

**The Second Sunday of Advent  
Annual Men's Day Celebration  
December 7, 2025**

**The Celebrant:** The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw

**Assisting:** The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans

**Homilist:** The Honorable Vincent J. Hughes, PA State Senator of the 7<sup>th</sup> District

**Vergers:** Karen Ragland and Eugene Golson

**Music Ministry:** St. Thomas Men's Chorus

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**Order of Service**

**A Meditation/Prayer**

**The Organ Prelude**

Verger Eugene Golson  
St. Thomas Music Ministry

**The Opening Hymn- "Glad to Be in the Service"**

**I'm glad to be in the service**

**I'm glad to be in the service**

**I'm glad to be in the service**

**One more time**

**He didn't have to let me live**

**He didn't have to let me live**

**I'm glad to be in the service**

**One more time**

**One more time**

**One more time**

**I'm glad to be in the service**

**One more time**

**A Word of Welcome**

The Celebrant

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**Reader:** Our God comes to live among us! Let us prepare His way with justice!

**The People:** Stir in us, a deep desire for peace through justice!

**A Reading: Isaiah 2:10-19**

Joseph Wells

Enter into the rock and hide in the dust from before the terror of the Lord and from the glory of his majesty. The haughty looks of man shall be brought low, and the pride of men shall be humbled; and the Lord alone will be exalted in that day. For the Lord of Hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up and high; Against the cedars of Lebanon; lofty and lifted up; and against all the oaks of Bashan; against all the high mountains, and against all the lofty hills; against every high tower, and against every fortified wall; against all the ships of Tarshish, and against all the beautiful craft. And the haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the pride of man shall be brought low; and the Lord alone will be exalted in that day. And the idols shall utterly pass away. And men shall enter the caves of the rocks and the holes of the ground from before the terror of the Lord, and from the glory of his majesty, when he rises to terrify the earth.

**Reader:** We light these two candles as a sign of our commitment to join You in Your desire for us to live together justly and in peace. (Two candles are lit. Silence is kept.)

**The Celebrant:** Let us pray

**All:** Loving God, we are in awe of the Gift You wish to send us, Jesus, Your Son. Open our hearts and minds that we may create together a community of love to welcome Him. As we prepare for His coming, we especially ask that You help us envision and make peace in our homes, in our

**neighborhoods, in our world. Let us go in peace to love and serve our God. Let us strive for peace with each and every other. Let us be at peace within ourselves. AMEN**

### **The Penitential Salutation**

**The Celebrant:** Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**The People:** His mercy endures forever. AMEN

### **The Decalogue**

**Book of Common Prayer (BCP) pg. 350**

Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods but me.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Honor your father and your mother.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit murder.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit adultery.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not steal.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not be a false witness.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

### **The Confession**

**BCP pg. 352**

**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 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**

**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 Kyrie eleison**

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

BCP pg. 356

## **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, 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 forever.

**AMEN**

### **The First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10**

Eugene Phillips

#### **A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The 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. His 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; but 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. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The 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. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They 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. On 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.

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

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

### **Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

Michael Grizzle

Give the King your justice, O God, \*

**and your righteousness to the King's Son;**

That he may rule your people righteously \*

**and the poor with justice;**

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*

**and the little hills bring righteousness.**

He shall defend the needy among the people; \*

**he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*

**from one generation to another.**

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*

**like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*

**there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**

Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, \*

**who alone does wondrous deeds!**

And blessed be his glorious Name forever! \*

**and may all the earth be filled with his glory.**

**Amen. Amen.**

**The Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13** Steven Lewis (Pre-recorded from Colorado Springs, Colorado)  
**A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.**

Whatever 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. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For 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, and 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"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May 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.

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

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

**The Gradual Hymn- "It's A Highway to Heaven"**

**Refrain: It's a highway to heaven, none can walk up there  
but the pure in heart. It's a highway to heaven  
I'm walking up the Kings highway.**

**1) My way gets brighter, my load gets lighter,  
walking up the Kings highway  
there's joy in knowing with Him I'm going,  
walking up the Kings highway. [Refrain]**

**2) Don't have to worry, don't have to hurry  
walking up the Kings highway  
Christ walks beside me, angels to guide me  
walking up the Kings highway. [Refrain]**

**The Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12**

Fr. Daren Evans

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

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This 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.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But 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? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do 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. Even 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.

"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. His 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."

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

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

**The Homily Hymn- "It's A Highway to Heaven"**

**3) If you're not walking, start while I'm talking  
walking up the Kings highway  
There'll be a blessing you'll be possessing  
walking up the Kings highway. [Refrain]**

**Refrain: It's a highway to heaven, none can walk up there  
but the pure in heart. It's a highway to heaven  
I'm walking up the Kings highway.**

## **The Message**

District

**The Call to Christian Discipleship**

PA State Senator Vincent J. Hughes, 7<sup>th</sup>

The Celebrant

**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**

Thomas Harris

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.**

We ask your continued blessing upon the Men's Ministry of St. Thomas Church, that it may continue to serve your church and community with grace and fervor.

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 Peace**

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

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

**The Holy Eucharist**

**The Offertory Sentence**

The Celebrant

**Offer your gift now via text: Text “AECST” to 73256**

**The Offertory Selection**

St. Thomas Men's Chorus

**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 God 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 with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**The Sanctus**

**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**

**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 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,

**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**

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

**The People:** Therefore, let us keep the feast.

### **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 the 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 one bread and one cup

### **The Presentations**

Edward Geiger, President, St. Thomas Men's Ministry and Fellowship

### **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- "Soon and Very Soon (Christ is Coming)"**

**Lift Every Voice and Sing #14**

**1) Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Christ is coming, Christ is coming, we are goin' to see the King!**

**2) No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,  
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,  
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,  
Christ is coming, Christ is coming, we are goin' to see the King!**

**3) No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,  
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,  
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,  
Christ is coming, Christ is coming, we are goin' to see the King!**

**4) Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Christ is coming, Christ is coming, we are goin' to see the King!**

### **The Dismissal**

#### **The Postlude**

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.

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Please join the Men's Ministry and Fellowship in Anderson Hall for Chat and Chew immediately after service.