ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH + SCHOOL

Worship | Study | Friendship | Compassion
November 29, 2026—10:00AM

If you are watching online, please fill out an online Connection Card by clicking the link in the comments. If you are in person, you can find a Connection Card in the church pews.

Advent Family Night

Today, November 29th, 5:30pm-7:30pm

Kick off the holiday season with St. Thomas! We invite you to join us for an evening of crafts, pizza, fellowship, and family fun.

Wednesday Advent Dinner Series

December 2nd - December 16th
Wednesdays in the Parish Hall

6:00pm—Dinner Served
6:30pm-7:30pm—Program Series

Gather around the table this Advent for three evenings of food, fellowship, and the story of Christmas told through art, music, and imagination. From Mary's great "yes" to the Nativity and the journey of the Magi, we'll explore familiar stories in new ways, with Handel's Messiah woven throughout each evening.

Children's Christmas Pageant

Children of all ages are invited to take part in our Christmas Pageant at the 3:00pm service on Thursday, December 24th. This beloved tradition gives our children a joyful way to share the story of Jesus' birth with our church family. Cousins, grandchildren, and friends are warmly welcome to join. Scan the QR code to sign up today to participate in this wonderful Christmas celebration.

Dress Rehearsal:
Saturday, December 19th at 9:00am

Sunday Sermon Series:

Comfort, O Comfort

November 29th–December 13th

What does it mean to wait for God with longing, receive His comfort, and rejoice in the good news He brings? This Advent, through the words of Isaiah and the witness of John the Baptist, we'll journey from the cry for God to come near, to the promise of comfort for His people, and finally to the good news of hope and joy for the brokenhearted and oppressed. Join us as we hear the voice crying out in the wilderness, encounter the Shepherd who gathers His people in His arms, and discover the joy of the One who comes to make all things new.

Missed a Sunday?

Previous sermons are available on our YouTube channel.
www.youtube.com/c/tom1604.

St. Thomas Angel Tree

Stop by Gosnell Hall today, November 29th, to pick up an Angel from the Angel Tree. A sign-up sheet will be available next to the tree. Each Angel includes a child's name, age, and gift request. Please return all gifts wrapped and labeled with the recipient's name by Sunday, December 13th. Gifts will be shared with children from Harmony Hills Elementary and Santa Fe Episcopal Church. Thank you for helping spread holiday cheer.

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026 • 10:00 AM

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.

The people's responses are in **bold.**

This type of note, offering directions about the service is called a "rubric," which comes from the Latin word rubrica (red) referring to a time when these instructional notes were always written in red.

