

*Welcome to*

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*16 E. Van Buren St.  
Battle Creek  
(269)965-2244  
[www.StThomasBC.org](http://www.StThomasBC.org)*

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

*December 25, 2020*

**THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

*Opening Voluntary: Good Christian Friends Rejoice! Wilbur Held*

*Opening Hymn: No. 87, Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the ever-lasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,  
hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

*The service begins with the musical prelude. Then the Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
**And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant prays the Collect for Purity.*

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.**

*Then the following hymn is sung*

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to his 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*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*First Lesson: Isaiah 52:7-10*

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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

*Psalm 98: 1-6*

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm \*  
has he won for himself the victory.

- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \*  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.

*Second Lesson: Hebrews 1:1-4*

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Hymn: No. 82 Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore!

O that birth for ever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;  
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore!

Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;  
powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be;  
honor, glory and dominion, and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore!

*Gospel Lesson: John 1:1-14*

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*THE SERMON*

*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*

*After each petition the people respond*

God of love and mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect*

*THE CONFESSION OF SIN*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**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 Priest says the Absolution.*

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 Celebrant introduces the Offertory. The bread and wine for communion are set upon the altar. The gifts of the people are presented at the altar.*

*Offerings may be made by texting "StThomasBC" to 73256. You can also click or paste this link into your internet browser's search field: <https://onrealm.org/stthomasbc/give/now>, or go to our website [www.StThomasBC.org](http://www.StThomasBC.org) and click the green "Contribute Now" button at the bottom of the page. Thank you for your generosity.*

*Anthem: In Dulci Jubilo arr. Ian Higginson*

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Here the Proper Preface is said. Then all join in the Sanctus*

**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 praises God for the salvation of the world through the holy sacrifice of Jesus; and remembering the events of the Last Supper, prays that the gifts of bread and wine may become the Body and Blood of Christ.*

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

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

*At the end of the prayer the people respond*

**Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

The Peace of Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*The Celebrant says the invitation to communion. The prayer for those unable to receive communion is said. The Reserve Sacrament is available in the chapel at St. Thomas for those who wish to receive communion after having participated in online worship.*

*After communion the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

**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.**

*Closing Hymn: No. 96 Angels we have heard on high*

Angels we have heard on high,  
singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their brave delight.

*Refrain*

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see?  
What glad tidings did you hear?

*Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

*Refrain*

See him in a manger laid  
whom the angels praise above;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while we raise our hearts in love.

*Refrain*

*The Celebrant prays for God's blessing on the people and then dismisses them with these words*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Closing Voluntary: In Dulci Jubilo Johann Sebastian Bach*

*ANNOUNCEMENTS*

**The Christmas Trees** are given by Fr. Brian Coleman and John Moore in loving memory to Tom and Clevie Foster, Fr. Brian's grandparents.

**Christmas Flowers** are given by the following:

Yvette Petti & Loretta Kaercher in honor of those fighting COVID-19 and those taken by COVID-19.

Bernie & Becky Squires in memory of their parents.

Kathy & Ross Dingwall in memory of our two dear friends, Karen Suggs and Randy Kopf and in celebration of the engagement of our granddaughter Gabbi.

Mary Bourgeois in loving memory of her daughter born on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Kiess Family in memory of Lori's dad, Gene Gray.

Michele Reid in loving memory of Bill, Bo, Oscar, Zachy, and Faye.

Esther M Shaw and T.R. Shaw, Jr. in loving memory of Tom, Pete, and Mike Shaw.

Elizabeth Neumeyer in memory of all those who have died of COVID-19 in 2020.

Our parish friends in fond remembrance of Shirley Hibbard, Gladys Holstrum, Jerry Peterson, Kay Phares, Ernie Varga, and George Vallillee.

*Serving Today*

Presider:	Fr. Brian Coleman	Lector:	Sharon Engle
Subdeacon:	Jodi Nickerson	Altar Chapter:	Bob Harberts
Organist:	Dr. Stephen White	A/V Technician:	Yvette Petti
Cantors:	Charles Grantier & Samuel Gantt		