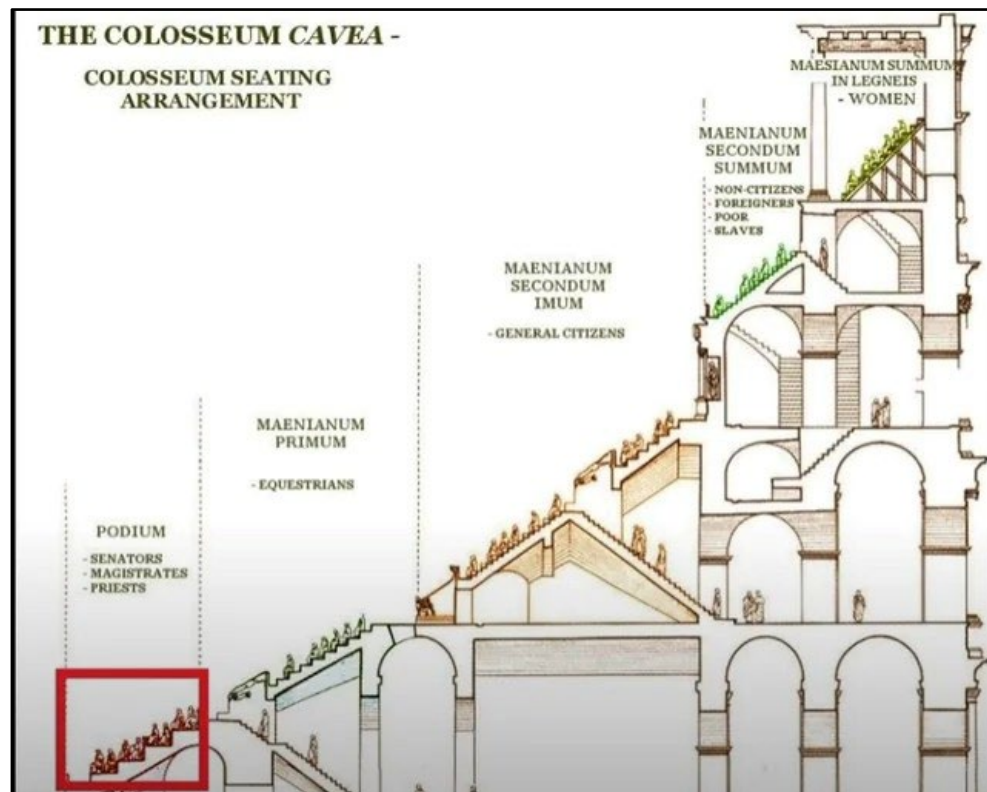




ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We, the baptized ministers,
declare Christ's Mission for us:
to grow as a Church
in the spiritual strength
of community,
and to care, reach out,
and include all people in Christ's love.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



Holy Eucharist, Rite II—10:00 AM

August 31, 2025

Welcome to St. Thomas! We are so glad that you are here with us. If you are new to our community, we invite you to fill out a welcome card located in the pew rack in front of you, and either place it in the offering plate or hand it to a priest. We also invite you to stay with us for coffee hour after the service.

