

**The Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024**



**St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
Camden, Maine**

8:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist, Rite I

*Children are always welcome in the church.
Please be sure your cell phone is inaudible.*

Prelude		
Opening Hymn 481	Rejoice the lord is king	<i>Gospel</i>
Opening Acclamation		Book of Common Prayer, page 323
The Collect for Purity		page 323
Kyrie		page 324
Collect, Readings and Gospel	<i>(pages 3-5)</i>	
Sermon		The Rev. Paul Briggs
Nicene Creed		page 326
Prayers of the People Form II		page 385
Prayers for birthdays, anniversaries, travel etc.		
Confession and Absolution		page 331
The Peace		page 332
Announcements		
Offertory Hymn 67	Comfort, comfort ye my people	<i>Psalm 42</i>
The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer I		page 333
The Lord's Prayer		page 336
The Breaking of the Bread		page 337
Prayer of Humble Access		page 337
The Communion	<i>This is God's table, all are welcome.</i>	
	<i>Gluten-free wafers are available; ask the priest when you come to the altar rail. You can request that Communion be brought to your pew by letting an usher know.</i>	
Postcommunion Prayer		page 339
Blessing		
The Dismissal		
Postlude		



10:00 am – The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

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Please be sure your cell phone is inaudible.*

Prelude

Opening Hymn 481 Rejoice the lord is king *Gopsal*

Opening Acclamation Book of Common Prayer, page 355

Kyrie Hymnal S96 *Franz Peter Schubert*

Collect and Readings (pages 3-4)

Sequence Hymn 68 Rejoice, rejoice believers *Llangloffan*

The Gospel (pages 4-5)

Sermon The Rev. Paul Briggs

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People Form II page 385

Prayers for birthdays, anniversaries, travel etc.

Confession and Absolution page 360

The Peace page 360

Offertory Anthem

Offertory Hymn 67 Comfort, comfort ye my people *Psalm 42*

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B page 367

Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy (S130 in Hymnal) *Franz Peter Schubert*

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread Agnus Dei (S 130 in Hymnal) *Franz Peter Schubert*

The Communion *This is God's table, all are welcome.*

Gluten-free wafers are available; ask the priest when you come to the altar rail.

You can request that Communion be brought to your pew by letting an usher know.

Postcommunion Prayer page 366

Blessing

Dismissal Hymn 66 Come thou long-expected Jesus *Stuttgart*

The Dismissal

Postlude

The Collect

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The First Song of Isaiah

Surely, it is God who saves me; *

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *

and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *

from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.



The Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA and used by permission. The Collects, Psalms and Canticles are from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Hymn permissions (including streaming music) in this Service obtained from ONE LICENSE: License #A-712382. All rights reserved.

Welcome visitors and newcomers; we are glad you are here! If you would like more information about the community of St. Thomas, please speak to a greeter or a member of the clergy. To receive information by email, please fill out a blue card found in the pew and give to an usher or place in the offering plate.

Liturgical Ministers

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Paul Briggs

Organist: Clarissa Brown

8:00 a.m.

Eucharistic Minister: Sandy Lyle

Readers: Jan Lyle, Sandy Lyle

Intercessor: Pat Ayers

Usher: Jan Lyle

10 a.m.

Eucharistic Minister: Bill Freeman, Derek Reed

Readers: Dean Jackson, Sue Foltz

Intercessor: Kate Jackson

Ushers: Cheryl Reif, Cheryl White

People in our Prayers

Healing: Mya Delisle, Carlos, Andrew Moran, Donovan, Carolyn Moore, Debra and Amy, Ned and Kathleen Bachus, Anna and her child Brody, Warren and Ginny Terrell, Ruth Tolman, Helene, John, Phyllis, Michael, Bob, Sylvia, Matthew Jackson, Marlene, Percy, Joan Grey, Cathy, James, Ken, Joseph, Kelli McGuire, Tony, Jo Panayotoff, Joyce S, Jan Schaefer, Christine & Paul M, Jason, Kristen, Jeanie, Cathie, Brian, Bob S., Gary P., Ezra, Chris Strazzulla, Greg McDermott, Fr. Tom Pike, Jan Dolcater, Evie Bridges, Luke Morelli, Leah, Tim Peters, Janice Boetsch, Lucy Ebbert, Shirley, Tiffany Andrews, Budge Walen, Chris, Sandy, Vicki Boetsch, Catherine G, Annabel, Virginia, Pam Kaler, Margery, Nick, Stephanie, Kyle R.

December Birthdays: Carolyn Moore (4), Melinda Wildes (18), Susan Foltz (20), Patricia Ayers (22), Gwen Prosser (22), Christopher Glass (27), Millie Crocker (28), Bobby Purkey (31)

Diocese Cycle of Prayer: St. Thomas', Winn; and those grieving the loss of a loved one this holiday season

This Week at St. Thomas'

Third Sunday of Advent, December 15:

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (*Coffee Hour Follows*)

11:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (*choir room*)

4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (*Lady Chapel*)

Wednesday, December 18:

Deadline for Christmas flower and music offering

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Healing (*Lady Chapel*)

11:00 a.m. Bible Study (*online*)

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22:

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Greening of the Church Follows (*Coffee Hour*)

11:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (*choir room*)

4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (*Lady Chapel*)

A.A. meetings are held daily at 6:30 p.m.

Church Staff and Parish Officers

Kayla Clay, Parish Administrator

admin@stthomascamdenme.org

Office: 207-236-3680

The Rev. Paul Briggs, Interim Rector

interimrector@stthomascamdenme.org

(860) 384-9193

The Rev. Dr. Rosalee Glass, *Deacon Emeritus*

Clarissa Brown, *Organist & Choir Director*

Tony Coyne, *Sexton*

Elizabeth Moran, *Senior Warden*

Br. Donovan Bowley, BSG, *Junior Warden*

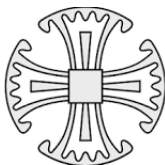
Terry Mello, *Treasurer*

Anne Rogers-Popejoy, *Vestry Clerk*

Online Donation Options: Scan the QR Code below or click the Donate Button on our website (www.stthomascamden.org)



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St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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