



The Season of **Epiphany**

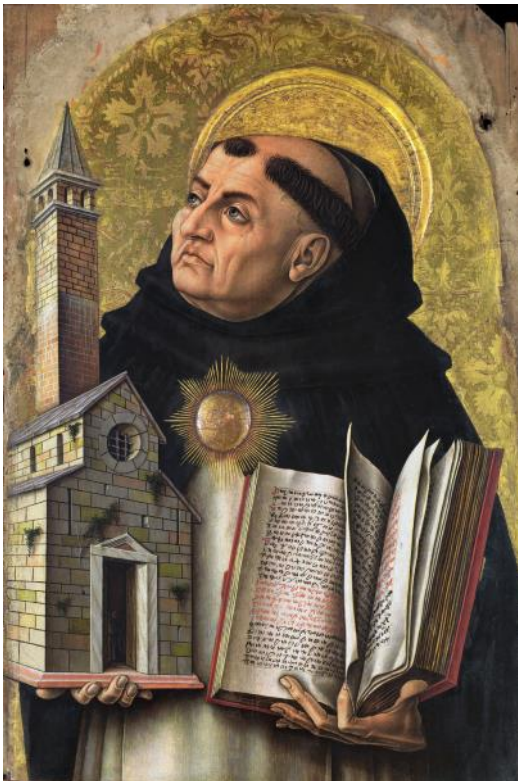
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

FEAST OF THOMAS AQUINAS

Wednesday 29 Jan 2024 9:30 AM

From [Wikipedia the free encyclopedia](#)



Thomas Aquinas OP (/əˈkwɑːnəs/ [ⓘ] *ə-KWY-nəs*; *Italian: Tommaso d'Aquino*, *lit.* 'Thomas of [Aquino](#)'; c. 1225 – 7 March 1274) was an Italian^[6]

[Dominican friar](#) and [priest](#), the foremost [Scholastic](#) thinker,^[7] as well as one of the most influential philosophers and theologians in the Western tradition.^[8] He was from the county of [Aquino](#) in the [Kingdom of Sicily](#).

Thomas was a proponent of [natural theology](#) and the father of a school of thought (encompassing both theology and philosophy) known as [Thomism](#). Central to his thought was the doctrine of [natural law](#), which he argued was accessible to [human reason](#) and grounded in the very nature of human beings, providing a basis for understanding [individual rights](#) and [moral duties](#).^[9] He argued that God is the source of the light of natural reason and the light of faith.^[10] He embraced^[11] several ideas put forward by [Aristotle](#) and attempted to synthesize [Aristotelian philosophy](#) with the principles of Christianity.^[12] Aquinas' natural law

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Welcome and Announcements

Rev Allison Cornell

Entrance Rites

The people stand as they are able.

Opening Acclamation:

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Gloria:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you
thanks,**

we praise you for your glory.

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the
Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of
the Father:**

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Salutation:

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray

Collect of the Day: *(All, in unison)*

Almighty God, who has enriched your church with the singular learning and holiness of your servant Thomas Aquinas: Enlighten us more and more, we pray, by the disciplined thinking and teaching of Christian scholars, and deepen our devotion by the example of saintly lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of God: *(please be seated)*

First Lesson: A reading from the book of Wisdom (7:7-14):

I prayed, and understanding was given me;
I called on God, and the spirit of wisdom came to me.
I preferred her to scepters and thrones,
and I accounted wealth as nothing in comparison with her.
Neither did I liken to her any priceless gem,
because all gold is but a little sand in her sight,
and silver will be accounted as clay before her.
I loved her more than health and beauty,
and I chose to have her rather than light,
because her radiance never ceases.
All good things came to me along with her,
and in her hands uncounted wealth.
I rejoiced in them all, because wisdom leads them;
but I did not know that she was their mother.
I learned without guile and I impart without grudging;
I do not hide her wealth,
for it is an unfailing treasure for mortals;
those who get it obtain friendship with God,
commended for the gifts that come from instruction.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm: Psalm 119:97-104

97 Oh, how I love your law! *
 all the day long it is in my mind.
98 Your commandment has made me wiser than my enemies, *
 and it is always with me.
99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, *
 for your decrees are my study.
100 I am wiser than the elders, *
 because I observe your commandments.
101 I restrain my feet from every evil way, *
 that I may keep your word.

**102 I do not shrink from your judgments, *
because you yourself have taught me.**

**103 How sweet are your words to my taste! *
they are sweeter than honey to my mouth.**

**104 Through your commandments I gain understanding; *
therefore I hate every lying way.**

The Second Lesson: A reading from the book of 1 Corinthians (11:23-26):

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Lesson: Matthew (13:24-30):

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

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

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Nicene Creed *(Contemporary Version)* *All say together:*

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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:

Leader: I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world;

People: For our Bishops Sean, and Jennifer, for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Leader: Pray for the Church. *Silence*

Leader: I ask your prayers for peace;

People: For goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Leader: Pray for justice and peace. *Silence*

Leader: I ask your prayers for those who suffer in body, mind or spirit:

People: For the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Leader: Pray for those in any need or trouble. *Silence*

Leader: I ask your prayers for those who feel God's call in their hearts:

People: For all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Leader: Pray that they may find and be found by him. *Silence*

Leader: I ask your prayers for the departed

People: For those we love but see no more.

Leader: Pray for those who have died. *Silence*

Leader: In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer pray for *The Diocese of Llandaff – The Church in Wales.*

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for *Grace St. Paul's, in Tucson.*

People: May God bless and guide them.

Leader: We pray for the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache and Tohono O'Odham peoples who call this area home.

People: For greater understanding and cooperation between us towards the common good for all.

Leader: Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

People: May we have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. Amen.

