



The Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 7, 2025

9:30 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist Rite One

Welcome visitors and newcomers; we are glad you are here! If you would like more information about the community of St. Thomas, please speak to a greeter or a member of the clergy. To receive information by email, please fill out a visitor card found in the pew and give to an usher or place in the offering plate.

Entrance Hymn 76

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Winchester New

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Opening Acclamation (BCP p. 323)

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

People

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Celebrant says

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

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

The following is sung, all standing

S 91

Lord, have mercy upon us

Willan

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

The people sit.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah [11:1-10]

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Remain seated.

¹**Give the king your justice, O God, ***
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
²**That he may rule your people righteously ***
and the poor with justice;
³**That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, ***
and the little hills bring righteousness.
⁴**He shall defend the needy among the people; ***
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
⁵**He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, ***
from one generation to another.
⁶**He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, ***
like showers that water the earth.
⁷**In his time shall the righteous flourish; ***
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
¹⁸**Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, ***
who alone does wondrous deeds!
¹⁹**And blessed be his glorious Name forever, ***
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Church in Rome [15:4-13]

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹²and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 65

Prepare the way, O Zion

Bereden väg för Herran

All stand.



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Refrain
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew [3:1-12]

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

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Gospel Response: Hymn 99

Go tell it on the mountain

Refrain:

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.*

1. While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

2. The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.

3. Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

The Nicene Creed

All stand.

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 worshiped 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.

The Prayers of the People

Deacon

In peace, we pray to you, Holy One, saying, "Loving God, give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding."

Intercessor

God of hope, in this season of Advent, help us to live in harmony with one another, working for justice, freedom, and peace.

Loving God, give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding.

God of the Church catholic, we pray to you for all the holy people of God and for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Thomas, our bishop, and for our parish lay and clergy leaders.

Loving God, give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding.

God of creation and growth, let us be the fruit of your word for our world and good stewards of your world.

Loving God, give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding.

God of compassion, let us be the voices crying out in the wilderness wherever we see oppression or pain, the voices for those who have no voice.

Loving God, give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding.

God of healing and hope, we pray for those needing ongoing care and for all those waiting upon your mercy.

Loving God, give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding.

God of abundance, we offer thanks for all the blessings of this life.

Loving God, give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding.

God of all time, grant rest eternal for those who have died and grant us a place in your eternal kingdom.

Loving God, give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding.

God of loving-kindness, hear the prayers of your people, offered here, spoken or silent.

Silence is kept, during which the congregation may add their own prayers

Celebrant

Holy One who bids John cry out in the wilderness, seeking justice and promising forgiveness, draw us ever closer to you as we seek to make a pathway in this world for the coming of your love and mercy. ***Amen.***

Prayers may be offered for birthdays, healing, travel, anniversaries, etc.

Confession of Sin

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister 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 Priest stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

All stand.

Celebrant

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And with thy spirit.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion



Necessary announcements may be made; the people may be seated.

The people stand as the offerings are brought forward. Online Offerings: Scan the QR Code or click the Donate Button on our website (www.stthomascamden.org)

Offertory Hymn 67

Comfort, comfort ye my people

Psalm 42

1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er

saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry

ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er,
let the val - leys rise to meet him
and all flesh shall see the to - ken

and her war - fare now is o - ver.
and the hills bow down to greet him.
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People

And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

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,

S 114

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy

Willan

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of

Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -

- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people kneel or stand.

Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for 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 to thee, he broke 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 this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, 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; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace

and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

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. **AMEN.**

The Celebrant then continues

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

People and Celebrant

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

S 158

O Lamb of God

Willan

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

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 priest blesses the people.

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.


People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 597

O day of peace that dimly shines

Jerusalem

Introduction



1 O day of peace that dim - ly shines through all our
2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the


hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to jus - tice, truth, and
fierce de - vour the small; as beasts and cat - tle calm - ly

love, de - liv - ered from our self - ish schemes. May swords of
graze, a lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e -

hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re -
mies shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac -

lease, till by God's grace our war - ring world shall see Christ's
cord; the hope of peace shall be ful - filled, for all the

1 *Interlude*



prom - ised reign of peace.
earth shall know the (Lord.)

Final Ending



Lord.

