



***St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
Lake Jackson, Texas***

Our Vision

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we experience the love of Jesus Christ
and share it with others.*

**HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 15, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.**

Welcome to St. Timothy's! You are invited to participate fully in today's worship service. This bulletin contains all the prayers and responses said by the People. If you wish to use the Book of Common Prayer [BCP], the page numbers are given in brackets. Music not printed here may be found in the blue Hymnal 1982, which is located in the pew rack in front of you.

Why Advent? The Latin word translates "coming". Advent marks the beginning season of the church year in which we prepare, simplify, and make space for Christ's coming both in the past, present, and future. Each Sunday in Advent reminds us of the gifts in which we receive from Christ's coming: HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE. Each week we will light an advent candle as a way of remembering and marking time. We will read a scripture related to how Jesus brought this gift to the world uniquely and then say a prayer. You can do this at home as well.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God from the McCabe family in thanksgiving for Meredith Pyle and in memory of Lucille Smith and Carolyn Pyle.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn (*all sing*) *On Jordan's Bank The Baptist's Cry* **Hymn 76**

Third Sunday of Advent

Member: Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, and the third candle is JOY.

The candles are lit.

Scripture: Isaiah 55:12 – You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Prayer: Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.

Opening Acclamation

[BCP 355]

Priest Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

Priest 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.**

Priest: Kyrie eleison.

People: **Christe eleison.**

Priest: Kyrie eleison.

The Collect

[BCP 212]

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray.

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 Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20 (*sit*)

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.

After the reading

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 9 (*sung by the cantor*)



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.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

The Epistle: 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.

After the reading

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn (*all sing*) *If Thou But Trust In God To Guide Thee* **Hymn 635**

The Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel passage is read.

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.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon (*sit*)

The Reverend Robin Reeves-Kantz

The Nicene Creed (*stand*)

[BCP 358]

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 worshipped 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

Intercessor Let us pray that the whole world may be led into the way of righteousness. Gather into one body your Church that is scattered in different places and separated groups. Unite us, that we may rejoice together that we share in your salvation.

People **Grant sincere repentance for the faults in each that has held us apart.**

Intercessor Move with compassion those who use the power of authority or of money to exploit others.

People **Lead those who rule the rich nations of the world to bring relief to the poor.**

Intercessor Make us just in all our dealings, with those among whom we live and those with whom we work.

People **Grant that we shall hold fast and honor all that is good and beautiful.**

Intercessor Have mercy on refugees who have been torn from their homes to seek new lands.

People **Relieve the afflicted and sorrowful who feel that they have no place in the world, and give them new hope.**

Intercessor We give thanks for those who have died in faith and rejoice in your presence.

People **Grant them the eternal peace that passes all understanding.**

Intercessor May the grace of Christ enable us to bring forth fruits worthy of repentance.

We pray for the special needs, concerns, and thanksgivings of this congregation and community.

Silence

We pray especially for members: Kurt, Mark, Clair, Luke, Charlie, Carol and family, Alan, Donna and Larry, Lorna, Lauren, Jacob, Richard, Kay, Char, Tony, Jim and James, John and Gayle, Kay and Roy, Mary, James, Jake, Denis and Judi, Steve, Michael, Robert, and Linda.

Thank you for the privilege to pray on behalf of friends and families. Pray silently or aloud. [Alexandera, Katie, Jimmy, Paula, Pat, Paul, the Luna family, Gilbert and family, Alisha, Eileen, the Dye family, Sue and Keith, Daryl and family, Carrie, Jody, Laryssa, Molly, Ali, Doris, Kaytlynn, Mary, Bruce, Seral, Megan, Dorothy, Cody, Bill, Greta, Warren and Danee, Betty and family, Rose, Melissa, Brennan, Pam, Annette, Liam and family, Holly, Jane, Kristi, Mita, Alexander, Dustin, Kristi, Hannah, Margaret, Grace, Douglas, Jean, Rebecca, Kellye, Liz, Lorie, Derek, Mary, Eric, Kelly, Jocelyn, Cheryl, Terry, Matt, Kevin, and Claire.]

For our men and women serving in the Armed Forces: Cory, Jordan, Brad, Lucas, Annie, Justin, Joseph, Caleb, Ed, Brett, Thea, Jaycob, Cody, and Joshua.

Those recovering from natural disasters, war, and famine. Be their strength and aid in all things. Guide us in how we might help our neighbors still suffering.

We pray for all who have died, especially Sandra Janelle Weis (mother of Chris Weis), that they may have a place in your eternal Kingdom.

