



Sunday. Every Day.

Christ Church Episcopal

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THOMAS MERTON

MONK, POET, SPIRITUAL WRITER, 1968

· Wednesday, December 10, 2025 · · Chapel · 5:30 p.m. ·

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Opening Sentences Page 355, *The Book of Common Prayer*

Trisagion Page 356, *The Book of Common Prayer*

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Gracious God, you called your monk Thomas Merton to proclaim your justice out of silence, and moved him in his contemplative writings to perceive and value Christ at work in the faiths of others: Keep us, like him, steadfast in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Gospel

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 12:27-36

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

Jesus said ‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people^{*} to myself.’ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, ‘We have heard from the law that the Messiah^{*} remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?’ Jesus said to them, ‘The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.’

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

Reflection *The Reverend Andreis Diaz*

You may kneel or sit.

The Prayers of the People Form III, Page 387, *The Book of Common Prayer*

Confession Page 360, *The Book of Common Prayer*

Candle Lighting

We continue our prayers through the lighting of votive candles as a symbol of our love and concern for others. You are welcome to light a single candle as a symbol of your prayers.

Please stand.

The Peace Page 360, *The Book of Common Prayer*

Please be seated.

Announcements

*To make an offering online visit
ccpvb.org/give or scan this code.
Thank you for your support.*

SCAN ME



THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

Please stand.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer Page 364, *The Book of Common Prayer*

The Breaking of the Bread Page 364, *The Book of Common Prayer*

Please be seated.

Distribution of Communion

Please join us at God's table.

All people, including children, are invited to receive Communion. Gluten-free wafers are also available. If you would prefer not to take Communion but would like a blessing, please fold your arms across your chest.

Communion Music

You may kneel or sit.

Postcommunion Prayer Page 365, *The Book of Common Prayer*

The Blessing

Please stand.

Final Hymn

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

THOMAS MERTON

MONK, POET, SPIRITUAL WRITER, 1968

Thomas Merton was born in 1915 in France, of American parents. His early education was in France (Lycee de Montauban 1927-8) and England (Oakham School, 1929-32; Clare College, Cambridge, 1933-4). He came to America and attended Columbia University, graduated in English in 1938, worked there one year as a teaching assistant, and got his M.A. in 1939. In 1939 he joined the Roman Catholic Church, and taught at St Bonaventure for the next two years. In 1941 he entered the Trappist monastery of Gethsemani near Louisville, Kentucky. The Trappists, called more formally Cistercians of the Strict Observance, are (or were before Vatican II) an extremely strict Roman Catholic monastic order, devoted to communal prayer (they spend at least four hours a day in chapel, chanting the praises of God), to private prayer and contemplation, to study, and to manual labor. Except for those whose special duties require otherwise, they are vowed not to speak except in praise of God. Thus, when not singing in chapel, they are silent.

Toward the end of his life, Merton developed an interest in Buddhist and other Far Eastern approaches to mysticism and contemplation, and their relation to Christian approaches. He was attending an international conference on Christian and Buddhist monasticism in Bangkok, Thailand, when he was accidentally electrocuted on 10 December 1968.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Blue Christmas

Wednesday, December 17

5:30pm, Contemporary Worship Space

Blue Christmas is the time when we can, with others, acknowledge any sad feelings we may have at Christmas time, the reasons for them, and offer them to God. We invite you to reflect on your feeling and we pray that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. Contact Deacon Leila at Leila@ccpvb.org for more information.

Christ Church Women's Retreat 2026

Friday, January 30 - Sunday, February 1

Don't miss the 2026 Women's Retreat! Our theme is Prayers of the People, and our speaker, the Rev Dr Linda Privatera, will lead us through a deep exploration of the ways and the reasons we pray. Make plans to join us at Epworth By the Sea for this time of fellowship, rest, and inspiration! Scan the code to register, or drop by the front office for a brochure. For questions, contact Deacon Leila or Mother Laura.



HAPPENING THIS WEEK

** For our regular, recurring weekly activities and groups, please see our event calendar.

