

Welcome to St. Thomas Mass in Tampere!



Welcome to the St. Thomas Mass (Tuomasmessu), Finland's most popular ecumenical Christian worship! We invite doubters and seekers to celebrate, worship God, make friends with others and grow together. Those who feel sinful and weak in their faith are especially welcome.

St. Thomas Mass is celebrated at **5 pm once a month** at **Aleksanterin kirkko** in Pyynikin kirkkopuisto, Tampere. Take a leaflet of the worship days from the church or look at our website. You may also join the service via our Tampereen Tuomasmessu YouTube-channel.

St. Thomas Mass – A Celebration

The St. Thomas Mass in Tampere is arranged by 60-70 volunteers, both lay persons and pastors, each time by a different team of people. It is one of the worships in the Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Parishes in Tampere. The mass got its name from Apostle Thomas, who seemed to have more questions than answers. The St. Thomas Mass started in Helsinki 1998 and is now celebrated in several cities in Finland and in dozens of locations in Europe.

All kinds of people, young and old, doubtful and faithful, distressed and joyful, believers and non-believers are welcome to attend St. Thomas Mass as they are. No one is excluded. People's burdens are eased through prayer, confidential face-to-face discussions and private discussions with confessors, who are for you already one hour before the Mass until the Holy Communion. Moreover, everybody is invited to serve God and other people in various roles in the forthcoming masses.

Fresh and touching music is an integral part in the St. Thomas Mass. There is a lot of singing and playing throughout the Mass. The Thomas Choir and Orchestra lead our singing. All the music and liturgical texts are shown on several screens in the church. The music is special!

Order of the Mass

Procession and introduction

St. Thomas Mass starts with a solemn procession and joyful music followed by some welcome words from the mass team. Then comes usually confession of sins and absolution. Then God's forgiveness is praised by singing. This confession section may sometimes be in another place in the liturgy, which is in the beginning of the Holy Communion.

Prayer

After the introduction starts the prayer section. You can pray either on your own, with volunteers and pastors, by singing with others or you may walk around in the church and pray at the main altar or have some meditation at the prayer altars. Those are made by lay persons as expressions of prayers. At the altars you can write down your prayer requests. Some of them will be prayed in the common prayer in the same mass, others later in prayer groups. At least one of the prayer assistants may pray with you in English at the main altar. You may also receive a blessing and anointment with oil.

The Word

Then it is time for Bible reading. Texts follow the liturgical year, with readings from the Old Testament, New Testament epistles as well as the daily Gospel reading. The sermon is followed by the creed (credo). Then the offering is collected while hymns or songs are sung.

Holy Communion

The culmination of the Mass is the Holy Communion. It is served at four or five places, so it is easy to take part in it. You may get non-alcohol wine and gluten-free bread at a certain distribution place. During the Holy Communion peaceful hymns and songs are sung.

All baptized Christians are welcome to take the communion. Children are also given communion if the parent so requests. Children can also be blessed. If you want to have a blessing you can make a sign by keeping your right hand on your left shoulder.

The Dismissal

After the Holy Communion God is praised for His goodness by singing and people get God's blessing and go in Peace with it. The mass itself ends in the final song and a procession.

After the Mass tea is served in the Crypt downstairs. Everyone is welcome to join the fellowship and chat with those present.

Please feel free to join us!

Further information and contact:

tampereentuomasmessu.fi