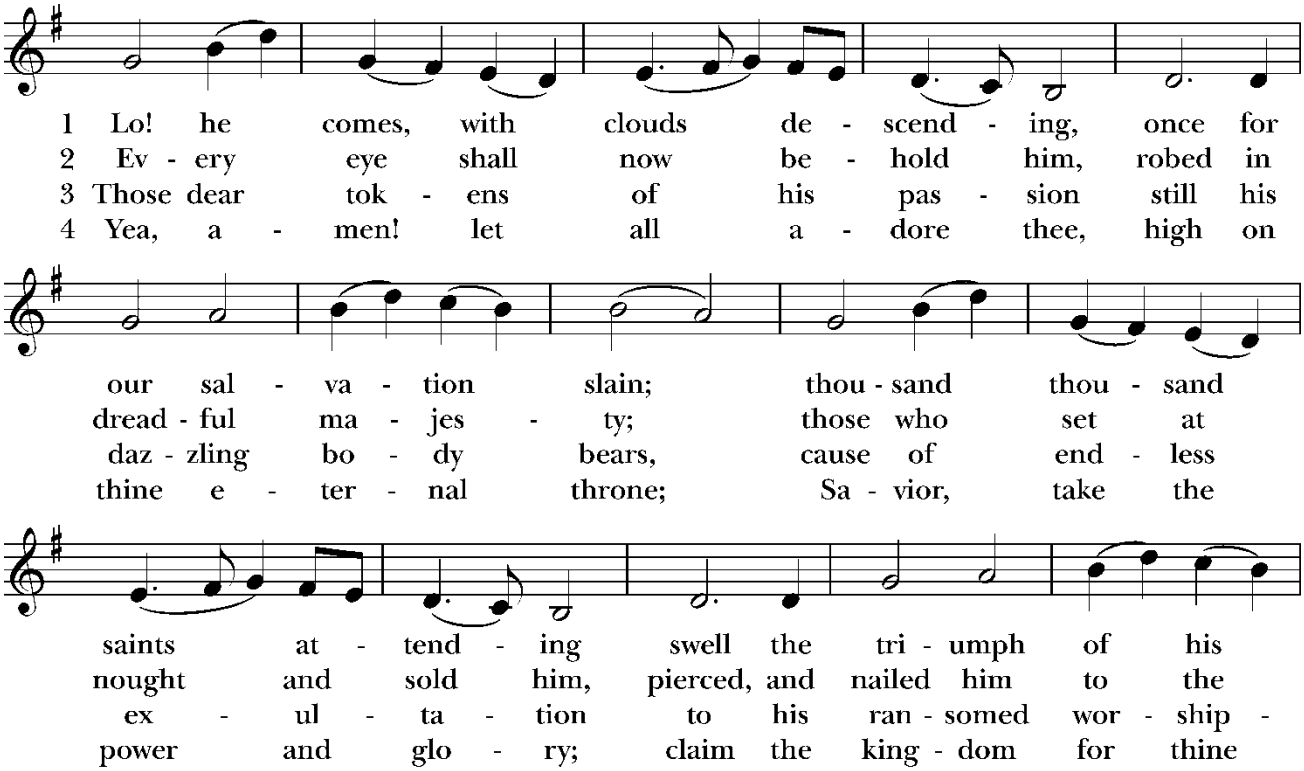
The Entrance Rite

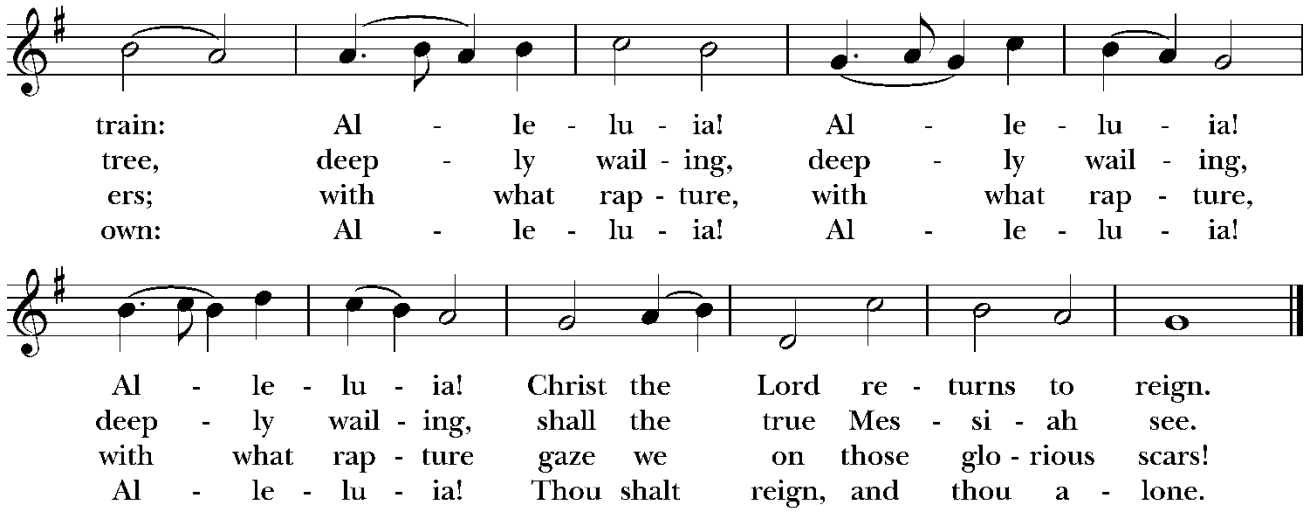
The Voluntary

My Lord, What a Morning arr. M. Kim

The Welcome and Announcements

The Hymn • 57 *Helmsley*





THE OPENING ACCLAMATION — BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER 299

