

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 22, 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 616** Hail to the Lord's Anointed *Es Flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*

**Opening Acclamation & Collect for Purity** page 323

**Kyrie** page 324

**Collect, Readings and Gospel** (*pages 3-5*)

**Sermon** The Rev. Paul Briggs

**Nicene Creed** page 326

**Prayers of the People Form II** page 385

**Confession and Absolution** page 331

**Prayers for birthdays, anniversaries, travel etc.**

**The Peace** page 332

**Offertory Hymn 438** Tell out my soul *Woodlands*

**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** *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 & Blessing**

page 339

**Dismissal Hymn 61** Sleepers Wake *Wachet auf*

**The Dismissal**

**Postlude**



# 10:00 am – The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

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

## Prelude

<b>Opening Hymn 616</b>	Hail to the Lord's Anointed	<i>Es Flog ein kleins Waldvögelein</i>
<b>Opening Acclamation &amp; Collect for Purity</b>		page 355
<b>Kyrie</b>	Hymnal S96	<i>Franz Peter Schubert</i>
<b>Collect and Readings</b>	<i>(pages 3-4)</i>	
<b>Sequence Hymn 265</b>	The Angel Gabriel from Heaven came	<i>Gabriel's Message</i>
<b>The Gospel</b>	<i>(pages 4-5)</i>	
<b>Sermon</b>		The Rev. Paul Briggs
<b>Nicene Creed</b>		page 358
<b>Prayers of the People Form II</b>		page 385
<b>Confession and Absolution</b>		page 360
<b>Prayers for birthdays, anniversaries, travel etc.</b>		
<b>The Peace</b>		page 360
<b>Offertory Anthem</b>		
<b>Offertory Hymn 438</b>	Tell out my soul	<i>Woodlands</i>
<b>The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B</b>		page 367
<b>Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy</b>	<i>(S130 in Hymnal)</i>	<i>Franz Peter Schubert</i>
<b>The Lord's Prayer</b>		page 364
<b>The Breaking of the Bread</b>	Agnus Dei <i>(S164 in Hymnal)</i>	<i>Franz Peter Schubert</i>
<b>The Communion</b>	<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.</i>	
	<i>You can request that Communion be brought to your pew by letting an usher know.</i>	
<b>Postcommunion Prayer</b>		page 366
<b>Blessing</b>		
<b>Dismissal Hymn 61</b>	Sleepers Wake	<i>Wachet auf</i>
<b>The Dismissal</b>		
<b>Postlude</b>		

## The Collect

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## The First Reading

**Micah 5:2-5a**

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
    who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
    one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
    from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
    when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
    to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
    in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
    to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

## Psalm 80:1-7

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
    shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
    stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
    show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, \*  
    how long will you be angered  
    despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
    you have given them bowls of tears to drink.  
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
    and our enemies laugh us to scorn.  
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
    show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

## **The Second Reading**

**Hebrews 10:5-10**

When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
    but a body you have prepared for me;  
in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
    you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'  
    (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

## **The Gospel**

**Luke 1:39-45**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."



*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: Pam Bardon

Readers: Amy Frankel, Pam Bardon

Intercessor: Jan Lyle

Usher: Isa Babb

**10 a.m.**

Eucharistic Minister: Grayce Sivigny, Sarah Groman

Readers: Sarah Groman, Kate Jackson

Intercessor: Bill Freeman

Ushers: Dean Jackson, Phil Groman

## **People in our Prayers**

**Healing:** Mya Delisle, Andrew Moran, Carlos, Donovan, Carolyn Moore, Debra and Amy, Ned and Kathleen Bachus, Lynne, 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., 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., Greg McDermott, Ezra, Chris Strazzulla

**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:** Saint Mary, Falmouth, For our neighbors in the United Methodist Church, For peace throughout the world

***This Week at St. Thomas'***

**Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22**

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (*Greening of the Church & Coffee Hour Follow*)  
11:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (*choir room*)  
4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (*Lady Chapel*)

**Christmas Eve, December 24**

- 4:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant & Eucharist  
7:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist with Mid-Coast Brass

**First Sunday After Christmas Day, December 29**

- 9:30 a.m. Lessons, Carols, and Eucharist (*Coffee Hour follows*)  
4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (*Lady Chapel*)

**The Camden Area Christian Food Pantry** is currently providing food to an average of 100 families each week. Please keep them in mind during this season of giving. Financial contributions can be made using one of the designated Food Pantry envelopes on the back of the pew in front of you.

**St. Thomas' Outreach Committee** is helping the SOS Group with new or gently used coats, hats, mittens, and scarfs for adults and children this holiday season. Please drop off your donation to the Conference room.

Donations are needed for critical medical equipment for **First Volunteer Surgical Hospital "BRASS"** which is located in Stas's hometown Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine to treat wounded soldiers. Donate securely online or make checks payable to St. Thomas' Church and clearly mark in the memo line: "Ukraine". This is an initiative of Stas Shelemei through Camden Hills Regional High.

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

## Church Staff and Parish Officers

**Kayla Clay, Parish Administrator**

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Office: 207-236-3680

**The Rev. Paul Briggs, Interim Rector**

[interimrector@stthomascamdenme.org](mailto: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*

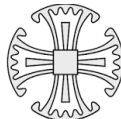
Terry Mello, *Treasurer*

Anne Rogers-Popejoy, *Vestry Clerk*

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



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**St. Thomas' Episcopal Church**

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