



**Order of Worship for  
The Commemoration of St. Thomas, Apostle  
December 22, 2021 - Church of the Ascension, Chicago**



# The Commemoration of St. Thomas, Apostle

## Introit

Right dear are thy friends unto me, O God, and held in highest honour: their rule and governance is exceeding steadfast. *Ps.* O Lord, thou hast searched me out and known me: thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.

## The Opening Acclamation (BCP p. 355)

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

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

## Collect for Purity *Celebrant*

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.**

**Kyrie** Lord, have mercy upon us. **Lord, have mercy upon us.**  
Christ, have mercy upon us. **Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
Lord, have mercy upon us. **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## Collect of the Day

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Everliving God, who strengthened your apostle Thomas with firm and certain faith in your Son's resurrection: Grant us so perfectly and without doubt to believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that our faith may never be found wanting in your sight; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sit: **The First Reading**

Habakkuk 2:1-4

I will stand at my watchpost, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint. Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.

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

### **Gradual**

Right dear are thy friends, O God, and held in highest honor: their rule and governance is exceeding steadfast. *V.* If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand of the sea.

### **The Epistle**

Hebrews 10:35-11:1

Do not, therefore, abandon that confidence of yours; it brings a great reward. For you need endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. For yet “in a very little while, the one who is coming will come and will not delay; but my righteous one will live by faith. My soul takes no pleasure in anyone who shrinks back.” But we are not among those who shrink back and so are lost, but among those who have faith and so are saved. Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

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

### **Alleluia**

Alleluia. Alleluia. *V.* Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for it becometh well the just to be thankful. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**The Holy Gospel** *Circumstances permitting, please stand.*

John 20:24-29

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

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

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

Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with the other disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

*Continued* →

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.    *People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Homily**

Mtr. Meghan Murphy-Gill

**The Nicene Creed**    *Circumstances permitting, please stand.*

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 Celebrant may name intercessions and thanksgivings*

### **The Prayers of the People**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

*Deacon/Leader:* Holy God, beginning and end of all that is or shall be, hear our prayers as we await the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. *Silence.*

Give hope to the powerless and humility to the powerful. Turn all hearts to peace and forgiveness wherever there is estrangement, division or violence. *Silence.*

Holy God: **Be revealed in our justice and wisdom.**

Show your mercy and justice in us and through the witness of all in your Church throughout the world. *Silence.*

Holy God: **Be revealed in our words and actions.**

We pray for all in need: travelers, refugees, the lonely or discouraged, the hungry and homeless, the sick and the suffering. *Silence.*

Holy God: **Be revealed in our compassion and care for others.**

We remember all who have died, and we give thanks for all whose witness has inspired our faith. *Silence.*

Holy God: **Be revealed in our hope and perseverance.**

*The Celebrant adds the following Doxology or another prayer.*

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;  
yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

*Clergy:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence.*

*Minister 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.**

*The Priest stands and says*

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**

*Celebrant* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*All greet one another in the name of the Lord ... in spirit.*

## **The Offertory**

### **Offertory Proper**

Their sound is gone out into all lands: and their words unto the ends of the world.

*The priest elevates the offering of bread, saying*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: by your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made; it will become for us the bread of life.

*People* **Blessed be God for ever.**

*As water is mingled with the wine, the priest prays*

In the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, as he humbled himself to share our humanity.

*The priest elevates the offering of wine (and water), saying*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: by your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands; it will become our spiritual drink.

*People*      **Blessed be God for ever.**

*After a ritual cleansing of hands (ablutions), the priest says:* Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

*The Celebrant may add:* Come, O Sanctifier, Almighty and Eternal God, and bless this sacrifice, prepared for the glory of Your holy Name.

*Yes, please do remember your financial offerings to the church.*

*You may write a check and mail it to the church  
or make a gift at our website by scanning this QR Code.*



## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (BCP p. 361)**

### **Orate Fratres**

*Celebrant*      Pray, my brothers and sisters, that this my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

*People*      **May the Lord receive this sacrifice at your hands, to the praise and glory of his Name, both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church.**

*Celebrant*      Amen.

*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 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.

Through the great shepherd of your flock, Jesus Christ our Lord; who after his resurrection sent forth his apostles to preach the Gospel and to teach all nations; and promised to be with them always, even to the end of the ages.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

*Then the Celebrant continues:* Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*     **Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**

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**

*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.**

## **Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)**

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.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

*Celebrant* Behold the Lamb of God; behold him that takes away the sins of the world. Happy are they who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof.

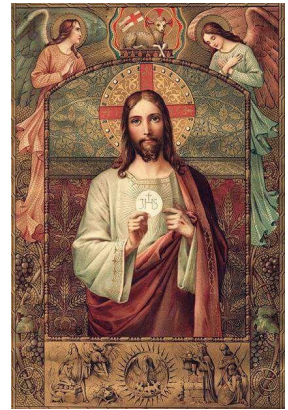
*People* **But speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.**

## The Communion Proper

Reach hither thy hand, and behold the print of the nails: and be not faithless, but believing.

**Acts of Adoration** *Private devotions for those unable to receive the Sacrament.*

**My Jesus**, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen. ~ *St. Joseph's Daily Missal*



**In union, dear Lord**, with the faithful at every altar of the Church where Thy Blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer Thee praise and thanksgiving. I believe that Thou art truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot at this time receive Thee sacramentally, I beseech Thee to come spiritually into my soul. I unite myself unto Thee, and embrace Thee with all the affections of my heart. Let me never be separated from Thee. Let me live and die in Thy Love. Amen. ~ *attributed to St. Alphonsus Ligouri*

## The Postcommunion Prayer - BCP p. 366

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*All:* 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 Advent Blessing**

May Almighty God, by whose providence Our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing God Almighty, + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Deacon or Celebrant:* The mass is ended. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

*The Church of the Ascension Prayer list may be found below.*

## **Ascension Prayer List**

**For our prayers:** The Rev. Canon Paula Clark, August 'Augie' Alonzo, Jim Berger, Sarah Ponder, Taffy Wehe, Beth Hall, Sue Lenz, Ben, David D. Jones, Carys and Joshua Benjamin, Lawrence Cox, Gina, Tom Baer, Mary Stetson, Lillian Alexander, Patricia Grisham, Miguel, Edward Minioka

**Birthdays:** Alison Wallace, 12/20; Jim Walsh, 12/20; Jake Matthew Keller, 12/23/2008

**Requiescat in pace:** Irene Thompson Malick, 12/19/2011; Henry Klages, 12/21/1987; Ruth Ehlen, 12/22/2002, Steven Upmeyer, Glenn Turquend



1133 N. LaSalle Drive, Chicago, Illinois, 60610  
(312) 664-1271 [www.ascensionchicago.org](http://www.ascensionchicago.org)