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

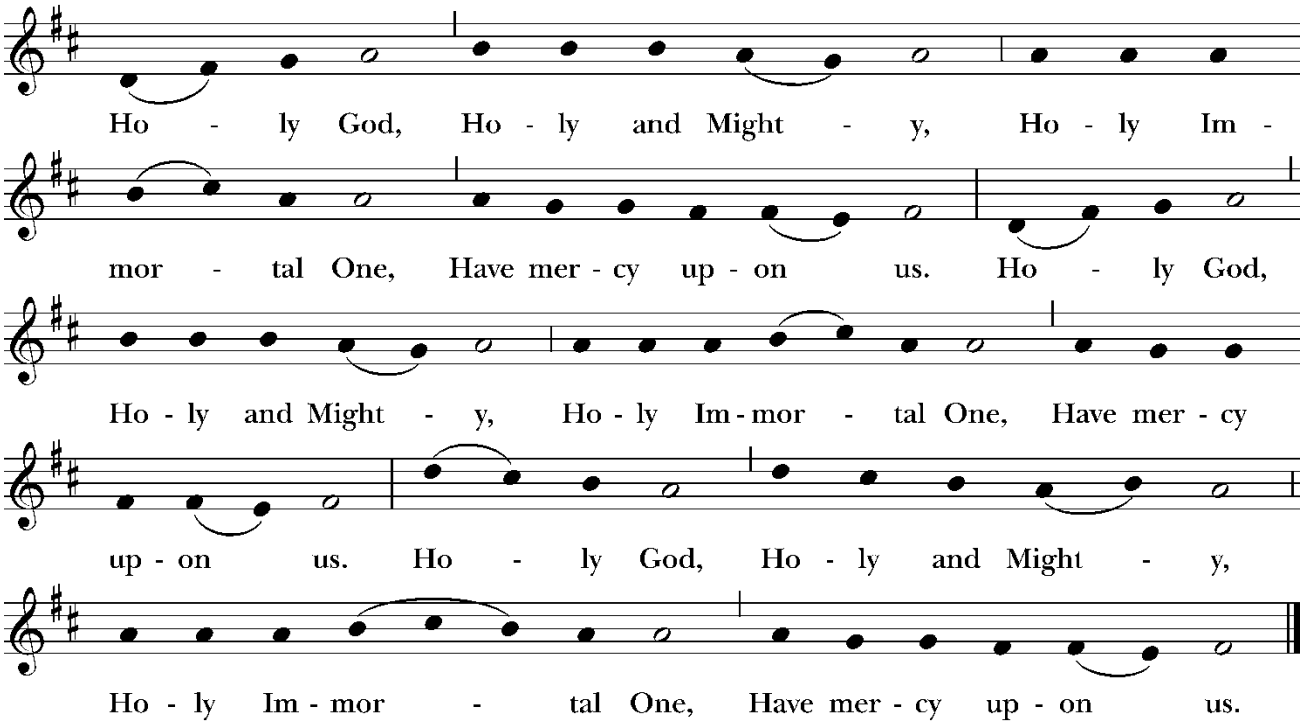
THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

The collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday that "collects" or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day.

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.**

THE TRISAGION • S 100 — David Hurd

The ordinary of the mass employs texts that remain the same for every mass. In the Latin mass the Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus and Benedictus, and the Agnus dei are the five parts of the mass that remain the same every week.



THE WORD OF GOD

The proper of the mass are the scriptural texts that change with the liturgical calendar. The collect, lessons, psalm, Gospel and preface to the communion liturgy are propers. Our lessons come from a prescribed cycle of readings called the lectionary. The lectionary consists of a three year cycle: Year. Each year we retell the story from Advent through Pentecost.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday that "collects" or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

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 CHILDREN'S SERMON

We invite your child to join our Children's Church program this morning! Children ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to come up for the children's sermon and then follow our Children's Church Leader, to a classroom down the hallway in our education wing. After the exchange of the peace, children are ushered back to their seats.

THE FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1-9

This reading is typically from the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) which Jesus knew and from which he often referred or quoted.

[1]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 for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18 *Sung by the choir* *Qui regis Israel*

The psalms are sung prayers that cover every mood of humanity's relationship with God and one another. The psalm is a response to hearing the Old Testament lesson and usually it relates to the themes heard in the lesson.

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 EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

