Opening Acclamation

**Officiant** Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

**Officiant** Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**All** Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting Anthem

The Schola then sing the Candle Lighting Anthem as the candles on the altar are lit.

**Cantor** and **People** Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts. Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved: O Lord God of hosts.

**Cantor** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. [Ant.]

**Cantor** and **People** V. Show us your mercy, O Lord: R. And grant us your salvation.
Hymn for Light

1. The King shall come when morning dawns and
   light triumphant breaks; when beauty gilds the
   eastern hills and life to joy awakes.

2. Not, as of old, a little child, to
   bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glory
   like the sun that lights the morning sky.

3. The King shall come when morning dawns and
   earth's dark night is past; O haste the rising
   of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;

4. and let the endless bliss begin, by
   weary saints foretold, when right shall triumph
   over wrong, and truth shall be extolled.

5. The King shall come when morning dawns and
   light and beauty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy
   people pray, come quickly, King of kings.
Collect of the Day

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.
First Lesson
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.

Psalm
Psalm 126

Second Reading
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.
Gospel Reading

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.”

Sermon
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
gain 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.
Prayers of the People

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Presider  When the Lord comes,
         he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
         and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
         Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.
         God of all mercy,

People   we confess that we have sinned against you,
         opposing your will in our lives.
         We have denied your goodness in each other,
         in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
         We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
         the evil we have done,
         and the evil done on our behalf.
         Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
         through our Savior Jesus Christ,
         that we may abide in your love
         and serve only your will. Amen.

Presider  Almighty God have mercy on you,
         forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ,
         strengthen you in all goodness,
         and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life.

People   Amen.

The Peace
1 Lo! he comes, with clouds descending, once for our salvation;
2 Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty;
3 Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears, cause of endless exultation; eternal throne; Savior, take the power and glory;
4 Yea, amen! let all adore thee, high on thine own swell the triumph of his train: Alleluia!
        pierced, and nailed him to the tree, deeply wailing, to his ransomed worshipers; with what rapture, claim the kingdom for thine own: Alleluia!
        Al-le-lu-ia! Christ the Lord returns to reign. deep-l-y wail-ing, shall the true Mes-si-ah see.
        with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars! Al-le-lu-ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  Music: St. Thomas, melody attr. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. attr. Vincent Francis Novello (1781-1861)
The Great Thanksgiving

_Sanctus_  

_J = 96_

\[ \text{Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of pow’r and might.} \]

\[ \text{Heav’n and earth are full of your glo-ry, Ho-san-na} \]

\[ \text{in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the} \]

\[ \text{name of the Lord, Ho-san-na in the high-est.} \]

The Lord's Prayer

_Fraction Anthem_  

_J = 72_

\[ \text{Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the} \]

\[ \text{world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the} \]

\[ \text{sins of the world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you} \]

\[ \text{Slower} \]

\[ \text{take a-way the sins of the world: grant us peace.} \]
Collect of Longing
Loving Father, we who are physically distant now, groan inwardly as we await the day when we are restored to the company of our neighbors and brought to the fullness of your presence in the Eucharistic feast. Comfort us in our longing to be near each other, assure us of your indwelling presence, and hasten the day when we will abide with you and all our beloved siblings in that kingdom where there is neither sorrow nor crying but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Presentation
Presider  The Gifts of God for the People of God.
People    Thanks be to God.

— or —

Presider  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.

Southern Africa Spiritual Communion

In apartheid South Africa many prisoners were denied the sacraments and had to find other ways of taking Spiritual Communion. This found its way into the 1989 Anglican Church of Southern Africa Prayer Book as a help to others who could not receive

Jesus, may all that is you flow into me. May your body and blood be my food and drink. May your passion and death be my strength and life. Jesus, with you by my side enough has been given. May the shelter I seek be the shadow of your cross. Let me not run from the love which you offer but hold me safe from the forces of evil. On each of my dyings shed your light and your love. Keep calling to me until that day comes when, with your saints, I may praise you for ever. Amen.
Closing Hymn

1 Savior of the nations, come! Virgin's Son, make here your home.
2 Wondrous birth! Oh, wondrous child of the Virgin undesiled! Marvel now, both his created spheres; hence to death and sin the victory won. Boundless shall your heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
3 Thus on earth the Word appears, graciously. Mary's son, eager now his race to run! Hell descends, then the heavenly throne ascends. Kingdom be; grant that we its glories see.
4 Come, O Father's saving Son, who o'er

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (349-397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938)
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Post Communion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.
    Faithful God,
People in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation.
    May we, like the Virgin Mary,
    be obedient to your will.
    We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Blessing & Dismissal

Br. David Vryhof, Presider
Br. Jim Woodrum, Preacher