



Photograph © Thomas Roma

# COME SUNDAY

PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
THOMAS ROMA

Introduction by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.  
A Museum of Modern Art Book

"The Church is at once a culture and a black cultural event, a weekly unfolding of ritual and theatre, oratory and spectacle, the most sublime music and even the dance. . . . The distance between gospel and the blues, the spirituals and jazz, is the distance between Saturday night and Sunday morning. The two most pregnant moments in the African-American cultural week, as it were, occur within twelve hours of each other. . . . Thomas Roma's photographs capture the sublimity of the beliefs of people most 'caught up in the whirling storms of life' today—working class black people . . . who believe in a living God, in manifestations of His Spirit, in the power of His Word."

—Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

In 1990 Thomas Roma began photographing the exteriors of houses of worship in his native Brooklyn. One morning, the pastor of an African-American Christian church housed in a former Jewish temple invited Roma to join the congregation with his camera, explaining that God's work was not in the buildings, but in what went on inside. He eventually photographed more than 150 services in 52 African-American churches, richly fulfilling his desire "to make religious pictures for modern times."

The photographs in *Come Sunday* will be exhibited at The Museum of Modern Art, New York, from April through June 1996. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., W. E. B. DuBois Professor of Humanities at Harvard University and author of many books and articles, including his recent memoir *Colored People*, has contributed an essay on the place of the church in African-American life.

85 photographs in tritone, 128 pages, 9½ x 10"

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