THE WORD OF GOD

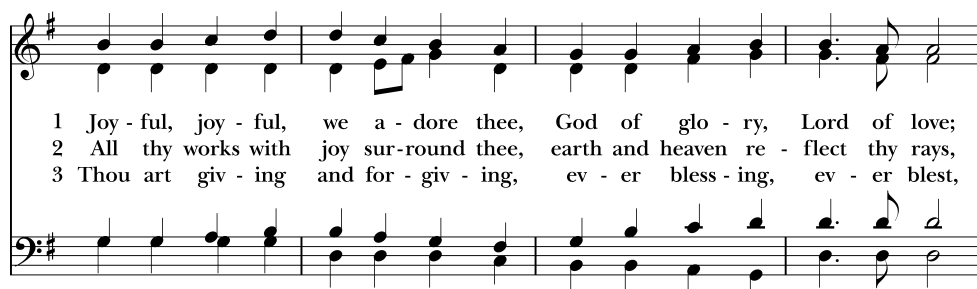
Welcome

The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith

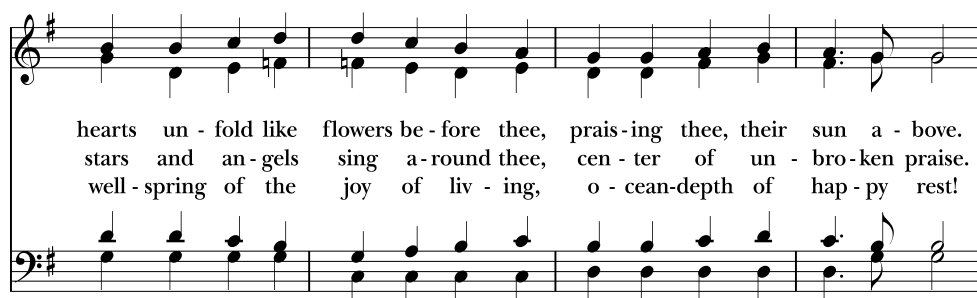
Procession

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

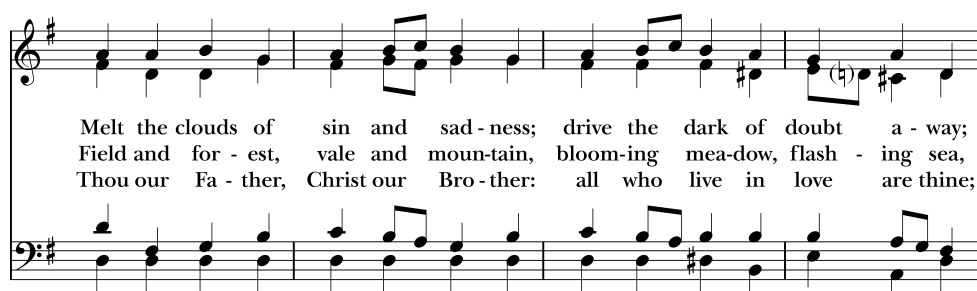
#376 Hymnal 1982



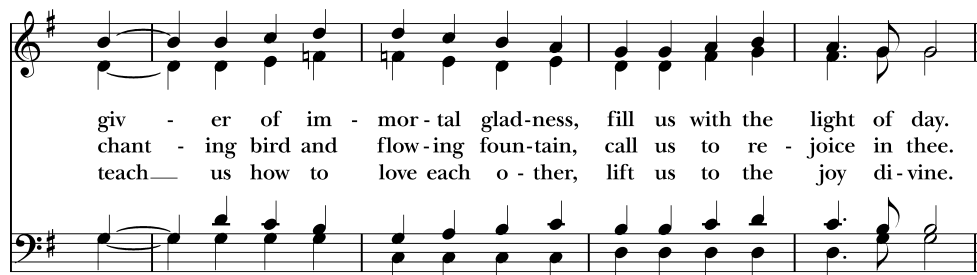
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach — us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933). Music: *Hymn to Joy*, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.

The Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

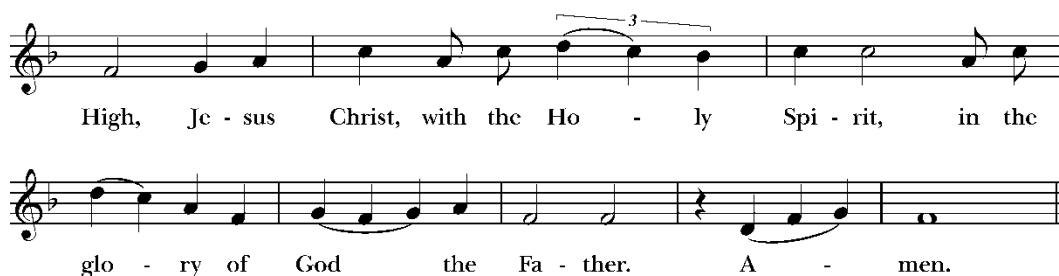
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria

Glory to God

#S280 Hymnal 1982

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the LORD: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves? They did not say, "Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?" I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things.

But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination.

The priests did not say, "Where is the LORD?" Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after things that do not profit.

Therefore once more I accuse you, says the LORD, and I accuse your children's children.

Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit.

Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the LORD,

for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 81:1, 10-16 *Exultate Deo* (We will pray a portion of Psalm 81 responsively by half verse)

1 Sing with joy to God our strength *
and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

10 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said, *
"Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it."

11 And yet my people did not hear my voice, *
and Israel would not obey me.

12 So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts, *
to follow their own devices.

13 Oh, that my people would listen to me! *
that Israel would walk in my ways!

14 I should soon subdue their enemies *
and turn my hand against their foes.

15 Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him, *
and their punishment would last for ever.

