

**The First Sunday after Christmas**  
**Sunday, December 28, 2025**  
**10:00 am**

**Celebrant and Homilist:** The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans

**Music Ministry:** St. Thomas Gospel Choir

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**Order of Service**

**The Prelude**

St. Thomas Music Ministry  
**1982 Hymnal #100**

**The Opening Hymn- “Joy to the World”**

**1) Joy to the world! the Lord is come:**

**let earth receive her King;**

**let every heart prepare him room,**

**and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,**

**and heaven and heaven and nature sing.**

**2) Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;**

**let us our songs employ,**

**while fields and floods, rocks hills and plains,**

**repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,**

**repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3) He rules the world with truth and grace,**

**and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteous ness,**

**and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,**

**and wonders, wonders of his love.**

**A Word of Welcome**

Fr. Evans

**The Opening Acclamation**

**The Celebrant:** Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**The People:** And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. AMEN.

**The Collect for Purity**

**The Celebrant:** 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 Gloria in excelsis**

**The Celebrant and People:**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord, Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. AMEN.**

**The Proclamation of the Word**

**The Collect of the Day**

**The Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**The People:** And also with you.

**The Celebrant: Let us pray.**

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

**The First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

Cynthia Muse

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.**

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**The Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**The People: Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 147

Thomas Lynch, IV

Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! \*

**how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!**

The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; \*

**he gathers the exiles of Israel.**

He heals the brokenhearted \*

**and binds up their wounds.**

He counts the number of the stars \*

**and calls them all by their names.**

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; \*

**there is no limit to his wisdom.**

The Lord lifts up the lowly, \*

**but casts the wicked to the ground.**

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; \*

**make music to our God upon the harp.**

He covers the heavens with clouds \*

**and prepares rain for the earth;**

He makes grass to grow upon the mountains \*

**and green plants to serve mankind.**

He provides food for flocks and herds \*

**and for the young ravens when they cry.**

He is not impressed by the might of a horse; \*

**he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;**

But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, \*  
**in those who await his gracious favor.**

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*  
**praise your God, O Zion;**

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
**he has blessed your children within you.**

He has established peace on your borders; \*  
**he satisfies you with the finest wheat.**

He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
**and his word runs very swiftly.**

He gives snow like wool; \*  
**he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.**

He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
**who can stand against his cold?**

He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
**he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.**

He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
**his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**

He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
**to them he has not revealed his judgments.**  
**Hallelujah!**

**The Second Reading: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7**

Dr. Barbara Savage

**A Reading from the Book of Galatians.**

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

**The Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**The People:** Thanks be to God.

**The Gradual Hymn - "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

**1982 Hymnal #96 (vv. 1-2)**

**1) Angels we have heard on high,  
singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their brave delight. [Refrain]**

**Refrain:**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**2) Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why these songs of happy cheer?**

**What great brightness did you see?  
What glad tidings do you hear? [Refrain]**

**The Holy Gospel: John 1:1-18**

Fr. Evans

**The Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.**

**The People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**The Priest: The Gospel of our Lord.**

**The People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Homily Hymn- "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

**1982 Hymnal #96 (vv. 3-4)**

**3) Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the new-born King. [Refrain]**

**Refrain:**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**4) See Him in a manger laid,  
whom the angels praise above:  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while we raise our hearts in love. [Refrain]**

**The Homily**

Fr. Evans

**The Call to Christian Discipleship**

**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.  
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 pg. 388**

**R. Seth Williams**

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

The Concluding Collect

The Celebrant

**The Confession**

**BCP 360**

The Celebrant: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us kneel and confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**The Celebrant and The People:**

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and 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**

The 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.

**The Peace**

**The Celebrant:** The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**The People:** And also with you.

**The Holy Eucharist**

**The Offertory Sentence and Offering**

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**The Offertory Musical Selection**

St. Thomas Gospel Choir

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**The Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**The People:** And also with you.

**The Celebrant:** Lift up your hearts.

**The People:** We lift them to the Lord.

**The Celebrant:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**The 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. (*Celebrant adds a short Proper Preface*)

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**The Santus**

**The Celebrant and the People:**

**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.**

**The Celebrant:**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**The Memorial Acclamation**

**The Celebrant and People:**

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. AMEN.

**The Lord's Prayer**

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

**The 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**

**The Celebrant:** Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**The People:** Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

**The Agnus Dei**

**The Celebrant:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

**The People:** Have mercy upon us.

**The Celebrant:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

**The People:** Have mercy upon us.

**The Celebrant:** Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

**The People:** Grant us thy peace.

### **The Prayer of Humble Access**

**Let us pray:** 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 our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. AMEN.

**The 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.

### **The Distribution of Communion**

#### **The Post-Communion Prayer**

**The 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.

#### **Sending Forth of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors**

**The Celebrant:** In the healing name of Jesus and with the compassionate embrace of this parish family, I send you forth bearing these Holy Gifts to those to whom you go today, so that they may share with us in the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

**The People:** We who are many are one body, and we all share on bread and one cup.

#### **The Announcements**

Richard Jones, Rector's Warden

#### **The Recognition of Visitors and Guests**

#### **The Blessing of Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel**

#### **The Final Blessing**

The Celebrant

#### **The Closing Hymn - "Go Tell It On The Mountain"**

1982 Hymnal #99

**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. [Refrain]

2) The shepherds feared and trembled,  
when lo! above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

3) Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]



**The Dismissal**  
**The Postlude**

Fr. Evans  
St. Thomas Music Ministry

**The End of Mass:** This is a reminder that the Mass (service) ends following the closing hymn and dismissal. Please make an extra effort to refrain from unnecessary chatter and departure from the service before its conclusion. This request is being made to respect all gathered wishing to embrace the fullness of worship.