



Window: Baptism of Jesus

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
The Order of Worship for
The Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 21, 2024 † 8:30 AM

Welcome

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity *unison* BCP 355

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 *unison* BCP 356

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's 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 Collect of the Day BCP 215

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lessons

A Reading from the Book of Jonah

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

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

Psalm 62:6-14 *spoken responsively by half verse*

BCP 669

- 6 For God alone my soul in silence waits; *
truly, my hope is in him.
- 7 He alone is my rock and my salvation, *
my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.
- 8 In God is my safety and my honor; *
God is my strong rock and my refuge.
- 9 Put your trust in him always, O people, *
pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.
- 10 Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath, *
even those of low estate cannot be trusted.
- 11 On the scales they are lighter than a breath, *
all of them together.
- 12 Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; *
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.
- 13 God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, *
that power belongs to God.
- 14 Steadfast love is yours, O Lord, *
for you repay everyone according to his deeds.

A reading from the First Letter to the Church at Corinth

I Corinthians 7:29-31

I mean, brothers, and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

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

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Nicene Creed *unison*

BCP 358

**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.

Prayers of the People

Let us worship the Savior with joy as we offer our prayers, saying hear our prayer.

At the birth of Jesus, Magi traveled from distant lands. We pray for the welfare of the world, for peace in places of conflict, and for the renewal of the Earth.

God of glory, **hear our prayer.**

At his baptism, Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit. We pray for the Church, anointed with that same Spirit, that we may practice repentance, proclaim the gospel, and walk in love.

God of glory, **hear our prayer.**

After his baptism, Jesus gathered a community of disciples. We pray for the health, safety, and wellbeing of this community as we navigate the challenges before us.

God of glory, **hear our prayer.**

In his preaching, Jesus declared that the Kingdom of God has come near. We pray for our Nation and for our leaders, that we may end division, enact justice, and respect the dignity of every human being.

God of glory, **hear our prayer.**

In his ministry, Jesus healed the sick and comforted the distressed. We pray for all who are sick, anxious, or troubled and for all who care for them, especially St. Thomas parishioners Amanda, the Wadkins family, Carol, Sherry, Kevin & Armando, Michael, Gene, Alex, Louise, Ellen, Ashley, Steve, Cindy, Bill, Bernie, Josh, Rick, and Raymond; our homebound members Ramón, Murray, Judy, Jan, and William; friends of the parish Arnie, Lynn & Hoke, Philip, Camilla, Jill, and Lexy; for all who grieve and for all the departed, especially Kenny, Mills, Joe, Norma, Rolene, Mike, Marianne, Mitchi, Sam, Bill, and Bob.

God of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The disciples rejoiced to see Jesus transfigured before them. We rejoice in the many blessings of this life, especially your presence with us. Give thanks for the birthdays of Dick, Shannon, Brantley, Tristan, Neal, Catherine, Tom, Luke, and Malinda; and the anniversaries of Heather & Jeff, and Steve & Deborah.

God of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, and help us shine with the light of Christ through power of the Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

BCP 360

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 Peace

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offering

St. Thomas welcomes your gifts.

You may mail a check to 2100 Hilton Avenue, Columbus, GA 31906,
donate online at our website (<https://www.stthomascolumbus.org/give/>),
or use your mobile device by texting **STTCOLUMBUS** to **73256**.

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer A*

BCP 361

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 our 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, because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

Celebrant and 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 continues

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:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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 *unison*

BCP 364

**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

BCP 364

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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.

All Christians from any denomination are invited to share in communion. You do not have to be an Episcopalian or a member of St. Thomas in order to receive. Come forward when the usher invites you. Stand or kneel at the altar rail. Hold out two hands to receive bread dipped in wine and then take the wafer as it is given to you. Hold out one hand to receive bread only. As the second chalice passes, you may dip the bread in the chalice or drink from it as you wish. If you prefer not to receive communion but desire a blessing, cross your arms across your chest, and a priest will offer a prayer of blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available at the altar by request. If you prefer to receive communion at your pew, please let an usher know.