16 But Israel would I feed with the finest wheat *
and satisfy him with honey from the rock.

The Second Lesson

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Unison



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the



peo - ple cry. All who dwell in deep - est sin My hand will
 peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them, They turn a -
 poor and lame. I will set a feast for them, My hand will



save. I who made the stars of night,
 way. I will break their hearts of stone,
 save. Fin - est bread I will pro - vide




I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear my
 Give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak my
 Till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give my



light to them? Whom shall I send? _____
 word to them. Whom shall I send? _____
 life to them. Whom shall I send? _____

Refrain



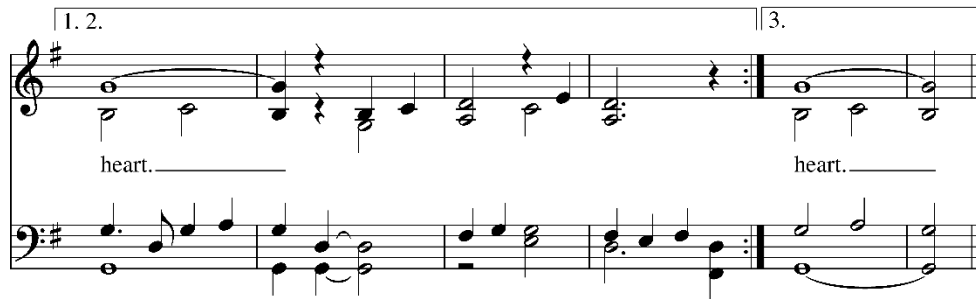
Here I am, Lord. _____ Is it I, Lord? _____ I have



heard you call - ing in the night. _____ I will go, Lord, _____



_____ if you lead me, _____ I will hold your peo - ple in my



Words and Music: Daniel L. Schutte. Copyright © 1981, Daniel L. Schutte; and New Dawn Music, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The Gospel

Luke 14:1, 7-14

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith

The Nicene Creed

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 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 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.

The Prayers of the People

The prayers of the people is a time for us to come together as we offer our prayers to God. Please offer your own prayers in the pauses, either silently or aloud. Kneeling as you are able, let us pray.

Lord, listen to the prayers of your people, gathered at your table. We remember our community and its needs *[pause]*. In faith, **we pray to you, our God.**

Here, where we celebrate how Christ gave us his body to be our spiritual food, listen as we pray for his body the Church, spread throughout the world. We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Mark, Gayle, and Mark, our Bishops; Fran, Will, Caroline, Lori, Rishabh, Mary and Nicole, our staff; Beth and Anthony, our Seminarians; the teachers at the Early Learning Center; and the Vestry and Officers of St. Thomas. In faith, **we pray to you, our God.**

Here, where we recognize the presence of Christ, who takes away the sin of the world, listen as we pray for that world and for its peoples for whom his blood was shed *[pause]*. In faith, **we pray to you, our God.**

Here, where we come together as Christ gathered with his friends to give us this meal of

holy fellowship, listen as we pray for all whom you have given us, our friends and all whose lives are joined with ours. We pray for Cliff Mastrangelo, Tricia Meyer, Dorene Ryder, Mahshid Beitollahisefidi, Mackenzie and Lisa Ross, and all those celebrating birthdays this week; for Yaqui Villalobos Diaz and Reza Nikpey who are celebrating their anniversary today, and all those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week; and for those blessings you would name *[pause]*. In faith, **we pray to you, our God.**

Here, where we remember the night of Christ's agony and trial, listen as we pray for all who share his sufferings through fear or pain or distress of any kind. Together we pray for **Ethan, Vincent, Yusuf, Emily and Dave, Lynn, Jan, Cathy, Erin, Andy, Diane, Alison, Sean, Bill, Katie and Scott, Bill, Frank, Bridgid, Roger, Christian, Chuck, Dani, Doris, Dave, Anne, John, Skeets, Mariah, Colin, Hilary, Betsy** and those whom you would name *[pause]*. In faith, **we pray to you, our God.**

Here, where we join our praises with the whole company of heaven, listen as we pray for those who have died, especially the school children in Minnesota, and all those whom you would name *[pause]*. In faith, **we pray to you, our God.**

Lord, satisfy our hunger with the food that lasts, the bread of God which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Adapted from the Church of England, Common Worship resource, found at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons-5#mmm260>

Together let us pray for St Thomas Church.

Almighty God, by your Spirit the whole body of your Church is governed and sanctified, hear our prayer for St Thomas, build in us a renewed vision of your Church; shape our life according to your will; empower us with the gifts to make us one that together we may grow as a church in the spiritual strength of community and reach out to include all people in Christ's love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Confession and Absolution of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *A time of silence.* Together, let us pray: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you

Following the exchange of peace in the church, peace is exchanged with the congregation on Zoom.

