

The Second Sunday After Christmas
January 5, 2025



St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
Camden, Maine

9:30 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 518 Christ is made the sure foundation *Westminster Abbey*

Opening Acclamation & Collect for Purity page 323

Gloria in excelsis Hymn S202 *Healey Willan*

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

Sequence Hymn 632 O Christ the word incarnate *Munich*

Sermon The Rev. Paul Briggs

Nicene Creed page 326

Prayers of the People Form I page 383

Confession and Absolution page 331

Prayers for birthdays, anniversaries, travel etc.

The Peace page 332

Offertory Hymn 490 I want to walk as a child of the light *Houston*

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer I page 383

Sanctus Hymn S158 *Healey Willan*

The Lord's Prayer page 336

The Breaking of the Bread page 337

Agnus Dei Hymn S158 *Healey Willan*

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 page 339

Blessing

Dismissal Hymn 616 Hail to the lord's anointed es flog ein kleins *Waldvoegelein*

The Dismissal

Postlude



The Collect

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,

I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness,

and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

says the LORD.

Psalm 84:1-8

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *

they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height, *

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *

hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God; *

and look upon the face of your Anointed.

The Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

The Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And

having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



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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

9:30 a.m.

Eucharistic Minister: Bill Freeman

Readers: Jan Lyle, Pam Bardon

Intercessor: Gwen Prosser

Usher: Jim Ebbert, Lucy Ebbert

People in our Prayers

Healing: Nancy Remchuk, Michelle Gabrielsen, Mya Delisle, Carlos, Andrew Moran, Donovan, Carolyn Moore, Debra and Amy, Ned and Kathleen Bachus, Lynne, Anna and her child Brodyl, 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

Rest of the Soul of: Ginny Terrell

January Birthdays: Eric Gabrielsen (1/1), Ronan Popejoy (1/1), Grayce Sivigny (1/2), Edward Williamson (1/8), Thomas Pike (1/10), Robbie Lewis (1/11), Jan Conrad (1/18), Patricia Hopkins (1/20), Christine Zdrojeski (1/20), John Lewis (1/30)

Diocese Cycle of Prayer: St. Margaret's, Belfast, and for St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry in Portland

This Week at St. Thomas'

Sunday, January 5:

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (*Coffee Hour Follows*)

a.m. Choir Rehearsal (*choir room*)

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

5:00 p.m. Epiphany Party:

Dinner, 3 King's Cake, Entertainment, Candlelight procession & Compline (*Parish Hall*)

Wednesday, January 8:

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

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

Sunday, January 12:

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (*Coffee Hour Follows*)

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

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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*

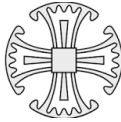
Br. Donovan Bowley, BSG, *Junior Warden*

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)





St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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