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP 366

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and the Holy spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

In our prayers

St. Thomas parishioners: Amanda, Kracwicz, the Wadkins family, Carol Kennon, Sherry Wade, Kevin Waldrup & Armando Creaspo, Michael Ankerich, Gene Wells, Alex Gafford, Louise Tulloh, Ellen Free, Ashley Huie-Strong, Steve Scott, Cindy Godwin, Bill Pauli, Bernie Sutter, Josh Becker, Rick McKnight, Raymond Campbell

Homebound members: Ramón Capo, Murray Craig, Judy Harding, Jan Pittman, William South

Friends of the parish: Arnie Morawa (*Ann Burr*), Lynn & Hoke Holcomb (*Greg Herring*), Philip Webb (*Ena Hunt*), Camilla Quintard (*Joe Mills*), Jill Tigner (*Rick & Marquette McKnight*), Lexy McRae (*Jennifer St. John*)

Those with continuing concerns: Frank & Pam Feagle, Carlene Pawlowicz, Ralph Wimberly, Henry Morrill, Jessica McComb, Esther Thomas, Joe Mills, April Jacobs, Jana Speer, Amy Nurnberg, Debbie & Max Anderson, Art France, Angela Tulloh (*Louise Tulloh*), Andrew Meyers (*Carole Hill*)

Soldiers and families at Ft. Moore and St. Thomas members and friends who are deployed: Krk Malit

Those celebrating birthdays: Dick Thompson 1/21, Shannon Dunaway 1/22, Brantley Ford 1/22, Tristan Dempsey 1/24, Neal Fenter 1/25, Catherine Leigh 1/25, Tom Capo 1/25, Luke Mitchell 1/26, Malinda Shamburger 1/27

Those celebrating anniversaries: Heather & Jeff Driggers 1/21, Steve & Deborah Tucker 1/24

Those who have died: Kenny Lewis 3/7/23, Mills Goddard 3/16/23, Joe Stewart 4/5/23, Norma Jergens 7/27/23, Rolene Stewart 8/6/23, Mike Nichols 8/31/23, Marianne Baxter 9/9/23, Mitchi Wade 11/3/23, Sam Harmon 11/25/23, Bill Thomas 11/25/23, Bob Wadkins 1/11/24

Announcements

For more details about these events visit our website at www.stthomascolumnbus.org or see our latest *Seasons* newsletter

Sundays

Coffee Time: 8:45-10:15. Homemade and packaged snacks are available.

Formation:

Sunday Stories: 9:30-10:15 in the Outreach Center. Children ages Pre-K – 3rd grade

Tween Time: 9:30-10:15 in the Youth Room. Children ages 4th grade-middle school

Adult Formation: 9:30-10:15 in the Library. January 21: In preparation for our Annual Meeting, join us for a deeper dive into St. Thomas finances, including an update about fundraising for our Making Room for All Vision Campaign.

Worship:

Children's Chapel: Children follow the petite cross to the Chapel before the Gospel reading and return for Holy Eucharist at the Peace.

Children's lectionary bulletins can be found in the busy bags provided in the Narthex or on the table in the Narthex, for your convenience.

Live Streamed Service: If you need to follow the service in a quieter space or need room to move around, the 10:30 service is live streamed in the Parish Hall. You may come to nave for communion.

Contemplative Healing Service: 4th Sunday of each month, beginning January 28, at 5pm in the Chapel. This service, filled with candlelight, Taizé music and Psalms, scripture and meditation, healing prayers with anointing oils, and Holy Eucharist, sets aside time for us to quiet our minds and hearts and be very present in the moment, very close to God.

Wednesdays

Wednesdays Eucharist: 5:30 to 6 in the Chapel. This brief Eucharist focuses on a saint being celebrated that day or week, using an updated version of the Eucharistic prayer with more expansive language for God and people.