The Offertory

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.



It's Easy to Give Electronically to St. Thomas

Scan the QR code, or visit the GIVING page on the St. Thomas website:

<https://stthomasmcleanva.org/giving/donate>.

Offertory Anthem

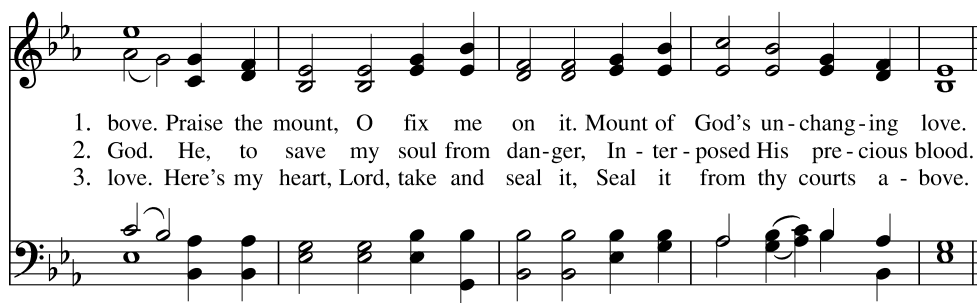
Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

#111, LEVAS

1. Come, Thou fount of ev - ery bless-ing, Tune my heart to sing thy
2. Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by thy help I'm
3. O, to grace how great a debt - or, Dai - ly I'm con-strained to

1. grace; Streams of mer - cy nev - er ceas-ing, Call for songs of loud-est
2. come; And I hope, by thy good pleas-ure, Sure - ly to ar - rive at
3. be; Let that grace, Lord, like a fet - ter, Bind my wan-d'ring heart to

1. praise. Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, Sung by flam - ing tongues a -
2. home. Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, Wan-d'ring from the fold of
3. Thee. Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel___ it, Prone to leave the God I



Words: Robert Robinson (1735-1790). Music: *Nettleton*, melody from *A Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813; harm. Carl Haywood (b. 1949) from *Songs of Praise*. Harm. Copyright © 1992, Carl Haywood.

The Doxology (to the tune of *Old 100th*)

#380 Hymnal 1982

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
 Praise Him all creatures here below
 Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Gluten free wafers are available on request. As the Eucharist is distributed, all who desire prayers for healing—for themselves or for others—are invited to come to the healing minister behind the lectern on the right as you face the altar.

The Great Thanksgiving **Eucharistic Prayer A**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

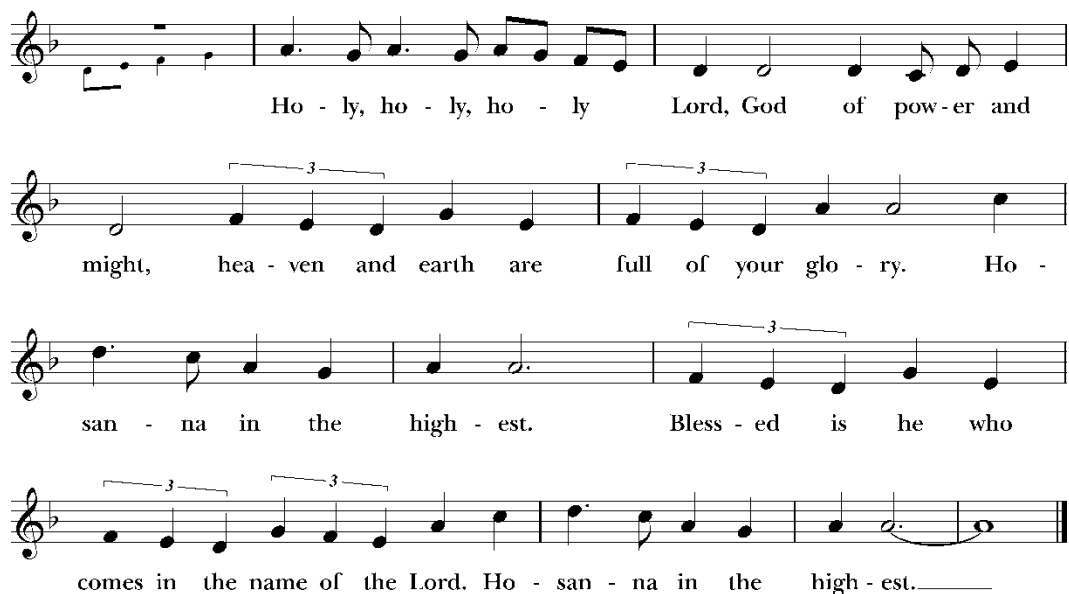
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus: #S129 Hymnal 1982



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

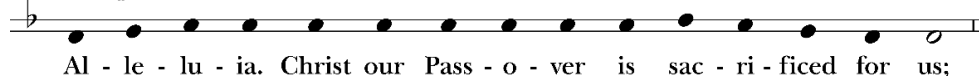
All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction: #S152 Hymnal 1982

This setting is not used in Lent.



