



# *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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** **December 22, 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.*

### **Prelude**

*Carol Of The Bells*  
Handbell Choir

### **Welcome and Announcements**

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

**Processional Hymn** *(all sing)*

*Blest Be The King Whose Coming*

**Hymn 74**

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

*The candles are lit.*

Scripture: John 13:34 – Jesus said to them, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Prayer: Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. 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.

**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 Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a *(sit)*

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.

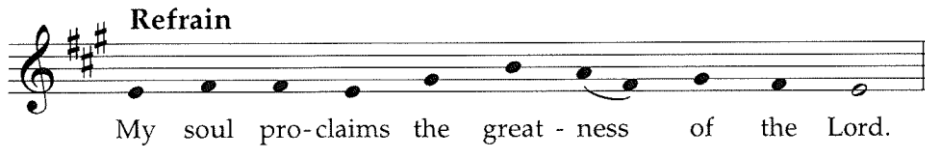
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

## *After the reading*

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Canticle 15 *(sung by the cantor)*



My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

### **Refrain**

He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

### **Refrain**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

### **Refrain**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

### **Refrain**

## The Epistle: 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.

*After the reading*

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn** (*all sing*)

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

**Hymn 56**

## The Gospel: Luke 1:39-55

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

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

*The Gospel passage is read.*

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."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

*Priest:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon** (*sit*)

*The Reverend Robin Reeves-Kautz*

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 to the Lord, rejoicing that he is here among us. Make the Church, confident in the sacrifice of Christ, always ready to proclaim his coming.

*People* **Keep your people faithful to the revelation that they have received, that they may be blessed in believing and ready to receive your promises.**

*Intercessor* Establish your justice in the world. In this winter time, give to the nations the light of Christ, that they may rejoice in his birth.

*People* **Let your will be known and followed by all people.**

*Intercessor* Bless us in our families with mutual love and service, to meet each other's needs.

*People* **Make us holy in our lives together as we wait for the holy birth.**

*Intercessor* Fill the hungry and raise up the oppressed.

*People* **Affirm the minorities that are despised because they are small and weak in the eyes of the world, and grant them their rightful place.**

*Intercessor* We pray for those who through bodily death have known the coming of the Lord.

*People* **May they be held in eternal life through his offering of himself.**

*Intercessor* May we be filled with the Holy Spirit, to make known the wonderful coming of Christ.

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

*Silence*

We pray especially for members: Kurt, Mark, Anna, Clairra, Luke, David and Pastor Robin, Charlie, Carol and family, Alan, Donna and Larry, Lorna, Lauren, Jacob, Richard, Kay, Char, 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. [Baby Will and his parents Josh and Kelsey, 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, Sheral, 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, Joshua, and others named now. (*Reader pauses.*)

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, that they may have a place in your eternal Kingdom.

For the diocesan cycle of prayer: St. John the Divine in Houston, St. Martin's in Houston, St. Paul's in Katy, 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**

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*  
Handbell Choir

*(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.

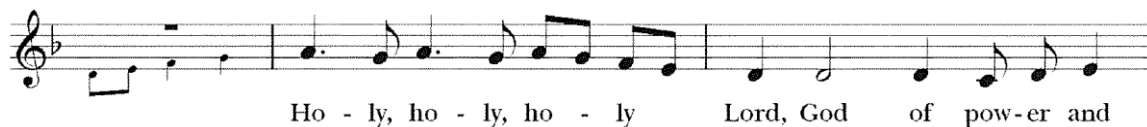
*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*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*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and

might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 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 61** (*all sing*)

*Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us*

- **Hymn 497** (*all sing*)

*How Bright Appears The Morning Star*

**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. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Recessional** (*all sing*) *Tell Out My Soul, The Greatness Of The Lord* **Hymn 438**

### **The Dismissal**

*Priest* Alleluia, alleluia. Go in hope to feed the hungry, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of Christ's coming.

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

### **Postlude**

## St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

### Altar Party

**Acolytes:**

**Ushers:** Angela McCabe and Denis James

**Chalicer/Intercessor:** Charles Collins

**Lector:** Margaret Jones

**Cantor:** Andrea Hutchison

**Healing Prayer:** Judi James and Cathy Richardson

**Rector:** The Reverend Robin Reeves-Kautz

**Director of Music:** Andrea Hutchison

**Organist:** Bonnie McDaniel

**Sound Tech:** Jeff Klorer

**Videographer:** Sondra Griner

### 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*

### St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

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Website: [www.stimothy.org](http://www.stimothy.org)

Facebook: St. Timothy's Episcopal Church – Lake Jackson

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.