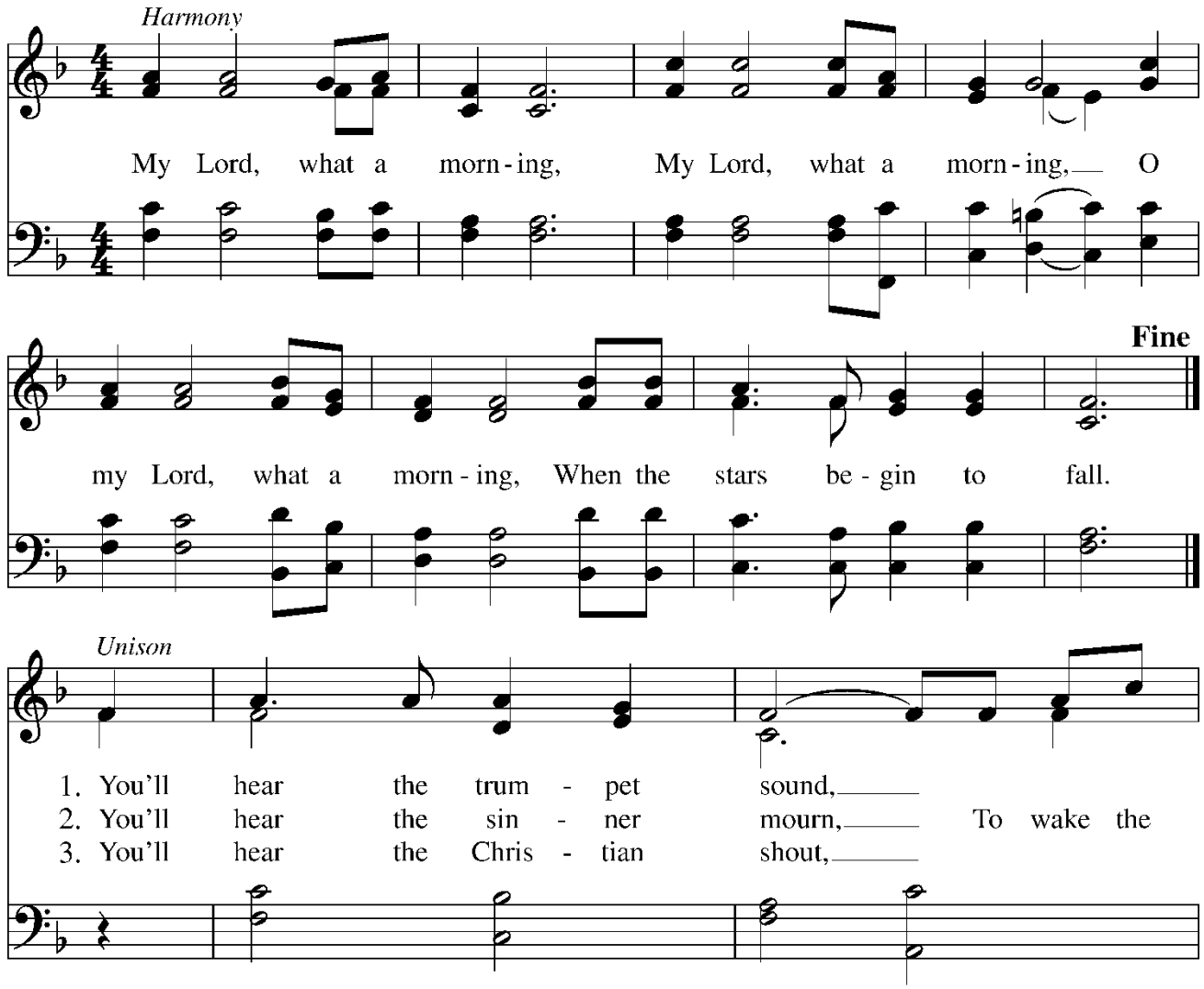
This reading from the New Testament is typically from a letter (epistle) from Paul to the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Revelation to John.

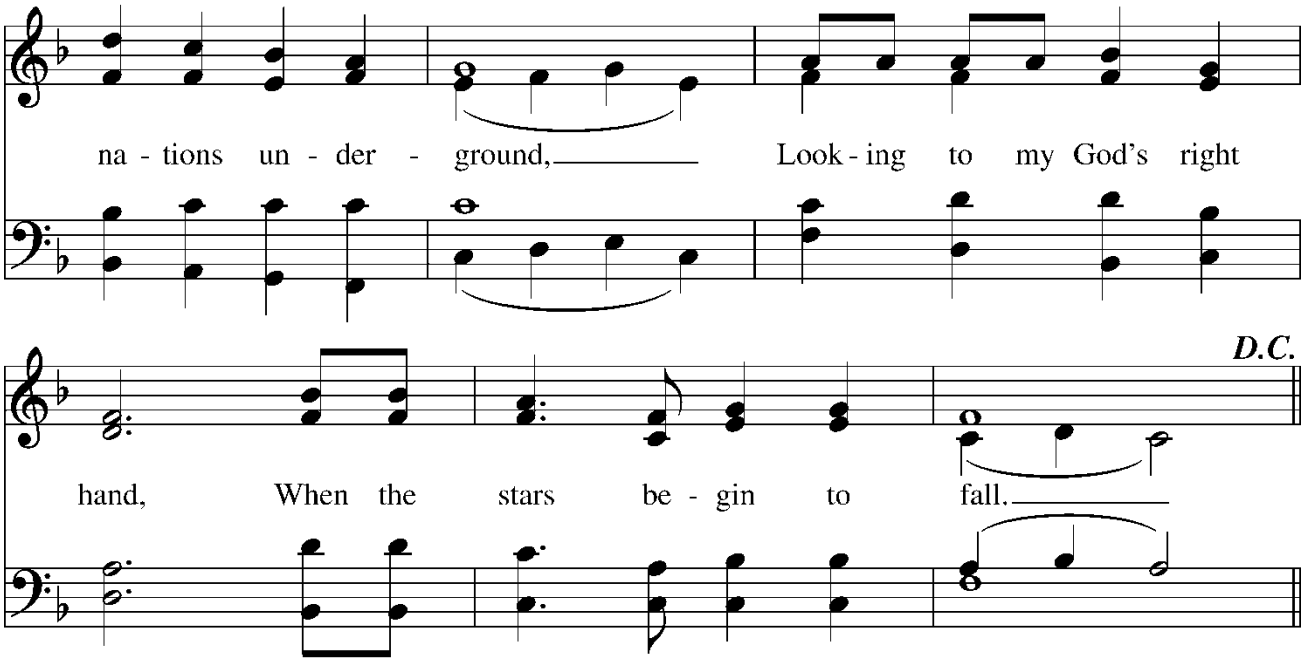
[3]Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