Wednesday programming schedule:

5:30 Eucharist in the Chapel

5:30-6:15 Dinner served in the parish hall

6:20 Prayers around tables

6:30-7:30 Formation time for children, youth, and adults

6:45-8:30 St. Thomas Choir rehearsal in the Choir Room

(Nursery care available from 5:30-7:30, or longer if needed by choir members.)

Wednesday Dinner: An entrée with two sides and a simple dessert. (Vegetarian and gluten free options available by request). Suggested cost: \$7.50 per adult, \$5 per child under 12, and \$25 per family, however, we invite you to pay what you can - more or less as you are able. Reservations needed each week by midnight on Monday. Menus are posted on the website, and you can register and pay online for up to a month at a time. Reservation cards also available in the pews.

Menu: January 24 – Pork loin roast or Portobello steaks, mashed potatoes, green beans.

News for this week

“A Case for Love” movie: A Case for Love, a full-length documentary featuring Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and stories of many Episcopalians who are living lives of unselfish love. The film will be shown in movie theaters all over the country on Tuesday, January 23. In Columbus, the film will be shown at the AMC Ritz 13 (1683 Whittlesey Rd.) and AMC Columbus Park 15 (5556 Whittlesey Blvd) on January 23 at 4 and 7 pm.

Rev. Grace and members of St. Thomas will attend both showings at the Ritz 13 Hollywood Connection (1683 Whittlesey Rd). After the 4pm showing, a group will go to dinner at Country’s North, 6298 Veterans in Main Street Village. You may purchase tickets in advance online at amctheaters.com Tickets are \$15 plus tax. We have some donated tickets available for both showing. Contact the church office to request a donated ticket. Consider inviting a friend to join you at the film, particularly a friend who is feeling discouraged about church or looking for a new way to love God and love people.

Women’s Group: Thursday, January 25 at 6:30 at El Carrizo. This group meets once a month and typically alternates between meeting for lunch or dinner at a restaurant. All who identify as women are welcome to gather. The next women’s group dinner will be on Thursday, January 25 at 6:30 at El Carrizo on Whittlesey Blvd. Contact Susan Sealy, Ellen Free, or the church office by January 22 to let us know you’re coming.

St. Thomas Excursions: Saturday, January 27 at 10:00 am. Join us for a lovely winter hike on Standing Boy Trails in Columbus. We’ll meet there at 10am and take off for a gentle one-hour hike. Folks who’d like more exercise will be welcome to hike another hour. Contact Roxane ASAP to sign up.

St. Thomas Annual Parish Meeting: Sunday, January 28 at 9:30. Join us for this important gathering as we elect Vestry members and invite input about our ministries in the year ahead. Our Vestry approved online participation this year via Zoom. Pre-registration is required to participate online. Look for a link to register in upcoming e-newsletters or contact the church office. Thank you to our retiring vestry members Spencer Garrard, Deidre Bohannon, and Julia Slater for their faithful service. Thank you to Norm Easterbrook, Jessica Ezzell, and Sue O’Dell for agreeing to be on our slate of candidates this year. Our Annual Report (a long version and a short version) will be sent by email the week prior to the Annual Meeting. A more detailed discussion of parish finances will take place on Sunday, January 21 at 9:30 in the library. A zoom link will be sent for the financial update meeting if requested. Contact the church office for this link.

Children and Tweens Animal Meeting. The children's "Animal Meeting" will take place in the Outreach Center on Sunday, January 28 during the Annual Meeting. Children are invited to bring stuffed animals. Breakfast will be provided.

Striving for Justice: January 28 at 4pm in the parish hall. CVEM invites you to join us for important discussions on racial healing on Sunday, January 28 at 4pm. This will be the first in a three part series called “Healing”, and this month Malinda will be discussing a pilgrimage she took to Ghana last April. Upcoming sessions on February 25 and March 24 will discuss the Equal Justice Initiative’s Community Remembrance Project, which is an effort to locally memorialize and educate communities on victims of racial violence.

