II

We welcome you to join us!

SAINT THOMAS MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Email: sttomoakmont@gmail.com

The Rev. Jeffrey D. Murph, Rector

The Rev. Daniel J. Isadore, Associate Rector

The Rev. Guy W. Brown, Assistant Priest

Mrs. Louise Lugar, Organist/Choir Director

St. Thomas' Vestry

Matt Derby
Sr. Warden

Paul Cammisa
Jr. Warden

Jonathan Dailey
Vestry Clerk

Betti Rottschaefer
Treasurer

Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger, Kristin Brown,
James Fischer, Julie King, Theresa McClain

UPCOMING / ONGOING EVENTS:

Monday—Thursday 9 am Morning Prayer in the Thomas House Chapel

Tuesdays at 11 am Bible Study in the Guild Room

Wednesdays at 10 am Healing Eucharist Service in the Thomas House Chapel

Wednesdays at 7 pm Choir Practice in the Choir Room (basement)

Sundays at 9:30 Adult Sunday School in the Guild Room

****** On your way back to your pew following communion, please take a Chrismon ornament or two and place them on the trees to decorate them. Information about the symbols is located in the bulletin insert.

****** The annual Oakmont Carol Walk will be held TONIGHT starting at 6 pm at St. Thomas. The program will conclude at the Methodist Church with the cookie reception following. All are welcome!

****** The Longest Night of the Year Service will be held on Dec. 21 at 7 pm. All are welcome to attend this beautiful, calm service.

****** Philip A. Pew is back for his annual Christmas food drive. Please bring your non-perishable food items to Philip's pew at the back of the church. All items will be taken to the Rosedale Food Bank prior to Christmas.

****** CALLING ALL CHILDREN!! Children (especially the young ones) are needed to participate in the annual Christmas Pageant, which takes place during the 4:30 pm Christmas Eve service. Please speak with Jessica Fischer in person or at 412-491-7628 / JLFischer316@gmail.com.

****** Pledge envelopes are now available at the back of the church for 2026. If you do not see your name and would like a box, please speak with Laurel in the office and she will make arrangements to get you one.

Participants for this service:

Acolytes: Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger, Thomas Fischer

First Lesson: Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger

Psalm: Thomas Fischer

Second Lesson: Grace Murph

Leader, Prayers of the People: Karleen Shepard

Verger: Theresa McClain

Ushers: Ted Denlinger, Dave Eber

Coffee Hour Hostess and Host: Darrell Powell and Richard Williams

Last week's attendance: 8:00 28

10:30 52

Total Donations: \$2,809.00