[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 spiritual 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 him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE HYMN *Spiritual*





Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

This reading is taken from one of the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, which depict the life, teachings, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel is the summit of the Liturgy of the Word and means "good news" and specifically the good news of Jesus. We stand for the Gospel reading to show respect for the particular importance of Jesus' words and actions.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

24 Jesus said, "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 his 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The Rev. Mike Michie

The sermon directly follows the Gospel because it illuminates the scriptural readings and relates them to daily life.

THE NICENE CREED BCP 358

The word "creed" comes from the Latin word "credo" which means I believe. First formulated at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD and confirmed in 381 AD, the Nicene Creed is said at the Holy Eucharist and reflects the Christian belief in the Holy Trinity and the relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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, FORM IV BCP 388

We *pray for ourselves and particularly on behalf of others. In our prayers we pray for the for Universal Church, the nation and all who govern, the welfare of the world, the concerns of our community of faith, including those who are in need or suffer, and for the departed. We are reminded in prayer that we are part of a larger fellowship, the Church—the Body of Christ.*

The Leader and People pray responsively

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Silence. The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION BCP 360

Confessing our sins, receiving forgiveness (absolution), and showing signs of peace to one another prepare us to receive Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Leader 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.

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

THE BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness and shared in the peace, we are prepared for Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give.

All are invited to make a gift to support St. Thomas' ministry of sharing God's love with the world.

The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.

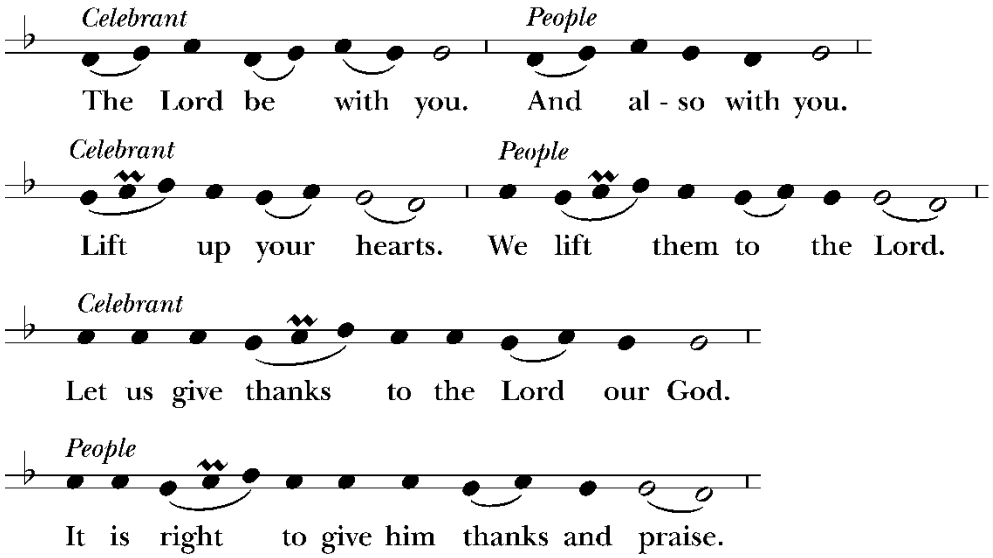
THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM Andre Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.
Children, don't get weary, till your work is done.
Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