Confession of Sin:

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people stand, sit, or kneel.

All: Holy One, we encounter you in our lives and try to follow faithfully, but so often we get lost or turn away. We try to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we frequently fail. We take the wrong path and stray from the ways of your love. Forgive us, Lord, and guide us back to you. Amen.

Absolution:

Presider: God of Love, we return to you, and we accept your grace, we accept your pardon, we accept the gift of a new chance to follow in your pathways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Exchange of the Peace:

Presider: May the peace of Christ be always with you

All: And also with you.

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Offertory:

Presider: Offer to God a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Offertory Hymn:

Doxology (Hymn #380 v. 3):

**All: ♪ 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. ♪**

The Holy Communion

EOW 2

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Presider continues:

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

Presider and People: Sanctus

S#S124

**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

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us.

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.

He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: *“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”*

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table:

O God of all creation, remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit (+) upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new Creation (+), the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with St. Stephen and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, forever and ever. **AMEN**

And now as Jesus taught us, we pray: (*Contemporary Lord's Prayer*)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done

On earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

Now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread: *(Presider breaks the consecrated bread in silence)*

Fraction: **ALL:**

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:

Presider: These are the gifts of God for the People of God.

People: Christ invites us all to be known and fed here.

(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church. We have gluten free bread and real wine. To intinct/dip your bread into the wine, please go to the left altar rail. To sip wine from the cup please come to the right altar rail. If you do not wish to receive the bread and wine, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing instead.)

Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travel and Gratitude

Post Communion Prayer:

Presider: Let us pray:

All: Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Benediction:

Presider: God's Blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always. **Amen.**

Dismissal:

Deacon: People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

People: We are called to love and serve.

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in God's Spirit.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Continued from front:

theory has been influential in shaping ideas about [human liberty](#) and the [moral limits of government authority](#).^{[13][14]} He has been described as "the most influential thinker of the [medieval period](#)"^[15] and "the greatest of the [medieval philosopher-theologians](#)".^[16]

Thomas's best-known works are the unfinished [Summa Theologica](#), or *Summa Theologiae* (1265–1274), the [Disputed Questions on Truth](#) (1256–1259) and the [Summa contra Gentiles](#) (1259–1265). His commentaries on [Christian Scripture](#) and on Aristotle also form an important part of his body of work. He is also notable for his [Eucharistic](#) hymns, which form a part of the Church's liturgy.^[17]

As a [Doctor of the Church](#), Thomas Aquinas is considered one of the Catholic Church's greatest theologians and philosophers.^[18] He is known in Catholic theology as the *Doctor Angelicus* ("Angelic Doctor", with the title "doctor" meaning "teacher"), and the *Doctor Communis* ("Universal Doctor").^[a] In 1999, [John Paul II](#) added a new title to these traditional ones: *Doctor Humanitatis* ("Doctor of Humanity/Humaneness").^[19]

[Biography](#)

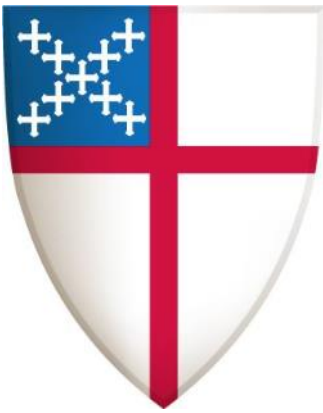
[Early life \(1225–1244\)](#)

Thomas Aquinas was most likely born in the family castle of [Roccasecca](#),^[20] near [Aquino](#), controlled at that time by the [Kingdom of Sicily](#) (in present-day [Lazio](#), Italy), c. 1225.^[21] He was born to the most powerful branch of the family, and his father, Landulf of Aquino, was a man of means. As a knight in the service of [Emperor Frederick II](#), Landulf of Aquino held the title *miles*.^[22] Thomas's mother, Theodora, belonged to the Rossi branch of the [Neapolitan Caracciolo](#) family.^[23] Landulf's brother Sinibald was [abbot](#) of [Monte Cassino](#), the oldest [Benedictine monastery](#). While the rest of the family's sons pursued military careers,^[24] the family intended for Thomas to follow his uncle into the abbacy;^[25] this would have been a normal career path for a younger son of Southern Italian nobility.^[26]

At the age of five Thomas began his early education at Monte Cassino, but after the military conflict between [Emperor Frederick II](#) and [Pope Gregory IX](#) spilt into the abbey in early 1239, Landulf and Theodora had Thomas enrolled at the *studium generale* ([university](#)) established by Frederick in [Naples](#).^[27] There, his teacher in arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music was [Petrus de Ibernia](#).^[28] It was at this university that Thomas was presumably introduced to [Aristotle](#), [Averroes](#) and [Maimonides](#), all of whom would influence his theological philosophy.^[29] During his study at Naples, Thomas also came under the influence of John of St. Julian, a Dominican preacher in Naples, who was part of the active effort by the [Dominican Order](#) to recruit devout followers.^[30]

At the age of nineteen, Thomas resolved to join the Dominican Order. His change of heart, however, did not please his family.^[31] In an attempt to prevent Theodora's interference in Thomas's choice, the Dominicans arranged to move Thomas to Rome, and from Rome, to Paris.^[32] However, while on his journey to Rome, per Theodora's instructions, his brothers seized him as he was drinking from a spring and took him back to his parents at the castle of [Monte San Giovanni Campano](#).^[32]

Thomas was held prisoner for almost one year in the family castles at Monte San Giovanni and Roccasecca in an attempt to prevent him from assuming the Dominican habit and to push him into renouncing his new aspiration.^[29] Political concerns prevented the



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



Info Update Giving Envelopes Mail News Letter

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