St. Thomas Memorial Church
The First Sunday of Advent
The Holy Eucharist – Rite 2
November 29, 2026

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, O Long Expected Jesus"** **arr. Robert Powell**

Blowing of the Shofar and Reading from Isaiah of the Acceptable Year of the Lord
Isaiah 61:1-3
61 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle– The Fischer Family (James, Jessica, Thomas, Matthew, Elisabeth, and Andrew)

Processional Hymn #57 "Lo! He Comes, With Clouds Descending"

THE WORD OF GOD

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.*

Collect 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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day
Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your 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 living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Reading of God's Word *(Please be seated)*
The First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9
64 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— **2** as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! **3** When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. **4** From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. **5** You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. **6** We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. **7** There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. **8** Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. **9** Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18
1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Hymn #68 "Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers"

Before the Gospel
Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

The Holy Gospel: Mark 13:24-37
24 "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I

tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

Sermon… .....The Rev. Canon James D. Shoucair

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 retired clergy, including the Reverends James Simons, Stephen Smalley, Regis Smolko, Nancy Threadgill, Linda Tardy Wilson, Randy Younkin, and Agustin Zubieta, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

Gracious and loving God, you know the needs of St. Thomas better than we know them ourselves. Be present with us as we seek the priest whom you are calling to serve among us. Guide our Search Committee, Vestry, and parish with the wisdom of your Holy Spirit. Give us patience in waiting, humility in listening, courage in discerning, and trust in your timing.

Prepare the heart of the priest whom you are calling, and prepare our hearts to receive that person with faith, openness, and love. Keep us united in Christ during this time of transition. Help us to continue worshiping faithfully, caring for one another, serving our neighbors, and growing in the mission you have entrusted to this parish, 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 Karleen Shepard and Shawn McClelland, 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)

Deacon or Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Celebrant and people Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. *Amen.*

The Absolution
Priest Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Peace
Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People *And also with you.*

Announcements

The Holy Communion
<u>Offertory</u>
"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" by Don McAfee

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, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, 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 page 368, BCP

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Thomas and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Celebrant and People 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.*

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.

Prayer of Humble Access

Priest and People 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

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.
(All baptized persons are welcome to receive the sacrament at our altar rail. Gluten free Host is available upon request.)

Communion Hymn #324 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Hymn "My Lord He Is A Comin' Soon"

Refrain: My Lord He is a-comin' soon, prepare ye the way of the Lord
Get everything ready for that day, prepare ye the way of the Lord.

1. If you're asleep, it's time to wake up; awake, O sleeper, arise. If you're in the dark,
It's time to be lit; awake, O sleeper, arise! (Refrain)

2. Come, Lord Jesus, come into my heart; prepare ye the way of the King.
He is coming, he's coming soon; prepare the way of the King! (Refrain)

3. John the Baptist now calls to us; "Repent and change your ways.
The true Messiah is coming soon, He is the hope of the world!"

My Lord He is a-comin' soon, prepare ye the way of the Lord
Get everything ready for that day, prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Prepare ye the way of the, prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Song words used by Permission CCLI #940217

After Communion the Celebrant says
Let us pray.

Celebrant and People
Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn #73 "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"

The Dismissal
Priest Alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Postlude **"The King Shall Come"** **Theodore Beck**

Christmas Services

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

Thurs. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve: 4:30 pm Christmas Eve service with Children's Pageant

9:15 pm Christmas Eve service with Choral Presentation
(service starting at 9:30)

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

Sunday, Dec. 27: 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!

We at St. Thomas, members of the Body of Christ, are called by God to Grow;
Spiritually, in Parish Life, in Community Life, and as a Congregation.

SAINT THOMAS MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH
378 Delaware Avenue; Oakmont, PA 15139
412-828-9680
www.st-tom.org
Email: sttomoakmont@gmail.com
The Rev. Canon James D. Shoucair, Interim Rector
The Rev. Deacon Nicole Starr, Curate
Mrs. Louise Lugar, Organist/Choir Director

St. Thomas' Vestry

Julie King	Paul Cammisa (NV)	Jonathan Dailey	Betti Rottschaefer (NV)
Sr. Warden	*Jr. Warden*	*Vestry Clerk*	*Treasurer*

Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger, Kristin Brown, Mitzi Fidler,
James Fischer, LuAnn Brink Hunter, Bill Lugar, Richard Williams
NV = Non-voting member

UPCOMING / ONGOING EVENTS:

Sundays at 9:30 Adult Sunday School in the Guild Room
Tuesdays and Thursdays Evening Prayer from 6:30 - 7pm in the church
Tuesdays at 11 am Bible Study in the Guild Room
Wednesdays at 10 am Healing Service in the Thomas House Chapel
Wednesdays: 7 pm Choir Practice in the Choir Room (basement)

** There will be a speaker from NAMI (National Association for Mental Illness) to speak about depression/suicide on Dec. 6 during the Adult Sunday School time.

** Oakmont's Annual Carol Walk will be held on Dec. 13 starting at 6 pm at the Methodist church. St. Thomas is second in the rotation, starting at 6:30 pm.

** Calling all children!! We are in need of children to participate in the annual Christmas pageant which takes place during the 4:30 pm Christmas Eve service. Practices will be held on Dec. 13 and 20 at 9:30 am. Parents, please contact Jessica Fischer at 412-491-7628 or JLFISCHER316@gmail.com.

** The Longest Night of the Year service will be held on Monday, Dec. 21 at 7 pm.

Participants for this service:
Acolytes: Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger, Thomas Fischer
First Lesson: Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger
Psalm: Thomas Fischer
Second Lesson: James Fischer
Leader, Prayers of the People: Karleen Shepard
Verger: Theresa McClain
Ushers: James Fischer, Ted Denlinger
Coffee Hour Hostess:

Last week's attendance: 8:00: 34
10:30: 46

Total Donations: $1,898.00