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.

A note about the distribution of the Eucharist:

We offer both the common cup and a cup for intinction. If you would like to receive by intinction, please go the left side of the altar rail and the presiding priest will dip the bread in the cup for you. If you would like to sip from the common cup, please go to the right side of the altar rail where the bread and the cup will be offered separately.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion on Zoom

While some are receiving communion at church, those worshipping on Zoom say the following prayer:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you were already there, I embrace you and unite myself wholly to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

1 My God, thy ta - ble now is spread, thy cup with
 2 O let thy ta - ble hon - ored be, and fur - nished
 3 Drawn by thy quick - ening grace, O Lord, in coun - tless
 4 Nor let thy spread - ing Gos - pel rest till through the

love doth o - ver - flow; be all thy chil - dren
 well with joy - ful guests; and may each soul sal -
 num - bers let them come and gath - er from their
 world thy truth has run, till with this Bread shall

thith - er led, and let them thy sweet mer - cies know.
 va - tion see, that here its sa - cred pledg - es tastes.
 Fa - ther's board the Bread that lives be - yond the tomb.
 all be blessed who see the light or feel the sun.

Words: Sts. 1-3, Philip Doddridge (1702-1751), alt.; st. 4, Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Rockingham*, melody from *Second Supplement to Psalms in Miniature*, ca. 1780; adapt. Edward Miller (1731-1807); harm. Samuel Webbe (1740-1816).

Post-communion Prayer for a Multi-located Congregation

Let us pray. **God of abundance, we gather as your faithful people near and far. We believe you are present with us as we are united with Christ and one another in prayer and sacrament. We thank you for feeding all of us with your love and for making us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.** *Written by the Rev. Dorota Wright-Pruski, adapted by the Rev. Will Drosos*

The Blessing

May God give you grace to follow his saints in faith and hope and love; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Announcements

1 Lord, dis - miss us with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with
 2 Thanks we give and a - dor - a - tion for thy Gos - pel's
 3 so that when thy love shall call us, Sa - vior, from the

joy and peace; let us each, thy love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound: may the fruits of thy sal - va - tion
 world a - way, fear of death shall not ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace: O re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: ev - er faith - ful,
 glad thy sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful to thy truth may we be found;
 may we ev - er reign with thee in end - less day.

Words: Att. to John Fawcett (1739/40-1817). Music: *Sicilian Mariners*, Sicilian melody; first published *The European Magazine and London Review*, 1792, alt.

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Participants

Presider	Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith
Preacher	Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith
Healing Minister	Rev. David Smith
Acolytes	Joseph Cuomo, Louise Armitage
Altar Guild	Louise Armitage
Flower Guild	Mollie Regan
Digital Usher	Audrey Adair
Digital Verger	Walt Lazear
Lector & Intercessor	Ray Raymond
Eucharistic Ministers	Steve Wickman, Becky Ventorini
Usher	Lynne Montgomery
Fellowship Hour Host	Jim and Becky Ventorini

SEPTEMBER VESTRY PERSON

Jim Ventorini
703.288.3166
jventorini@cox.net

Questions, comments, concerns, compliments, all welcome.

St. Thomas ECW Movie Screening

Sunday, September 14th at noon in the sanctuary

Please join us for lunch and a movie! The St. Thomas ECW will share a light lunch and view the movie ***Women Talking***, which tells the story of a religious colony devastated by sexual violence. ***Women Talking*** explores **survival, solidarity and spirituality** after sexual assault. We will have an opportunity to discuss the film at its conclusion.

What distinguishes this survival story from so many others is that, even as it acknowledges the abusive, patriarchal power structure in this religious colony, it still takes seriously the question of spiritual belief: It's the women's faith in God that ultimately empowers them to imagine a better, fairer way of life.

