

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL PARISH

*St. Thomas Episcopal Parish, Church and School is a place to feel welcomed, to be loved, and to grow in faith.
We are an inclusive and diverse Christian parish that seeks to transform lives
by engaging in actions that will enhance our relationship with God, with each other, and with our community.*

Phone: (305) 661-3436

www.church.stepsmia.org



The Second Sunday of Advent December 6, 2020

Saint John the Baptist Preaching to the Masses in the Wilderness. oil on oak panel by Pieter Brueghel the Younger

The Holy Eucharist Rite Two

Organ Prelude: *Prelude on Besançon*

Robert Hobby

The Word of God

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Celebrant says

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.**

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.

**People Christ, have mercy,
All Lord, have mercy**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

During the reading of the Collect, members of the congregation light the candles of the Advent wreath.

Merciful God, who sent your 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 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah (40:1-11)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!”

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

A Reading from the second letter of Peter (3:8-15a)

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

The Gospel

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (1:1-8)
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Tim Fleck

The Nicene Creed

**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.
Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
Who 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

*The leader will bid each petition saying, "Come, Lord Jesus!!
to which the people respond, "Come and make all things new!"*

In joyful expectation let us pray to our Savior and Redeemer:

O Wisdom from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth:
come and teach us how to live.

Come, Lord Jesus!!

Come and make all things new!

O Lord and head of the house of Israel,
you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush, and you gave the law on Sinai:
come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

Come, Lord Jesus!!

Come and make all things new!

O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations,
all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid:
come, set us free and delay no more.

Come, Lord Jesus!!

Come and make all things new!

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel,
you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open:
come and free the captives from prison.

Come, Lord Jesus!!

Come and make all things new!

O Bridegroom of the church, you call us into being and invite us to follow your path:
come and renew your body in the world.

Come, Lord Jesus!!

Come and make all things new!

O Morning Star, splendor of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness:
come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Come, Lord Jesus!!

Come and make all things new!

O Champion of the weak and friend of the needy, your blessed poor cry out to you for justice:
come and set right all that is wrong.

Come, Lord Jesus!!

Come and make all things new!

O King of the nations, O Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one:
come and save the creature you fashioned from clay.

Come, Lord Jesus!!

Come and make all things new!

O Healer of the sick and exorcist of demons, you restore us to wholeness of life.
Come and comfort all who suffer, including those we name before you now.

Come, Lord Jesus!!

Come and make all things new!

O risen Victim, you conquer death for all.
Come and bring into your eternal light all who have died,
including those whom we name before you now.

Come, Lord Jesus!!

Come and make all things new!

O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, hope of the nations and Savior of all people:
come and save us, Lord our God.

Come, Lord Jesus!!

Come and make all things new!

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister 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**

Celebrant; 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.**

All stand

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord. Please remain in your seat and exchange eye contact, smiles, greetings and bows. Please maintain social distance.

Announcements

Offertory: *on Winchester New*

Charles Callahan

The Holy Communion

A prayer for Spiritual Communion (prayed together by all those not physically present)

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church, especially at St. Thomas where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer 1, *Enriching our Worship 1*, 1997.

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 God thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

Here a Proper Preface is said.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say::

Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, so that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. . AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Jesus 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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;

All Have mercy on us.

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;

All Have mercy on us.

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;

All Give us your peace.

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.

Communion Interlude: *O Heiland Reiss die Himmel Auf*

Robert Lind

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at this table of God's blessing. Please keep your mask on at all times. Please wait for the usher to call your row forward, keep right, maintain one-way traffic in the aisle, and return to your seat via the side aisles. Communion will be offered in one kind only.

After Communion

Celebrant Let us pray.

**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 and Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God

Please exit by rows from the front of the church during the postlude as you are prompted by the ushers. Exit directly through the door near the pulpit, and maintain social distance.

Organ Postlude: *Bereden Väg för Herran*

Robert Lind