

# Saint Thomas' Episcopal Parish



December 25, 2008  
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
10:00 a.m.

WHEREVER YOU MAY BE ON YOUR FAITH JOURNEY,  
THERE IS ROOM AT GOD'S TABLE FOR YOU.

# The Holy Eucharist

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## The Word of God

### Prelude

*Noël sur les flûtes*

*Louis Claude Daquin*

✠ *All stand as the ministers process.*

Celebrant *Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

*People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen*

### Hymn

*Angels from the realms of glory*

Hymnal 93

### Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born [this day] of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

✠ *All are seated*

### First Lesson

*Isaiah 52:7-10*

*✠ Read together as directed.*

**Psalm 98:1 -6**

*Cantate Domino*

1

Sing a new song to God, \*  
who has done marvelous things.

2

With your right hand, O God, and your holy arm \*  
you have won for yourself the victory.

3

You have made known your victory; \*  
your righteousness have you openly shown in the sight of the nations.

4

You remember your 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 God, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

6

Sing to God with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.

**Second Lesson**

*Hebrews 1:1-12*

*✠ All stand*

**The Holy Gospel**

*Luke 2:8-20*

**Homily**

The Rev. John F. Dwyer

**Prayers of the People**

Form IV

BCP, Page 388

**The Peace**

*✠ All are seated*

**Announcements**

# The Holy Communion

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St. Thomas' invites all to share in the gifts of bread and wine from God's Holy Table.  
If you do not wish to receive the bread and wine but would like a blessing, please come forward  
and cross your arms with your hands on your shoulders and a priest will provide a blessing.

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## Offertory Hymn

*Hark! The herald angels sing*

Hymnal 87

✠ All stand

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 God thanks and praise.*

Celebrant We praise you and we bless you, ever present God, source of life abundant.

*People Why do we give God thanks and praise?*

Celebrant From before time God made ready the creation. God's Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

*People Then why do we sometimes feel so lonely?*

Celebrant God, you made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away.

*People Is there any hope?*

Celebrant A voice rings out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord," and our hearts are filled with hope. Time and again you call us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day, we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that reigns through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of you glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

Celebrant Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. As a sign of new hope and expectation, and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus, the holy child of God.

**People** *Is it today we celebrate Jesus?*

Celebrant Today and every day. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with the lonely and broken hearted, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw the whole world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay hands upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

**People** *Why do we eat this bread?*

Celebrant On that holy night, so long ago, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it and gave it to his friends and said, "Take, eat: this holy food is given for you. Eat this meal whenever you gather in friendship to remember me."

**People** *Why do we drink this wine?*

Celebrant As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink this all of you. This holy drink is given for you and for all creation. Drink this whenever you gather to remember me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

Celebrant We now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they become for us today the holy food and drink that Jesus gave his friends so long ago. We ask that we who share this bread and wine may be filled with your Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.

We pray that this holy food and drink will be for us your sign of hope, and bring us into everlasting fellowship with each other and bring peace to the world. With Isaiah and Mary and Joseph and all your saints, past, present and yet to come, may we praise your Name for ever and ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we give you honor, glory and praise, for ever and ever.

**People:** *Amen.*

## The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.*

✠ All stand

## Post Communion Prayer

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## Blessing

## Hymn

*Joy to the world*

Hymnal 100

## Dismissal

✠ Please be seated for the Postlude which concludes our service.

## Postlude

*From heaven above to earth I come*

*J. S. Bach*

## Worship Leaders Today

**Celebrant:** The Rev. John F. Dwyer

**Reader & Altar Assistant:** John Stanton

**Greeters:** Jean Holman, Jeff Franke, Phillip Kronstein

**Ushers:** Tim Elig, Jeff Kibler

*Please refer to the Special Flower Insert for the Christmas Memorials and Honorariums.*



**ST. THOMAS' PARISH**  
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**DUPONT CIRCLE ✦ WASHINGTON, DC**

We're a **community of Christians on a spiritual journey**. Our worship and *life together* provides a pathway towards a deeper understanding of the risen and transforming Christ. Through joyful singing, engaging preaching, prayer and silence, we come together to share in **one bread, one body**.

*A place to find and be found by God.*

*The People of St. Thomas'*

**Vestry**

*John Carter, Senior Warden; Barbara Hays, Junior Warden  
Michael Bell, Dan Costello, Tim Elig, Camille Blake Fall, Mary Hager, Dennis Hobb,  
Brad Latham, Michael Mattmiller, Kristin Queen Shaffer*

*St. Thomas' Parish ✦ 1772 Church Street NW ✦ Washington, DC 20036*

<b>Parish Office Hours 8:15 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. M-F</b>	<b>202-332-0607</b>
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