<https://www.npr.org/2023/01/20/1149753059/women-talking-review-sarah-polley>

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We still have some St. Thomas t-shirts for sale for \$20



Shirts have either round or v-neck. In selected sizes

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Coffee Hour Hosts needed for September-December 2025

Thank you to all who have signed up to host coffee hour this year! We are in need of hosts on Sundays for the remainder of 2025. Under our new format, we would like hosts to limit their food offerings to 2-3 items, to include fresh fruit or raw veggies for our health-conscious and diet-restricted friends. The SignupGenius and QR Code are in *The Skinny*.

Thank you for continuing this tradition of Fellowship at St. Thomas! If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

Becky Ventorini, Fellowship Hour Coordinator, beckyventorini@gmail.com

St. Thomas Walkway of Love

We are now collecting orders for engraved Walkway of Love bricks to remember a loved one or give thanks for blessings in your life. **Deadline for 2025 orders is Monday, September 22nd.** We will bless the new bricks on All Saint's Day, Sunday, November 2nd. Scan the QR code below to learn more and for an order form. If you have any questions, please contact Toby Bush at tobygbush@hotmail.com.



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Joy's Ordination to the Priesthood

Saturday, September 20th at 10:30 am

God willing, the Rt. Reverend E. Mark Stevenson, Bishop of Virginia, will ordain Kara Louise Laughlin, Anne Kristine Rose, and **Joy Yvonne Warburton** to the Sacred Order of Priests on **Saturday, September 20 at 10:30 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church** in McLean, VA. The Bishop and the Standing Committee request the honor of your presence. The festal color is red.

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Volunteer to Support Fairfax Diapers

Thursday, September 4th at 10am

Join us for the next monthly repackaging meeting at Fairfax diapers. The task is simply repackaging diapers from bulk quantities to household-size bundles to be distributed to needy families. If you are interested, please access the sign up by scanning the QR code below. Questions? Please contact **Anne Spear by phone at (703) 915-4300**.



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September ECW Meeting

The next meeting of the ECW will be on **Sunday, September 21, 2025, at 11:30 am** in the ELC and on Zoom. As the agenda for the meeting is being developed, you are invited to submit requests for funding of charitable organizations.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86757077133?pwd=u9buodQRyrHjcKyJB9SfrfXolOjrlId.1>

Meeting ID: 867 5707 7133

Passcode: 036084



Our 18th annual Pumpkin Patch is coming soon to St Thomas!

Great Pumpkins for Good Causes

Pumpkin sales support the Northwestern New Mexico Navajo Indian Reservation where the pumpkins are grown. We donate all proceeds to our ministry partners: SHARE (McLean food bank), Falls Church/McLean Children's Center, Second Story, and the FACETS Hypothermia Program.

THREE EASY ways everyone can help:

- 1. Tell your friends – word of mouth is the best advertising. Post a picture of yourself in the Patch or on social media.**
- 2. Like and Share the Pumpkin Patch Facebook & Instagram Page!**
- 3. Sign up to sell pumpkins - <http://bit.ly/PumpkinSales2025>**

For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/StThomasPumpkins>

TWO OTHER WAYS TO HELP

- 1. PALLET LAYDOWN** - Sunday Sept 28th at 4PM.

(The parish retreat finishes at noon on this day) We'll be laying out the pallets to display the pumpkins. We need around a dozen volunteers. If you are able-bodied and willing to help – please email me at tobygbush@hotmail.com.

- 2. PUMPKIN UNLOADING** - Saturday October 4th at 3:30PM (AFTERNOON!).

RAIN or SHINE. Almost all of the lifting and carrying is done by local 8th graders performing community service. We need 12-15 adult volunteers to help supervise (and in some cases) assist them. There are also opportunities on unload day that are even less strenuous – check-in, hospitality etc. Please email me at tobygbush@hotmail.com if you can help.

If you would like to assist with decorating the patch, please email Becky Vantorini beckyventorini@gmail.com.

PRAYER FOR ST. THOMAS CHURCH

*Almighty God, by your Spirit the whole body of your Church is governed and sanctified.
Hear our prayer for St. Thomas: build in us a renewed vision of your Church; shape our life
according to your will; empower us with the gifts to make us one, that together we may grow
as a church in the spiritual strength of community, and reach out to include all people in Christ's
love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

MINISTERS

The Baptized Faithful of St. Thomas Episcopal Church
The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, *Presiding Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, *Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, *Assistant Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. Mark A. Bourlakas, *Assistant Bishop*

The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith, *Rector*
Fr. William Drosos, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Dr. Caroline Mitchell, *Assisting Priest*
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