Making Room for All: St. Thomas Vision Campaign. We are in the midst of our Making Room for All Vision Campaign to improve accessibility on our campus. We plan to provide closer handicapped parking, eliminate steps to the altar rail, move the choir downstairs, add ramps to the sacristy and flower room and eliminate steps from these spaces to the altar. Thanks to all who have already made a pledge to help us Make Room for All! Several named giving opportunities are available, and the names of all who contribute will be included on a plaque to remember this campaign. Make a pledge online at our website or complete a paper form and turn it in to the church office.

Episcopal Campus Ministry: ECM resumed meeting at Columbus State on January 16. We are looking for parishioners to donate food or dollars for our Tuesday evening weekly meals. If you would like to provide a meal or donate the price of a meal (\$60), please contact Taylor at taylor@stthomascolumbus.org.

Upcoming & Ongoing

Journey Groups: Beginning January 31. Journey Groups will watch and discuss more sermons by Presiding Bishop Curry who has had a profound effect on the ministry and witness of the Episcopal Church. In addition, the Manna and mercy Journey Group will continue their study of the second half of the book, focused on the ministry of Jesus and the early church. Groups will meet on Sundays and Wednesdays. If you're interested in leading a group that meets at another time during the week, let Rev. Grace know. Wednesday groups will meet from 6:30-7:30 from January 31 until March 20, EXCEPT on February 14 which is Ash Wednesday. A Sunday group will meet at 4pm in the St. Thomas library, with an online option as well, from February 4 until March 17.

Saints & Sinners: Saints and Sinners will meet for a brief Eucharist, fellowship, and potluck lunch on Thursday, February 1 at 11:15am in the parish hall. Bring a dish to share! Everyone is welcome!

YACT Socials: Join YACT (Young Adults Connecting Together) for one or both of our upcoming monthly socials! This is a chance for Young Adults to fellowship and connect together while having fun in the Columbus area. Contact Taylor for more information. “January” – Riverdragons Hockey on February 2 at 7:30pm. February – Dessert tasting at Salt Cellar on February 22 at 7:30pm.

February Excursion: In February we'll attend a performance of “Come From Away” at the RiverCenter. This true story and hit musical celebrates the best in all of us! The show begins at 7:30 on Thursday, February 29. Roxane will purchase group tickets on the mezzanine level, and they're selling fast, so please contact her ASAP if you're interested.

Save the Date: Annual Yard Sale - February 10. Donation drop-off, February 4-7; Friends & Family Preview sale, February 9; Public sale, February 10.

Celebrating 10 Years of Ministry Together: Sunday, February 11, following the 10:30 service. This February will mark the 10-year anniversary of Rev. Grace Burton-Edwards' installment as Rector of St. Thomas. On Sunday, February 11th, we will gather in the Parish Hall for a lunch celebration, recognizing all that we have accomplished together over the last 10

years, while also celebrating our “Making Room for All” Campaign. RSVP for lunch on our website or by contacting the church office.

Prayer Group: Mondays at 11:30am. This group meets in person in the Chapel on the first Monday of each month, and online on other Mondays. Contact the church office to request prayers or to find out about being a part of the Prayer Group.

Women's Lectionary Bible Study: Thursdays from 10-11am in the St. Thomas Library. The lectionary readings for the following Sunday are studied. This one-hour class is taught by the Rev. Cindy Cox Garrard, a retired United Methodist pastor and "utility alto" in the St. Thomas Choir. All women are welcome; you don't have to be a member of St. Thomas or even of any church at all. A study sheet is sent to each participant a few days before class, but there's no charge. There is a Zoom option as well. To sign up, contact the church office.

Zoom Evening Prayer: Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 to 5:45 or so on Zoom. We continue to gather on Tuesdays and Thursdays online at 5:30 throughout the fall. Join us for a brief time of prayer in the evening. The link is available on our LinkTree.