Liturgical Ministers

Celebrant: The Rev. Paul Briggs
Deacon: The Rev. Kristen Burkholder
Guest organist: Scott Dryer
Eucharistic Minister: Sarah Groman, Dean Jackson
Readers: Kate Jackson, Pam Bardon
Prayers of the People: Jacqueline Recht
Ushers: Phil Groman, TBD

People in our Prayers

Healing: Marieda Hunt, Patrick Coleman, Jan L., Miriam, The Nisbet Family, Wendy, Jeff, Sandra Covington, Peter Walker, Br. Richard Biernacki BSG, Jeff, David Bridges, Kathy Bridges, Donald, Diana Mohr, Gwen, Charles Lewis, Jeanie, Timothy Jackson, Catherine, Kristina Shea, Tony, Mya Delisle, Andrew Moran, Donovan, Debra and Amy, Ned and Kathleen Bachus, Anna and her child Brody, Ruth Tolman, Helene, John, Phyllis, Michael, Bob, Sylvia, Marlene, Percy, Joan Grey, Cathy, James, Ken, Joseph, Jo Panayotoff, Joyce S, Jan Schaefer, Christine & Paul M, Jason, Kristen, Jeanie, Cathie, Brian, Bob S., Gary P., Gay Schueler, Pat Medley, Timothy Darling, Leah, Sandy, Ezra, Chris Strazzulla, Fr. Tom Pike, Evie Bridges, Luke Morelli, Tim Peters, Janice Boetsch, Lucy Ebbert, Shirley, Budge Walen, Chris, Vicki Boetsch, Catherine G, Annabel, Pam Kaler, Margery, Stephanie, Anne Crawford Collins

December Birthdays: Melinda Wildes (18), Susan Foltz (20), Gwen Prosser (22), Pat Ayers (22), Chris Glass (27), Millie Crocker (28), and Bobby Purkey (31)

Diocese Cycle of Prayer: St. Peter's, Rockland, For racial justice, For the work of Episcopal Relief and Development

Announcements

A special offering will be received this morning (“St. Thomas Feeds Families”) to provide local families with vouchers for a pork roast, chicken pot pie, or dessert pie. French & Brawn has generously offered to match the funds raised for the vouchers. You may give online by using the QR code or place cash or check in the envelope provided.

Help us build a stronger and more vibrant congregation! We need your input to the Congregational Assessment Tool, affectionately known as the CAT. Watch for the link on January 4. The 88 question survey must be completed no later than January 28, 2026. Paper copies will be made available upon request.

Christmas Pageant rehearsal will be held after the Liturgy December 14 and 21. See Anne Rogers Popejoy for details.

Please remember to return your offerings for Christmas Flowers and Greens no later than December 18 so we can include names in the bulletins for Christmas Eve.

Mark you calendar: Annual Parish Meeting will follow Morning Prayer on January 25.

This Week at St. Thomas’

Sunday, December 7:

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I (*Coffee Hour follows in Parish Hall*)
Saint Nicholas, Special Guest
Blessing of Outreach Stockings & Pantry Gifts
4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (*Lady Chapel*)

Wednesday, December 10:

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Healing
11:00 a.m. Bible Study (*online*)

Sunday, December 14:

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I (*Coffee Hour follows in Parish Hall*)
Pageant Rehearsal after Liturgy
4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (*Lady Chapel*)

A.A. meetings are held daily at 6:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. THOMAS

Christmas Eve, December 24

4 p.m. Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist (Rite II – Contemporary Language)

Familiar carols; Lizzie Danchi, Pianist

10 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist (Rite I – Traditional Language)

Incense will be used at this service

The Rev. Paul Briggs, Celebrant; Jim Higdon, Organist



First Sunday After Christmas, December 28

9:30 a.m. Christmas Lessons & Carols (Rite 1 – Traditional Language)

The Rev. Kristen Burkholder, Officiant; Lizzie Danchi, Pianist

Second Sunday After Christmas, January 4

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite 1 – Traditional Language)

The Rev. Paul Briggs, Celebrant; Jim Swist, Organist

Church Staff and Parish Officers

Kayla Clay, Parish Administrator

admin@stthomascamdenme.org

Office: 207-236-3680

The Rev. Paul Briggs, Interim Rector

interimrector@stthomascamdenme.org

(860) 384-9193

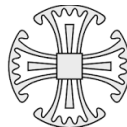
The Rev. Kristen Burkholder, Deacon

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The Rev. Dr. Rosalee

Anne Rogers-Popejoy, *Vestry Clerk*



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