THE DOXOLOGY *Old 100th*

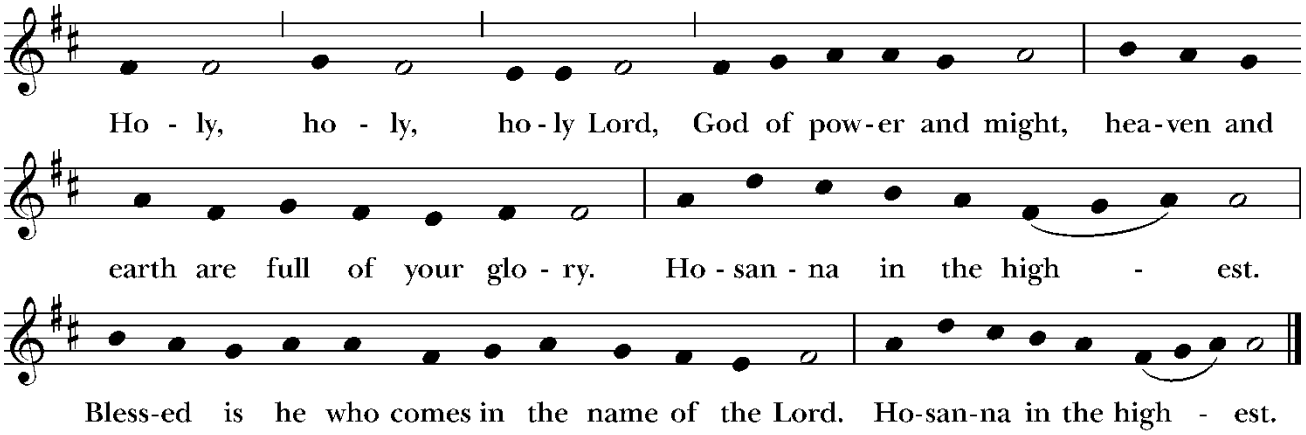
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B BCP 367



It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. *(Here a Proper Preface is sung or said.)* 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:

THE SANCTUS • S 124 David Hurd



Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

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;

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.

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 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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER BCP 364

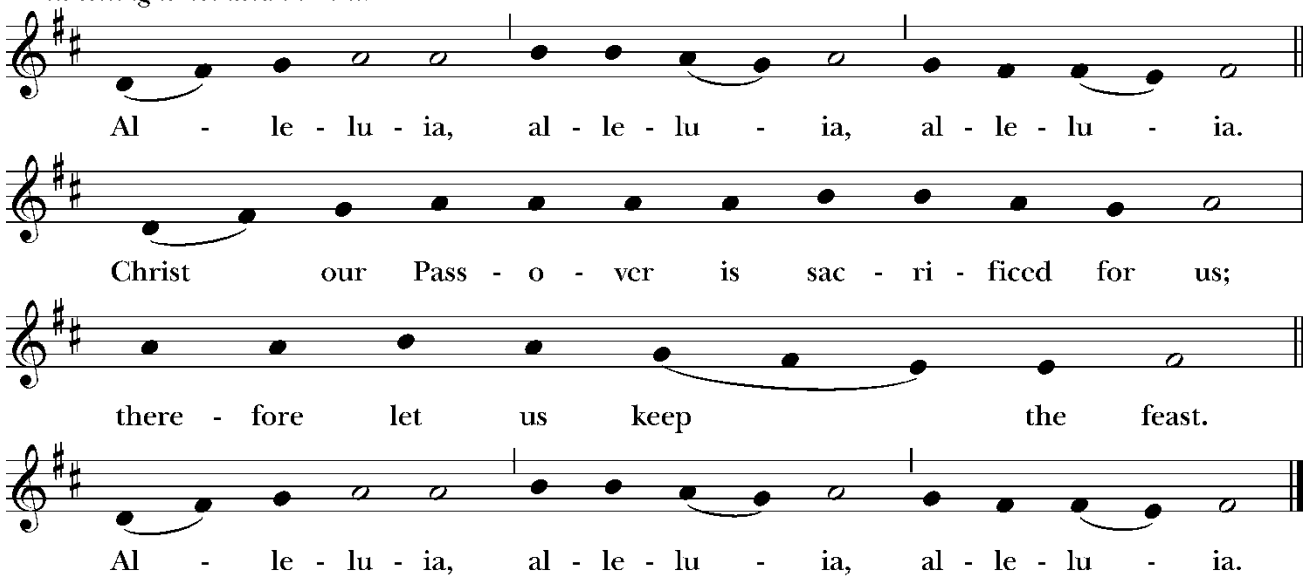
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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 FRACTION ANTHEM • S 154 David Hurd

The presider breaks the bread.

This setting is not used in Lent.



Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

THE INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

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.

The people are invited to come forward to receive communion. Gluten –free wafers are available. Inform the priest when they come to you.