For the diocesan cycle of prayer: St. Andrew's in Houston, St. Christopher's in Houston, St. Francis' in Houston, and the Diocese of Peshawar.

Concluding Prayer

Priest O Lord, without whom our labor is lost: We beseech you to prosper all works in your Church undertaken according to your holy will. Grant to your workers a pure intention, a patient faith, sufficient success on earth, and the blessedness of serving you in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Confession and Absolution

[BCP 360]

Priest Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Priest and People **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.***

Priest 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 Peace (*stand*)

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

- *Godly Play returns*

Members of St. Timothy's healing prayer team are available in the side chapel to pray with anyone who desires healing for themselves or others. Simply go to the side chapel after taking communion.

Offertory Sentence: Loving God these gifts and offerings are a reflection of our commitment to Christ's peace. May they provide sustenance to those in need and extend your love and justice throughout the world. Bless the generosity of this community prompting us to compassionately share in building a world where the hungry are filled. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Chancel Choir

John A. Behnke

(The gifts are brought forward by members.)

Doxology (*all sing*)

Hymn 380, vs. 3

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Priest: All things come from thee, O Lord.

People: **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving (*stand*)

[BCP 367]

Eucharistic Prayer B

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

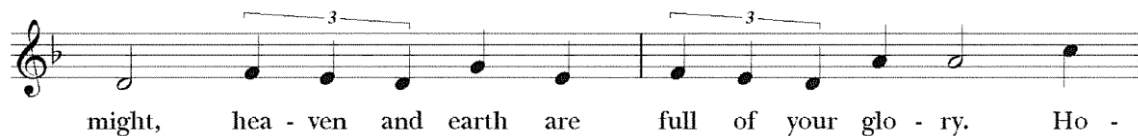
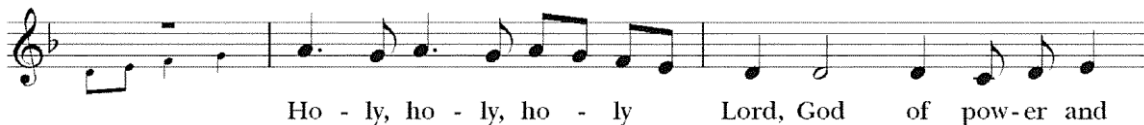
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus (*S129*) (*all sing*)

Setting by Robert Powell



san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est._____

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand 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.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

Priest and People **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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Facing the people, the priest says the following invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Ministration of Communion

All baptized Christians are welcome to come to the Lord's Table to receive the bread and wine of communion. Others are invited to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please tell the priest just before you receive communion.

At Communion:

- Hymn 66 (*all sing*)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

- Hymn 640 (*all sing*)

Watchman, Tell Us Of The Night

Post Communion Prayer (*stand or kneel*)

[BCP 366]

Priest Let us pray.

Priest and People **Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our**

Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Blessing

May Christ, the Bread of Life, who brings hope to the hopeless, be with you. May the love of our Creator, who calls us to care for the hungry and the oppressed, surround you. And may the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to imagine a kingdom where all hunger is satisfied, strengthen you now and always. Go in hope to feed the hungry, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of Christ's coming.

Recessional (*all sing*)

Prepare The Way, O Zion

Hymn 65

The Dismissal

Priest Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
Altar Party

Acolytes:

Ushers: Judi James and Jeff Klorer

Chalicer/Intercessor: Charles Collins

Cantor: Chris Hutchison

Lector: Denis James

Healing Prayer: Bunny Schockmel and Char Aslakson

Rector: The Reverend Robin Reeves-Kautz

Director of Music: Andrea Hutchison

Organist: Bonnie McDaniel

Sound Tech: Jay Richardson

Videographer: Esther Obasi

St. Timothy's Vestry

Kerry Cormier, Sr. Warden *Fran Hammond*

Steve Freeman, Jr. Warden *Chris Hutchison*

Charles Collins *Rebecca Klimek*

Jon Cox *Angela McCabe*

Keith Frank, Treasurer *Tony Janesbek, Stewardship Chair*

Alexa Kincannon, Finance Chair

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The text of the service of worship contained in this program is taken from the Book of Common Prayer 1979. The Book of Common Prayer alone is of authority in the worship of the Episcopal Church. This program is provided for convenience of use on this occasion.

The Episcopal Diocese of Texas does not permit any person, including clergy, staff, students, volunteers, and visitors, to carry a weapon in our churches or schools. This prohibition applies even if the person is licensed to carry a concealed weapon under Texas law. Section 3.6 Clergy Manual.

