

# Morning Prayer: Rite Two

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

The Feast of Saint Thomas

December 21

Officiants: Lynne McSheehy and Chris Baron

*Officiant 1* Jesus said to Thomas, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

*John 20:29*

*Officiant 2* 'Heaven and earth will pass away,' says the Lord, 'but my words will not pass away.'

*Mark 13:31*

## Confession of Sin

*Officiant 1* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence*

*Officiant 1* 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.

*Officiant 2* Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

## The Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant 1* Lord, open our lips.

*Officiant 2* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*Officiant 1* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

*Officiant 2* as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

*Officiant 1* Our King and Savior now draws near:

*Officiant 2* Come let us adore him.

**Venite** *Psalm 95:1-7 Said responsively breaking at the half verse*

Come let us sing to the Lord; \*

**let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*

**and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

For the Lord is a great God, \*

**and a great King above all gods.**

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*

**and the heights of the hills are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it, \*

**and his hands have molded the dry land.**

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*

**and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.\*

**Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

*Officiant 1* Our King and Savior now draws near:

*Officiant 2* Come let us adore him.

Psalm 126

*Said responsively breaking at the half verse*

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, \*

**then were we like those who dream.**

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*

**and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations, \*

**"The Lord has done great things for them."**

The Lord has done great things for us, \*

**and we are glad indeed.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \*

**like the watercourses of the Negev.**

Those who sowed with tears \*

**will reap with songs of joy.**

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*

**will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.**

**Amen.**

## The Lessons

*Officiant 1 A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews*

*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.

*Officiant 1 The Word of the Lord*

*Officiant 2 Thanks be to God*

## Canticle    **A Song of the Spirit**

*Revelation 22:12-17*

*Said responsively breaking at the half verse*

“Behold, I am coming soon,” says the Lord, “and bringing my reward with me, \*

**to give to everyone according to their deeds.**

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, \*  
**the beginning and the end.**”

Blessed are those who do God’s commandments,  
that they may have the right to the tree of life, \*

**and may enter the city through the gates.**

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you, \*  
**with this testimony for all the churches.**

“I am the root and the offspring of David, \*

**I am the bright morning star.”**

“Come!” say the Spirit and the Bride; \*

**“Come!” let each hearer reply!**

Come forward, you who are thirsty, \*

**let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.**

**Amen.**

## *Officiant 2    A Reading from the Gospel according to John*

*John 20:24-29*

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.”

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.”

*Officiant 2    The Word of the Lord*

*Officiant 1    Thanks be to God*

## **The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant 1*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## The Prayers

*Officiant 2* The Lord be with you.

*Officiant 1* And also with you.

*Officiant 2* Let us pray.

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.

## Suffrages (from *Enriching Our Worship*)

V. Help us, O God our Savior;  
R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.  
V. Look upon your congregation;  
R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.  
V. Declare your glory among the nations;  
R. And your wonders among all peoples.  
V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;  
R. Never forget the lives of your poor.  
V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;  
R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.  
V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;  
R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

*Officiant 1* Christ our light, like Thomas we need to see, need to touch, need to be sure before we believe. When we don't know, help us to trust; when we can't see, help us to keep on walking. Praise to you our God; you answer prayer. Amen.

*The Collect of the Day, A New Zealand Prayer Book*

*Officiant 2* Almighty God, you sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son; grant that those who proclaim your word may so guide our feet into the way of peace, that we may stand with confidence before him when he comes in his glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer. Amen.

*A Collect for Advent, A New Zealand Prayer Book*

*Officiant 1* Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*A Collect for Grace*

*Officiant* Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Prayer for Mission*

## The Peace and Greetings

*Officiant 2* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

*Officiant 1* **And also with you**

The worshippers exchange the Peace and greet one another.

*One of the Officiants prays Thanksgivings and Intercessions shared in Chat.*

## Closing Prayers

*Officiant 2* Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.*

*The General Thanksgiving*

*Officiant 1* Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time  
with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and  
you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two  
or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst  
of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be  
best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and  
in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

*A Prayer of St. Chrysostom*

*Officiant 1* Let us bless the Lord.

*Officiant 2* Thanks be to God.

*Officiant 1* May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in  
believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

*Romans 15:13*