For communion, you may choose to drink from the chalice or receive communion by intinction (dipping the wafer into the wine). If you wish to drink from the chalice, eat the wafer, and the chalice will be brought to you. If you prefer intinction, hold the wafer in your hand, and the intinction cup will be brought to you.

Individual prayers for healing are offered in the Chapel of the Cross. We encourage you to visit them after receiving communion.

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY • *Wachet auf* D. Buxtehude

THE HYMN • 61 *Wachet auf*

THE HYMN • 66 *Stuttgart*

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER BCP 365

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 SENDING OUT

We send you out to share the communion today.

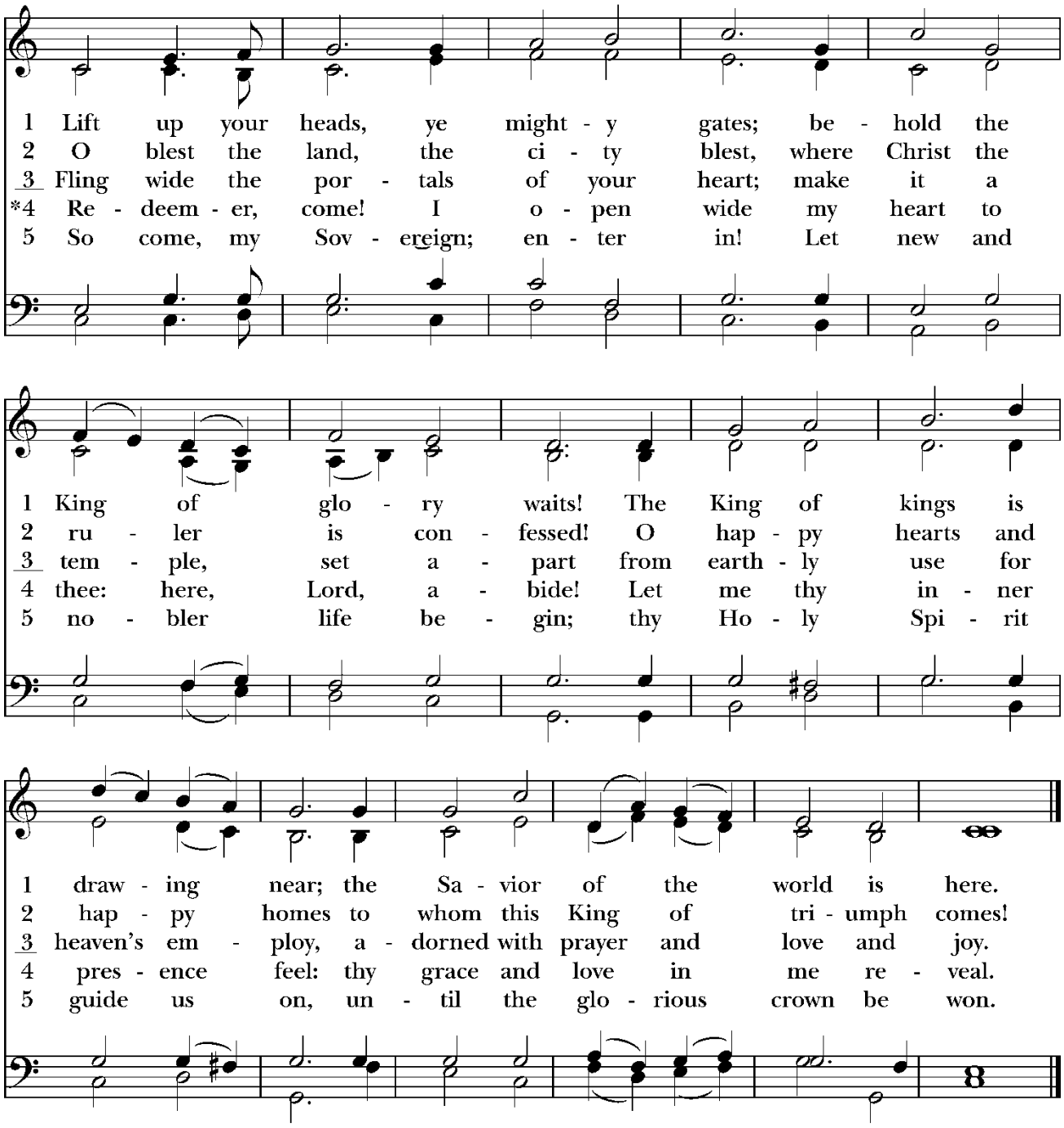
May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this sacrament of Christ's presence.

May those who receive it from you be strengthened and encouraged in that community we have together in our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

THE HYMN • 436

Truro



THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia, alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

THE VOLUNTARY

Wachet auf Joseph Ahrens

Hope & Healing Service

Thursday, December 17th, 7:00pm

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one or finding the Christmas season difficult, we invite you to join us for a special time of healing, comfort, and remembrance. Together, we will reflect on those we hold sdear and find encouragement and hope during this season.

The Festival of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 20th

We invite you to join us Sunday, December 20th at 10:00am for the Festival of Lessons and Carols. This service will be music and Scripture readings. No sermon or communion. If you would like communion, please attend the 8:00am service on this day.

Christmas Eve Worship

Thursday, December 24th

1:00pm
Holy Eucharist Rite I

3:00pm
Holy Eucharist Rite II and
Children's Christmas Pageant

7:00pm
Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II
Prelude beings at 6:30pm

Christmas Eve Music & Flower Donations

Donations may be made in the form of memorials, honoraria, or thanksgivings. The names of the donors and honorees will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Donations for flowers are $20.00, and offerings for music may be given in any amount. Donations due December 15th. You can donate in person (envelopes located in Gosnell Hall) or online by scanning the QR code.

Discipleship Hour-Sundays at 9:00am

The Voice in the Wilderness:
John the Baptist
November 29th–December 20th
in the Parish Hall led by Fr. Mike

Who was John the Baptist, and why does his story matter beyond preparing the way for Jesus? From his prophetic calling and ministry at the Jordan to his imprisonment, doubt, and death, we'll discover how John's life and witness continually point us to Christ.

Children's Sunday School
Ages 3 - 5th grade, in Room 112

Each Sunday, children will journey through the Old Testament. Using Bible stories, prayer, activities, and conversation, kids will grow in faith, experience God's love, and learn what it means to follow Jesus.

Discipleship for Moms
in Room 111 led by Paige Martin

This fall we're walking through *Abide* by Jen Wilkin, a study of John's letters and the call to remain in Christ's love. As we gather around Scripture, prayer, and conversation, we'll encourage one another and make room to listen for God's presence during everyday life.

Youth Group Series:
Gratitude and Advent Expectation
November 22nd–December 20th
6th - 12th grade, in Room 109

What if we made space to notice the good, even while we're still waiting for what's next? As we journey toward Christmas, we'll explore gratitude, hope, peace, and joy, learning to recognize God's presence in both ordinary moments and the anticipation of Christ's coming.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church + School

An inclusive and kind church that learns and serves together
Worship | Study | Friendship | Compassion

Prayer Requests

Submit a prayer request by filling out a prayer card located in the pew or by contacting the church office.

Connection Card

Need to sign up for our weekly email list?
New to St. Thomas?
Are you looking to become a member?
Connect with us by filling out a connection card located in the pew or by scanning the QR code.

Follow us on Social Media

Donate Online

Scan the QR code to donate today

St. Thomas Healing Ministry

The St. Thomas Healing Ministry offers prayers in the Chapel of the Cross (located to the left of the altar) on Sundays at 8:00am and 10:00am. If you are interested in joining the group, learning about healing, or in need of concentrated prayers contact the church office or fill out a connection card.

Wear a Name Tag!

Do you have a St. Thomas nametag? We encourage you to wear one on Sunday. Don't have a nametag? Visit Membership & Growth Coordinator, Sarah Anderson at the Welcome Table in Gosnell Hall and we'll make you one. All name tags will be ready in 2-3 weeks from sign up date. Please look at our name tag display in Gosnell Hall for pick-up on Sunday.

Download our App

View your giving history, explore the member directory, check the calendar, read bulletins, catch up on sermons, and more — all from your phone or tablet. Scan the QR code to download it today.

Week at a Glance

Men's Bible Study — Tuesdays, 7:00am • Room 111

Bell Choir Rehearsal — Tuesdays, 6:00pm–7:00pm • Choir Room

Grief Support Group — Wednesdays, 10:00am • Parlor

Eucharist Rite II — Wednesdays, 12:00pm • Chapel of the Cross

Children's Music Program & Choir — Wednesdays, 4:30pm–6:00pm • Choir Room

Choir Rehearsal — Wednesdays, 6:30pm–8:00 pm • Choir Room

Bible Study with Fr. Mike on Zoom — Thursdays, 9:30am
Please contact the Church Office for the Zoom link.

Middle & High School Choir Rehearsals — Sundays, 11:15am • Choir Room

Ice Cream on Sundays — Before or after church in the Courtyard

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1416 North Loop 1604 East, San Antonio, Texas 78232
210.494.3507 | stthomaschurch@tom1604.org | www.tom1604.org